

Vacek paces NU defense

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Because of an injury to Tanya Wright, Nebraska Coach John Walker has used Vacek exclusively as a defender this season. She also played as a midfielder earlier in her NU career. The defensive role suits her just fine, she said.

"I like it a lot back there," Vacek said. "It's not too much different, because you still have to play both offense and defense."

Vacek is one of six members remaining with the Huskers from Walker's first recruiting class in 1994. Walker said Vacek's resilience after three ACL injuries is nothing short of remarkable.

"It's almost unheard of for a player to come back from three ACL surgeries," Walker said.

Despite the operations, Vacek is still one of the fastest players on the team. She has great passing ability and plays excellent defense, Walker said.

"She's a real inspirational player," Walker said.

Vacek is a well-conditioned athlete, evidenced by her earning an NU Aerobic Award.

In Nebraska's win Sunday, Vacek said, the team's intensity was not where it should have been.

"It wasn't us at all this whole weekend," Vacek said.

The Huskers face Texas on Friday and sixth-ranked Texas A&M Sunday at the Abbott Sports Complex. The Aggies are the only team ranked ahead of NU in the NSAA Central Regional ratings, which are used to determine NCAA Tournament seedings.

NU runners claim Woody Greeno Invite

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska men's and women's cross country teams won their only home meet of the season, capturing the Woody Greeno Invitational at Pioneers Park Saturday.

The 14th-ranked Cornhusker men won the team title in the college division with a score of 72 points. The University of Nebraska at Kearney finished second with 102 points. The Husker men also won the university division with 15 points.

Junior Cleophas Boor won the 8,000-meter race in a time of 24 minutes, 5.23 seconds. Senior David Olson finished 10th (26:23.47); junior Aaron Johnson was 21st (27:00.43) and junior Jim Vance finished 25th (27:10.67).

All-Americans Balazs Tolgeysi and Jonah Kiptarus did not run for the Huskers, and Barton County Community College transfer Philip Maiyo was held out.

On the women's side, the Huskers won the university division with 15 points. NU also won the team competition with 31 points.

Senior Nora Shephard won the university/college division and finished second overall to Mary Amen of the Lincoln Track Club. Shephard finished the 5,000-meter race in 18:23.91.

Four other Huskers finished in the top 10. Senior Christina Blackmer was fifth (18:33.56); senior Sherri Elwood Macfee finished seventh (18:45.05); sophomore Melissa Wilson was eighth (18:53.57) and freshman Jaime Pauli was ninth with a time of 19:00.08.

The top seven runners for both teams will compete next at the Minnesota Invitational Saturday in Minneapolis.

NU in search of improvement

By DAVID WILSON
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska volleyball team, ranked eighth in the nation, looks tough on the court physically, but according to senior Kate Crnich, the Cornhuskers still aren't playing as well as they should.



Nepo

"The game is not all mental," Crnich said Saturday night after NU's three-game win over Colorado State, "but what we haven't handled is the mental part."

Nebraska, 8-2, has won four of five matches against ranked opponents this season. The Huskers lost to No. 1-ranked Hawaii on Aug. 24. Their only other loss came from unranked North Carolina Sept. 13.

"We were being very immature in North Carolina," Crnich said. "We just went out and walked through everything. Once one person on the court isn't playing tough, it brings everyone else down. We talked a lot about the loss."

Coach Terry Pettit did not make the trip to North Carolina because of a leg injury, but Crnich said the loss should not be blamed on the coaching.

"I don't want to make that as an excuse," Crnich said. "If we're mature adults, we shouldn't need our head coach there. We took everything lightly."

The Huskers defeated Colorado State 15-10, 15-2 and 15-8 Satur-

"They're probably the best K-State team I've ever seen."

TERRY PETTIT
NU volleyball coach

day, but Pettit said it was not an easy match.

The Rams came back in the third game with the help of Husker setter Fiona Nepo, who committed three hitting errors in the final game. Nepo also had four service errors in the match.

"Lately I've been missing my serves in practice," Nepo said. "I don't usually do that. I think I'm going through a mental phase with my serves. But I'm getting past it. (Colorado State) started playing better in the end when we let them in the game. We should have pulled the door on them."

Pettit said the Huskers will have their hands full when they open their Big 12 schedule at home Friday against Kansas, followed by a match with Kansas State on Saturday.

"We've got a lot to work on," Pettit said. "They're probably the best K-State team I've ever seen."

Kansas State, which has never beaten Nebraska in 52 matches, competed in the First Bank Invitational in Lincoln last weekend and upset Colorado State Friday 15-2, 15-5 and 15-6. Saturday the Wildcats improved to 12-1 with a win over Iowa.

Farley to join recovery bid

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and wingback Lance Brown (ankle sprain) did not participate.

Wistrom had an MRI done on his neck Monday, and Osborne said if everything appears intact, Wistrom will return to practice Tuesday or Wednesday.

Also, the kickoff of Nebraska's Oct. 5 game against No. 16 Kansas State in Manhattan, Kan., has been moved from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The game will be televised regionally by ABC.

Husker loss shocks league

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Nebraska's a great team and still has a lot of talent."

Texas Tech Coach Spike Dykes, whose Red Raiders were the second victim of NU's 26-game winning streak, said he was also shocked by news of NU's loss.



"I heard the score and thought it was a misquote," Dykes said. "Arizona State proved on Saturday that you'd better be ready to play. It wakes you up to the fact that everyone's human."


Texas Tech plays host to Nebraska in Lubbock, Texas, on Oct. 19. Dykes said he believes there is more parity than ever in college football right now.

Oklahoma State Coach Bob Simmons was impressed with Arizona State's emotion and ability to limit Nebraska's running game. But Simmons, a former assistant coach at Colorado who has begun to resurrect the Cowboy program in less than two seasons, said he doesn't expect the Huskers to stay down.

"They're going to bounce back," said Simmons, whose OSU team is 3-1 after a 31-17 win over Utah State Saturday. "Coach Osborne will have them ready, but it does open the door for others."


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