

SPORTS

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SPORTS OPINION



Trevor Parks

Lucky No. 15 shines success on NU sports

The lucky number for Nebraska's two major sports this fall has got to be 15.

Why? Well, both Nebraska quarterback Tommie Frazier and volleyball player Lisa Reitsma wear that number. And those two players have played major roles in their teams' runs toward winning their respective national titles.

Right now, both players are gaining the spotlight for both their teams with top performances all season. Frazier should win the Heisman Trophy, and Reitsma should be one of four Nebraska volleyball players to be named All-Americans when all is said and done this year.

For her performance last week, Reitsma was named AVCA national player of the week.

If you look at both players, they bear many similarities.

Frazier's quest began in his fifth game as a freshman, and he has been at the helm of the Huskers ever since. Reitsma's emergence began this season as a raw sophomore and, like Frazier, she has put up big numbers in her first season of seeing plenty of playing time.

Before everything is said and done, Reitsma, like Frazier, will have a major impact on the record books of a Nebraska program. So far, you can tell the impact she will make.

Both the Nebraska football and volleyball teams depend greatly on Frazier and Reitsma, respectively. Frazier gets the ball to whomever deserves it, and Reitsma kills the ball onto whomever's head.

Because of the number's success, it seems like everyone is wearing the No. 15.

Harry Connick Jr. is the latest to jump on the No. 15 bandwagon. Tuesday night at his concert at the Lied Center, Connick donned a red No. 15 Frazier jersey as he tickled the ivories of his piano.

He even came up with a song that featured a guitar riff that sounded like, "I am Tommie Frazier." That song named for the No. 15 who plays football easily could have been translated to "I am Lisa Reitsma" or "I am Number 15," whichever tune that works.

With Connick adorned in the No. 15 jersey, someone yelled from the audience, "Harry for the Heisman."

Not quite, but Tommie for the Heisman I could see.

In the next month, Frazier and Reitsma and the No. 15 will be trying to become No. 1.

Two quality players wearing the same number.

Maybe more athletes at Nebraska should wear the No. 15, and, as Harry would know, it could only help.

Parks is a senior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter and columnist.

Seniors ice win over Missouri

By Trevor Parks
Senior Reporter

Allison Weston used seniors night to show off what she had learned while playing for Nebraska the past four years.

Weston, along with fellow seniors Christy Johnson and Billie Winsett, displayed the skills they picked up in the Cornhuskers' 15-2, 15-4, 15-0 win over Missouri Wednesday night in front of a crowd of 3,308 fans at the NU Coliseum.

With the win in 56 minutes, Nebraska finished the regular season with a 25-1 record, including a 24-match winning streak. The Huskers also finished the Big Eight season undefeated for the 11th time. The six points by Missouri, 6-23 and 1-10 in the conference, tied the least given up in Nebraska history.

Weston had a hitting percentage of .643, knocking down 18 kills, and she didn't have a hitting error in 28 attempts.

Weston, a native of Papillion, said she was glad to play well on a night when the seniors were the main focus.

"We knew coming into the match we just had to work on things on our side of the net," Weston said. "After the introductions, it was time to get down to business."

Nebraska stayed focused early, beating the Tigers in the first game 15-2. With the score 2-1, the Huskers scored six points to take an 8-1 lead. Nebraska won the game on a kill by Winsett.

In the first game, Weston had eight kills and was involved in helping the Huskers score nine of their 15 points.

In game two, Missouri took a 3-0 lead to begin the match, but Nebraska eventually battled back to tie the game at four. Once the Huskers tied the



Travis Heying/DN

Nebraska senior outside hitter Billie Winsett hugs Coach Terry Pettit before Wednesday night's match. The three Huskers seniors — Winsett, Allison Weston and Christy Johnson — were honored before the match.

game, they scored the final 11 points.

The Huskers took the lead for good in the game when a Jen McFadden kill made the score 5-4. Nebraska won the game 15-4 when two digs by Fiona Nepo led to a kill by Winsett.

Coach Terry Pettit said he was glad Nebraska didn't lose its focus coming off a big win over Florida on Sunday. "Our focus right now is not on the opponent; it's trying to sharpen things up and trying to get better," Pettit said.

In the third game, Nebraska couldn't get much better. Missouri had

two kills and forced four sideouts in the game. The other two sideouts were Nebraska errors.

The Huskers jumped out by scoring the first four points of the game. After two sideouts by both teams, two Weston kills and a service ace by Jaime Krondak made the score 7-0.

When Nebraska got the serve back, Johnson served the final eight points of the game. In that span, the Huskers used three blocks, a Weston and Winsett kill and three Tiger errors to

close out the match.

Missouri made 25 errors in the match and had a hitting percentage of -.127, including a -.318 performance in the third game. Taking advantage of that, the Huskers won 15-0, the first time they've shut out an opponent in a game since Sept. 17, 1994 against Louisiana State.

Pettit said the fans had a chance to honor the three seniors for their accomplishments Wednesday, but he wouldn't realize the three were gone until next season.

Basketball starters

Starters for tonight's 7:05 game against Pella Windows.

Nebraska	Ht.	Yr.
F Bernard Garner	6-7	Jr.
F Erick Strickland	6-3	Sr.
C Chris Sallee	6-10	Sr.
G Jason Glock	6-5	Sr.
G Tyronn Lue	6-0	Fr.

Pella Windows	Ht.
F Howard Eaton	6-6
F Brad Pippett	6-5
C Scott Wilke	6-10
G Cam Johnson	6-3
G Michael Born	6-1

DN Graphic

Pella game a prelude to Hawaii trip

By Todd Walkenhorst
Staff Reporter

Tonight's exhibition game is the only obstacle left before the Nebraska men's basketball team embarks on a trip to Hawaii.



Nebraska will play host to Pella Windows tonight at 7:05 at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. The contest will mark the second and final exhibition game for the Huskers.

On Friday, the Huskers will depart for Hawaii to play in the Big Island Invitational over Thanksgiving weekend. Nebraska coach Danny Nee said he thought the

change of scenery would help his team prepare for the regular season.

"We're going to get out to Hawaii," he said, "take a couple of days off and then go into the last phase in preparation for the opening of the season versus Toledo."

"I do think a change of venues will be beneficial to us. I think Hawaii would be a good place to prepare."

Tonight, the key for the Huskers, Nee said, is to play a quality team.

"We're just hoping for competition," Nee said. "We were very disappointed with the last game. We need better competition."

Nebraska defeated Spalding Americas 113-68 last week in the Huskers' first exhibition game. Nee said tonight's game should be more competitive because Pella had some games under its belt.

"When they (Pella) play us," Nee said, "it will be their 12th game. They've had some quality wins over people like Indiana State, so we're expecting a much more difficult game."

The game will become even more difficult for the Huskers because four returning players will not see action tonight.

Senior guard Tom Wald will not play because of a severely sprained ankle. Nee said he hoped Wald would be ready for the regular-season opener against Toledo on Nov. 24.

"It's not broke, but we thought it was," Nee said. "He won't be in Thursday's game, and we don't know if he will be ready for Hawaii or not."

In addition, center Mikki Moore,

See PELLA on 8

Fabulous freshman provide needed depth

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Editor

Nebraska volleyball coach Terry Pettit was leery all of last season that the Cornhuskers' lack of depth would hurt his team come tournament time. He was right.

One year later, Pettit no longer worries about depth. Two big reasons why are freshmen Jaime Krondak and Fiona Nepo. The marquee members of the Huskers' No. 1-ranked recruiting class, Nepo and Krondak are beginning to pay big dividends for top-ranked, 25-1 Nebraska.

"Not all the time is everything going to go right for them," Pettit said Wednesday night after Nebraska's 15-

2, 15-4, 15-0 win over Missouri, "so that's why we have 10 players who are seeing quite a little bit of playing time. They all contribute in some pretty significant situations."

Krondak and Nepo, who have each started one match this season, quietly are becoming key ingredients in the Huskers' run toward the Final Four next month. Krondak, a 6-foot outside hitter from Lincoln East, played well enough in preseason practice to earn a starting spot in Nebraska's season-opening match against Penn State on Aug. 25.

Kate Crnich has started every match since — until Wednesday night. Pettit started junior Maria Hedbeck, but before the end of the first rotation,

Krondak had entered the match. She contributed three kills, one service ace and one dig against Missouri, not bad considering the match lasted only 56 minutes and the Tigers scored only six points.

"At the start of the season, I was really nervous about the crowd," Krondak said. "I have become more comfortable, and being comfortable brings more confidence. Then I am able to do the things that I may not have been able to do at the beginning of the season."

Krondak's comfort level showed Sunday against previously unbeaten and third-ranked Florida. In the five-game Nebraska win, she had a career-high 16 digs and played in four games.

Krondak also served three of Nebraska's final six points in the critical second game against the Gators.

"When she came here," Pettit said, "she was a good player. I think it's a matter of being more comfortable. Jaime has proven she can play in pressure situations. I sense that she has confidence in her game."

Pettit also has noticed a difference in the play of Nepo, a 5-9 setter from Honolulu, who is the heir apparent to Christy Johnson's spot next season.

"Fiona is coming in and not just playing," he said. "Something is happening when she is playing. She is making a great dig or doing something to raise the level of play."