

# Sports

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## Noth directs Husker attack

By GREGG MADSEN  
Staff Reporter

Thursday morning, as Cathy Noth prepared to board a plane for North Carolina, she was expecting a typical road trip with the Nebraska volleyball team.

Then, Nebraska's top assistant coach learned that Coach Terry Pettit had injured his leg and would not travel with the Cornhuskers to matches

against North Carolina and Duke.

The weekend took on a whole new look.

"My initial reaction was concern for him and his health," Noth said. "It never crossed my mind that 'Oh no. I've got the team.'"

Pettit, who suffered a torn quadricep muscle, had surgery Saturday morning. Noth said he will attend practices this week, although he is unable to drive and walks with crutches. No. 4 Nebraska was upset by North Carolina on Friday, losing the fifth game 15-12, but the Huskers defeated Duke in three games on Saturday.

Noth, an All-America Nebraska setter in 1983 and 1984, said she was comfortable taking over for Pettit.

"I felt confident in myself," she

"  
*I felt confident in myself. I just needed to display that with the players.*"

CATHY NOTH  
NU assistant coach

said. "I just needed to display that with the players."

Running the Husker show wasn't a completely new experience for Noth. She filled in as head coach last season during Nebraska's three-game win at Missouri, when Pettit had stayed in Lincoln because of a stomach ailment.

But last weekend, she said, was a

new situation and a new challenge.

"Playing back to back was different," she said. "It was definitely a challenge to prepare them. But I feel like I learned a lot from this, too."

In her eighth season as a Husker assistant, Noth said she has thought

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## NU Athletic Department backs Nee

By TREVOR PARKS  
Senior Reporter

Much maligned near the end of last season, Nebraska Basketball Coach Danny Nee has the full support of the Cornhusker Athletic Department as he begins his 11th season at Nebraska.

This comes after a season in which NU lost nine straight games for the first time since 1963 and had 11 players meet with Nee Athletic Director Bill Byrne to voice concerns about Nee.

And in the middle of it all, the NCAA launched an investigation spurred by a Houston Chronicle report that Nee sent a North Carolina businessman \$8,600 to lure a recruit to Lincoln.

"Adversity can be a great learning tool," Nee said. "Through that adversity and that losing streak there was something to be learned, and we have to understand that."

"Last year's over with. I can't control what happened in the past. I can control what we are doing on a daily basis and preparing us for what we have."

Byrne said he was impressed with the way Nee turned things around.

"I thought the team played very hard despite doing their best to self-destruct in the middle of the season,"

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SCOTT BRUNN/DN

AARON TAYLOR (right) has adjusted well to the center position this season. Taylor played left guard last fall.

## Position switch fits Taylor

By PATRICK WYMAN  
Staff Reporter

"At 6-foot-1, many college coaches once felt Aaron Taylor wasn't big enough to play on the offensive line."

Nebraska's coaches were not among that group.

"Football players aren't measured on how tall they are but what they're made up of," NU offensive

Line Coach Milt Tenopir said. "He certainly has the inner drive and what it takes to be a football player."

Taylor's height does not hurt him on the football field, Tenopir said.

"Just because he is a couple inches shorter than what people think he ought to be doesn't make him a lesser player," Tenopir said.

It was that kind of attitude by the Husker football coaches that allowed Taylor to pick Nebraska

over Oklahoma State, Texas Tech and New Mexico State.

Despite his size, Nebraska's starting center finds himself as a preseason All-America candidate despite never having played a game at the position prior to this season.

"I'm still big," Taylor said. "I'd just like a couple of inches, and even if you don't have the size, you can make up for it with your heart."

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## Husker assistant says ASU will be prepared

By DAVID WILSON  
Staff Reporter

After defeating Michigan State 55-14 last week, the Nebraska football team had two weeks to prepare for Arizona State.

With less than a week left, NU Running Backs Coach Frank Solich said the offensive chemistry still needs work.

"I think (the off week) was good for us," Solich said Monday. "Even though we won the (Michigan State) game by a fair margin, there were a

lot of things that we felt we needed to work on."

The No. 1 Cornhuskers (1-0) will travel to Tempe, Ariz., Saturday to face Arizona State (2-0) in Sun Devil Stadium at 9:15 p.m.

Nebraska defeated the Sun Devils 77-28 last season in Lincoln. The Huskers scored on their first play from scrimmage on a 65-yard run by Clinton Childs — the first of 304 yards gained by the Nebraska offense in the first quarter.

"Arizona State will provide a tremendous football game for us," Solich said. "Last year, the game got out of hand for them. But if you re-

ally analyze that, it was not a deal where you just beat up on a team."

The Huskers, who led 63-21 at halftime, were held to just two touchdowns in the second half.

Led by Tommie Frazier's 191 passing yards, the Nebraska offense, which threw for 292 yards, recorded the sixth highest total in school history.

"They committed their defensive backs a little bit too much to the run, and the play-action pass really hurt them last year," Solich said. "I have a feeling that they'll have that corrected."

The No. 17 Sun Devils, who re-

turn 19 starters this season, have defeated Washington and North Texas and are off to a 2-0 start for the first time since 1991.

Notes:

No. 3 right rush end Kareem Sears strained his knee in practice Monday. The injury is not serious, Coach Tom Osborne said.

Nebraska's Sept. 28 home game against Colorado State has been moved to 11:30 a.m. It will be produced by Fox Sports Net and televised on channels 3 and 10/11.

### Big 12 Notebook

Fans of the Big 12 will have their fill of conference teams on television this weekend. Five games involving conference teams will be televised, highlighted by the Texas-Notre Dame game, which will be shown nationally by ABC. Baylor, Texas Tech, Missouri and Nebraska will also be broadcast regionally.

The Cornhuskers' game against Arizona State was moved to a 9:15 p.m. kickoff to accommodate Prime Sports Network.

Kansas tailback June Henley was named the nation's offensive player of the week by USA Today. Henley had a 201-yard rushing performance Saturday against Texas Christian. "June has been a very good performer at the Big Eight level and now the Big 12 level," KU Coach Glen Mason said.

Oklahoma State Coach Bob Simmons said his team made a lot of progress in Saturday's 30-9 victory over Tulsa. "We measure progress by looking for consistency," Simmons said. "We played a lot more consistently on both sides of the ball. The young players are starting to settle in, and we were able to sustain a drive on offense."

Missouri had to go up against more than Memphis Saturday. Officials penalized Missouri 15 yards after a whiskey bottle flew out of the stands following MU's failed extra-point attempt in the fourth quarter of its 19-16 loss to Memphis.

Missouri Coach Larry Smith said that the penalty was harsh and that security needs to be tightened at Faurot Field. "We need to find the yo-yo who threw the bottle and get him out of the stadium."

The Tigers had more special teams problems Saturday when a botched punt snap led to a Memphis touchdown. "We missed any chance we had to win the game or send it into overtime," Smith said.

Iowa State's schedule does not get a whole lot easier this week after a 38-13 loss to Iowa Saturday. The Cyclones will play intrastate Northern Iowa Saturday in Ames. The Division I-AA Panthers have beaten ISU each of the last two years.

"Anytime you get two schools within the state border it is going to be exciting," Cyclone Coach Dan McCarney said. "We have the utmost respect for UNI, and there is no question they have a good football team."

Oklahoma State running back David Thompson and Colorado linebacker Matt Russell were named the Big 12 offensive and defensive players of the week. Thompson had a 252-yard rushing performance against Tulsa and Russell had 22 tackles in the Buffaloes' 20-13 loss to Michigan.

Big 12 Notebook compiled by staff reporter Jay Saunders.