

# McFadden, Koziol hurt; out for season

**PETTIT STUNNED** by loss of team leader, redshirt freshman.

By **TREVOR PARKS**  
Senior Reporter



**Koziol** "My heart goes out to Denise. She had been doing great. She worked hard all summer to put herself in a position to play."

**McFadden** Former NU All-American Allison Weston, who has been practicing with the team this fall and played Saturday in the intrasquad scrimmage, said Koziol would be missed.

"She was going to be a great player," Weston said.

Pettit supported the decision of McFadden and her family. He said McFadden was in the best shape of her career during summer workouts in Lincoln.

"Obviously I'm saddened by that for a lot of reasons," Pettit said. "I had the feeling that if Nebraska had a great year, she would have challenged for player-of-the-year honors."

"The first concern is her health, and I think the family made a good decision."

In 1994, McFadden's sophomore year, she missed three matches with back spasms, and after playing in 16 matches she tore an anterior cruciate ligament in her knee, ending her season.

In the spring of 1995, she had back surgery to repair a herniated disk. McFadden played a limited role in the 1995 regular season in an effort to remain healthy for NCAA Tournament.

The Nebraska volleyball team has lost two players expected to perform key roles in the defense of NU's national title.

Jen McFadden, who was to be the emotionally charged senior leader of the Cornhusker squad, and Denise Koziol, a 5-foot-11 redshirt freshman, who was to be an important reserve, will not play this fall.

Before the Huskers' first practice, doctors discovered a misaligned disk in McFadden's lower back. McFadden, an All-America candidate from Dubuque, Iowa, will not apply for a medical hardship. Her collegiate career is over.

"You can't put what I'm feeling into words," McFadden said. "There is nothing more that I would rather be doing, but I just can't."

Koziol, who walked on last fall and was given a scholarship after the season, suffered a season-ending knee injury in the Huskers' Red-White scrimmage Saturday night at the NU Coliseum.

Koziol, from Norfolk, tore the anterior cruciate ligament in her left knee after landing awkwardly on her ankle following an attack early in the fourth game of the scrimmage.

Coach Terry Pettit said the injuries will hurt the team, which is now down to 12 players.

"I don't want to talk about it," Pettit said of the injury to Koziol, who had been working on an effective jump serve in preseason workouts. "I'm so upset about it."

# Pettit says talk of 1995 not allowed

By **GREGG MADSEN**  
Staff Reporter

Nine months after winning the first national title in school history, Nebraska Volleyball Coach Terry Pettit enters the 1996 season wanting nothing more than to forget last year.

"I know enough about this business that we need to cut ourselves off from last season as quickly as possible," Pettit said. "There are 287 volleyball teams out there. They all want to win national championships. The difference between them and us is that they didn't lose Christy Johnson, Allison Weston and Billie Winsett."

The trio of former Cornhuskers built a 63-2 record the past two seasons, twice winning a school-record 31 straight matches. NU can break that record with a victory in its season-opening match Friday against Illinois State in the State Farm/NACWAA Volleyball Classic at Normal, Ill.

But even with graduation taking such a toll, the cupboard is not bare for Pettit in his 20th season at Nebraska.

"I think we have competitive people," he said, "and with every crisis comes opportunity."

In addition to the loss of Johnson, Weston and Winsett, the Huskers will also be without Jen McFadden. The 6-foot-2 senior middle blocker from Dubuque, Iowa, will not play this fall because of a misaligned disk in her lower back.

Pettit said although he is saddened

to lose McFadden, he agreed with her decision to sit out.

Redshirt freshman Lisa Avery and Megan Korver, a sophomore transfer, appear ready to fill the holes at middle blocker left by Weston and McFadden.

Korver, who was born in Lincoln and grew up in Adams, earned Atlantic 10 newcomer-of-the-year and all-conference honors last season at George Washington.

Also pressing for playing time at middle blocker will be 6-foot sophomore Stacie Maser and 6-3 Tonia Tauke, a true freshman from Council Bluffs.

"We're fortunate that we have four good options there," Pettit said. "And I expect that in time we'll have two very good players at that position."

Pettit said he was also expecting great things from his setter, sophomore Fiona Nepo. The Honolulu native played a limited role in 1995 behind Johnson, but Pettit said Nepo had the potential to become a dominant setter and team leader.

The Huskers will benefit from the experience of returning starters Lisa Reitsma and Kate Crnich, as well as backcourt specialist Maria Hedbeck, who has played in 95 collegiate matches.

Crnich said she was confident in her ability and leadership skills.

"I've thought about the pressure before," she said. "But this year, I don't feel any. I play so much better when I'm relaxed."

Reitsma, a junior outside hitter from



**TERRY PETTIT** is beginning his 20th year as Nebraska's volleyball coach.

Sanborn, Iowa, who earned first-team All-America honors last season, said she was excited about the Huskers' position to begin the season.

Nebraska is ranked No. 5 in the pre-season USA Today/AVCA coaches' poll, behind Hawaii, Stanford, Michigan State and Texas, respectively.

"I would love to repeat," she said. "But you have to take things one day at a time. It's going to be really different with this year's schedule."

Six Big 12 teams played in the 1995 NCAA Tournament, including Texas, which locked horns with Nebraska in the national championship match.

## Nebraska 1996 Volleyball Regular Season Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
8/23-24	State Farm NACWAA Classic	Normal, Ill.	
8/23	Illinois St.		7:30 p.m.
8/24	Consolation/Finals		6:30 p.m.
8/30-31	New Mexico Int. Albuquerque, N.M.		
8/30	BYU		8 p.m.
8/31	New Mexico		8 p.m.
9/6-7	Arby's Challenge	Lincoln	
9/6	Michigan St.		7:30 p.m.
9/7	Michigan St.		7:30 p.m.
9/13	at North Carolina		6 p.m.
9/14	at Duke		8:30 p.m.
9/20-21	First Bank Inv.	Lincoln	
9/20	Iowa		7:30 p.m.
9/21	Colorado St.		7:30 p.m.
9/27	Kansas		7:30 p.m.

Date	Opponent	Time
9/28	Kansas St.	7:30 p.m.
10/4	at Iowa St.	7:30 p.m.
10/6	at Missouri	7:30 p.m.
10/9	at Colorado	TBA
10/13	Oklahoma	8:30 p.m.
10/18	Texas A&M	7:30 p.m.
10/19	Texas	7:30 p.m.
10/25	at Baylor	7:30 p.m.
10/26	at Texas Tech	7 p.m.
10/30	Colorado	7:30 p.m.
11/1	at Oklahoma	7:30 p.m.
11/8	Missouri	7:30 p.m.
11/9	Iowa St.	7:30 p.m.
11/15	at Kansas St.	7 p.m.
11/16	at Kansas	7:30 p.m.
11/22	Texas Tech	7:30 p.m.
11/23	Baylor	7:30 p.m.
11/29	at Texas	7 p.m.
11/30	at Texas A&M	7 p.m.

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