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# Defense drives Huskers

Pettit expects the Big 12 to be a grueling test for NU.

BY SHANNON HEFFELFINGER  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska volleyball team has already competed against five ranked opponents this season, but according to NU Coach Terry Pettit, the grueling part of the schedule has just begun.

"Every match in the Big 12, with the exception of one or two, is going to be a grind," Pettit said. "This is going to be an incredible conference."

Since 1976, Nebraska won 19 of 20 Big Eight titles, winning 96 percent of their conference matches.

This year, Pettit said, things will not be as easy.

"I would be real surprised if whoever wins the conference doesn't lose at least three matches."

If that's the case, then Nebraska (10-2 and 2-0 in the Big 12) appears to be on the right track. The Cornhuskers, who moved up one spot to No. 6 in this week's AVCA Coaches' Poll, opened their Big 12 schedule by defeating Kansas and Kansas State last weekend at the NU Coliseum.

Nebraska's strong defense continues to shine. NU held 13-2 Kansas

State—a team that is leading the Big 12 in hitting percentage—to a dismal .080 mark at the net.

"The defense has allowed us to compete and have a very good year," Pettit said. "If we weren't very strong defensively, we would really be struggling."

Pettit praised back-row specialist Maria Hedbeck as the leader of the defense. He said the 5-foot-10 senior has shown initiative in practice, tutoring some of the younger players in their defensive skills.

Pettit has experimented with his starting lineup and substitutions patterns, attempting to give Hedbeck more playing time.

"We're at our best when Hedbeck is in the match," Pettit said.

Offensively, Pettit said the Huskers are beginning to play more consistently. He credited the development of middle blockers Tonia Tauke, Megan Korver and Stacie Maser as a key to Nebraska's offensive success.

Pettit also recognized the improved play of sophomore setter Fiona Nepo.

"As she moves from very good and spectacular to steady and spectacular," Pettit said, "then we will really improve."

"If Nebraska is going to be a great team this year, Fiona has to be a great setter."

After matches Friday and Sunday at Iowa State and Missouri, NU trav-

AVCA Top 25	
Volleyball	
Rank	Team
1	Florida
2	Penn St.
3	Stanford
4	Nebraska
5	Texas
6	Washington St.
7	Notre Dame
8	Ohio St.
9	Cal-Santa Barbara
10	Pacific
11	Louisville
12	Oregon St.
13	Georgia Tech
14	Oral Roberts
15	Texas Tech
16	Colorado St.

## Unbeaten NU jumps 4 spots in coaches' poll

From Staff Reports

The undefeated Nebraska soccer team jumped four spots in the USA Today Coaches' Poll released Tuesday.

The Cornhuskers, 9-0, are now ranked No. 6, one spot behind defending national runner-up Portland. The Huskers' jump in the polls came as a result of shutout victories over Big 12 rivals Texas and Texas A&M last weekend.

A&M, which was previously ranked No. 6, fell two spots to eighth. The Huskers also took over the top spot in the NSCAA Central Region rankings, leaping the Aggies.

The top two teams each of the nation's six regions will be granted automatic berths in the NCAA Tournament.

North Carolina (8-0) held on to the top spot in the coaches' poll, gaining 10 first-place votes. The other three

USA Today Top 25	
Soccer	
Rank	Team
1	Notre Dame (3)
2	Maryland
3	Nebraska
4	Texas A&M
5	Florida
6	William & Mary
7	Stanford
8	Minnesota
9	James Madison
10	Texas
11	Butler
12	Connecticut
13	Kentucky
14	New York
15	San Diego

first-place votes went to No. 2 Notre Dame, which is 10-0.

Connecticut and Maryland are also ranked ahead of Nebraska, which jumped Santa Clara, Massachusetts, Florida and A&M in the poll.

## KSU holds belief as key to win

KSU from page 7

career, he said, but it would be a major step in the right direction for the KSU program.

"Obviously, it would be a big win for us," Snyder said. "There is no denying that."

Kavanaugh, who served as a backup to Matt Miller last season, saw action against the Huskers when Miller was knocked out of the game in the second half.

"The Nebraska game from last year isn't going to help me come 2:30 this Saturday," said Kavanaugh, a 6-foot-3,

220-pound senior. "I'm just trying not to focus on last year."

Center Jason Johnson, who started against Nebraska last year, said he is hoping to become a part of something special for the KSU program.

"Nebraska is a great team," Johnson said. "This is our chance to come out and prove ourselves. Playing at our home field is a big advantage. This is something special that we can give our fans."

Jeremy Martin will start at left guard in place of Ross Greenwood, who received a half-game suspension

for fighting with a Rice player in KSU's 24-7 win on Sept. 21.

He will sit out for the first half of the game Saturday.

Nebraska will take about 80 players to Manhattan because of the Big 12's "designated rival" rule. The rule allows a team to bring every senior to one road game in addition to the standard 66-man travel roster.

"When we practice, there's 87 guys on the field," Snyder said. "When Nebraska practices, they have 187. You look at their depth chart, and it runs off the page."

## Wistrom: Trash talk provokes NU

WISTROM from page 7

"They have said some things in the past that really fired us up to go out and play well," said the junior rush end, who leads the Huskers with four sacks this season. "We were able to accomplish what we wanted to do on the field."

KSU, 4-0 and ranked No. 16, hasn't beaten the seventh-ranked Huskers since 1968.

Two years ago in Manhattan, the

Wildcats faced a battered Husker team—missing quarterback Tommie Frazier for the whole game and Brook Berringer for the first half—but NU won 17-6.

Last season in Lincoln, KSU entered the game ranked No. 8. Nebraska led 42-6 after three quarters, held the Wildcats to minus-19 yards rushing and won the game 49-25.

Nebraska's offense, which compiled 628 yards of total offense in a 65-9 victory over Colorado State last week, will have the task of matching

up against a tough KSU defense that is currently ranked fourth in the nation.

The Wildcats have only allowed 24 points in its first four games. They beat Rice 24-7 in their last game on Sept. 21.

"I would say that Kansas State is a very, very good defensive football team," NU Coach Tom Osborne said, "whereas Colorado State wasn't a real strong defensive football team. Kansas State has no apparent weaknesses. They're very strong in every phase of the game."

els to Colorado and returns home to play Oklahoma before beginning a difficult stretch of matches. In an eight-day span from Oct. 18 through 26, the Huskers play No. 15 Texas A&M, No. 8 Texas and 24th-ranked Texas Tech.

"The Big 12 is not like the Big Eight," Pettit said. "It's going to be a war every week."

## Baltimore, Rangers, N.Y. win on day 1

BALTIMORE (AP)—The Baltimore Orioles struck early Tuesday and never let up.

Brady Anderson opened the Orioles' first playoff appearance in 13 years with a leadoff homer; B.J. Surhoff homered twice and Bobby Bonilla added a grand slam as Baltimore beat the Cleveland Indians 10-4 in the opener of their first-round American League playoff series at Camden Yards.

In the other AL series, Texas beat the New York Yankees 6-2 behind a three-run homer by Juan Gonzalez.

In the National League, Gary Gaetti hit a three-run homer in the first inning to give St. Louis a 3-1 victory over San Diego.

Atlanta and Los Angeles will begin play today.