15-0 win sends Braves to Series against N.Y.

ATLANTA (AP) — This wasn't a comeback. This was a wipeout.

The Atlanta Braves unleashed all their fury in the biggest blowout in postseason history, trouncing the St. Louis Cardinals 15-0 in game seven of the National League championship series Thursday night to complete a startling rally from a 3-1 deficit.

Pitcher Tom Glavine hit a basesloaded triple that capped a six-run first inning, and 52,067 crazed fans spent the rest of the evening partying as the Braves earned a chance to defend their World Series title.

Game one will be Saturday night in New York against the Yankees. The Braves have reached four of the last five World Series, making it this time by outscoring St. Louis 32-1 in three straight games.

Glavine shut out St. Louis on three hits for seven innings and got support from two homers by Javier Lopez, Fred McGriff and Andruw Jones.

The painful loss, making the Cardinals the only club to blow a 3-1 edge three times in the postseason, meant the end of Ozzie Smith's career.

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has announced his retirement, fouled out as a pinch-hitter in the sixth inning. The 41-year-old shortstop waved his helmet to a standing ovation and drew hugs from his teammates in the dugout.

Though Marquis Grissom began the rout by singling on Donovan Osborne's first pitch, the Braves' playoff comeback clearly started before then.

It may have begun back at Busch Stadium when Dennis Eckersley pumped his fist forcefully in the air after a game four win that gave St. Louis a 3-1 lead. That prompted the Cardinals to put 20 cases of champagne on ice in anticipation of a clincher that never came.

The Braves came out the next night and scored five runs in the first inning on their way to a 14-0 rout behind John Smoltz, sending the best-of-seven series back to Atlanta.

The Braves became the eighth team out of 48 to overcome a 3-1 deficit, and the first ever to do it in the NLCS.

Lopez was named the series MVP after hitting .542.

NU faces two ranked foes

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"Smedsrud may be the best outside hitter in the country," Pettit said. "And they are exceptional at every other po-

Saturday, Texas invades the coliseum in a rematch of the 1995 nationaltitle match. The Huskers have won three straight over the Longhorns, including NU's first-ever national title in a 3-1 decision last December.

The Longhorns, who were expected by many to dominate the league this season, have been struggling a bit by their standards. UT has lost three times. including a three-game defeat at the hands of A&M.

"Losing to Texas A&M was sort of a wake-up call for our kids," Texas Coach Mick Haley said. "We were pretty bad in that match, and I saw us do things we had never done before."

Pettit said the Longhorns' record is not an accurate indication of their team's strength.

Pettit said, "it is more a reflection of "But if we do win both, I don't think the parity in college volleyball this sea- anybody is going to stop us."

"They have as good of talent and

coaching as anybody else in the na-

Texas, which returns four starters from last season's Southwest Conference championship team, is led at the net by 6-foot sophomore Demetria Sance. Pettit said he is impressed with the outside hitter, a returning secondteam All-American who is averaging 4.7 kills per game while hitting .311.

The Longhorns, who face Colorado in Boulder tonight before traveling to incoln, need to play well this weekend to stay in contention for the conference title.

"If we go 2-0 this weekend, that will be great," Haley said. "If we go 1-1, we'll still be in the hunt. But if we go 0-2, it will be very disappointing and our chances will be pretty much done."

Winning both matches this weekend would only add to the Huskers' growing momentum, Korver said.

"I wouldn't say that this is a make-"If Texas has not been dominant," or-break weekend for us," Korver said.

Streaking A&M seeks to dethrone Huskers

By SAM McKewon Staff Reporter

Texas A&M Volleyball Coach Laurie Corbelli knows the road to the Big 12 championship goes through defending national

Corbelli said, "we're probably going have to beat Nebraska. They have the tradition of always being one of the

The 10th-ranked Aggies and the sixth-rated Huskers play for the top spot in the Big 12 tonight at 7:30 in the NU Coliseum.

A&M is carrying an 11-match winning streak into Lincoln with victories over rivals Texas and Texas Tech. NU and Texas A&M sit atop the Big 12 conference at 6-0.

While the Big 12 lead is at stake, Corbelli also sees tonight's match as a chance to elevate her program to a new

"This is a game that could verify our strengths to the rest of the conference," she said. "It would be a big step to beat the defending national champions on their home floor."

played the Huskers since 1990. However, the Aggies have a former NU assistant coach on their bench in John Corbelli, the head coach's husband. John Corbelli coached at NU under Terry Pettit in 1981.

It would be a big step to beat the "If we want to win the Big 12," champions on their home floor."

> LAURIE CORBELLI Texas A&M volleyball coach

changed some in 15 years," Corbelli said of her husband and Pettit. "I don't expect to get much of an advantage in John's coaching history.

Corbelli also said the NU Coliseum fans will not affect her team.

"We enjoy going to loud places and playing well," she said. "The girls love the big crowds."

Still, Corbelli knows it will be tough to stop Nebraska's attack, which includes All-American Lisa Reitsma.

"Lisa will get a lot of ball coming her way," Corbelli said. "Any time you have a lefty on the right side, you're going to have trouble stopping her."

Even if Texas A&M can't pull off the upset tonight, Corbelli said, there's plenty of time to get back on top.

"This is only October," she said. "We've got a long way to go before

leaves home after streak

Unbeaten NU

SOCCER from page 9

Soccer

at Missouri, today, 3 p.m.

Blitz. All three Tiger wins have come on the road.

The Tigers upset Texas 1-0 in

Austin, Texas, on Sept. 13. Freshman midfielder Heather Buchheit and senior forward Sara Taylor lead the Tigers with eight points

apiece.



Husker John Walker Coach Walker said he does not expect Nebraska to look past this weekend.

"I suppose there would be that danger," Walker said. "But I have no worry that they'll go in overconfident. Missouri's outshot a lot of their opponents.'

Walker said it could only be a matter of time before the Tigers become a Big 12 contender.

'Missouri is an excellent soccer area," he said. "Give them a short time, and they're going to be a very good team.'

Kansas, a second-year program, is 4-9-1 under Coach Lori Walker. Freshman forward Cynthia Dahle leads Kansas with 11 points on five goals and one assist. Freshman midfielders Kendyl Michner and Shayna Teutsch each have eight points.

"They're a very skillful team," Walker said. "We know quite a bit about them from last year.'

For Nebraska, junior Kari Uppinghouse and freshman Lindsay Eddleman each scored seven points on three goals and an assist in last Sunday's 10-2 romp of Colorado.

"Lindsay is doing very well," Walker said, "and she's nowhere near her potential. But she's working hard defensively. She's improved in applying pressure. We'd like her to emulate Becky Hogan when it comes to that,"

Once again, goalkeeper Becky Hornbacher did not yield a goal last weekend, lowering her goalsagainst average to a spectacular 0.49 for the season.

"She handles all of her chances well," Walker said. "She does a nice job of organizing the defense. Plus, we defend well as a team."

The Huskers continue to close in on the first NCAA Tournament berth in the brief history of the program. However, Walker said, the team rarely mentions the postseason.

"Maybe after this weekend," Walker said, "but there's still a month to go. Every week we just talk about getting better."



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