

Sports

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Big 12 Notebook

Saturday's Texas-Texas Tech game at Jones Stadium in Lubbock, Texas, was a shootout. The two teams combined for 1,183 yards in the Longhorns' 38-32 victory. Tech out-gained Texas 608-573, but the Longhorns put the game away by holding on in the second half after building a 28-3 lead. The yardage total was the highest ever in the Big 12 and the most ever gained in the 30-year history of Jones Stadium.

Texas senior Phil Dawson has become one of the most reliable place-kickers in the nation, making 14 of 18 field goals, first in the Big 12 and seventh nationally. Dawson hit a career-long 53-yarder against Texas Tech to seal Texas' win.

"He has ice in his veins, that kid," Longhorn Coach John Mackovic said. "I have total confidence in putting the game in his hands."

Colorado quarterback Koy Detmer has been named the Big 12 offensive player of the week. The 6-foot-1, 185-pound senior was 27 of 41 for 401 yards and five touchdowns passing in No. 6 CU's 49-42 win over Iowa State.

The league's defensive player-of-the-week award was given to Kansas State defensive end Nyle Wiren, a 6-foot-1, 250-pound senior, had nine tackles, two sacks, and two tackles behind the line of scrimmage in No. 9 KSU's 38-12 win over Kansas.

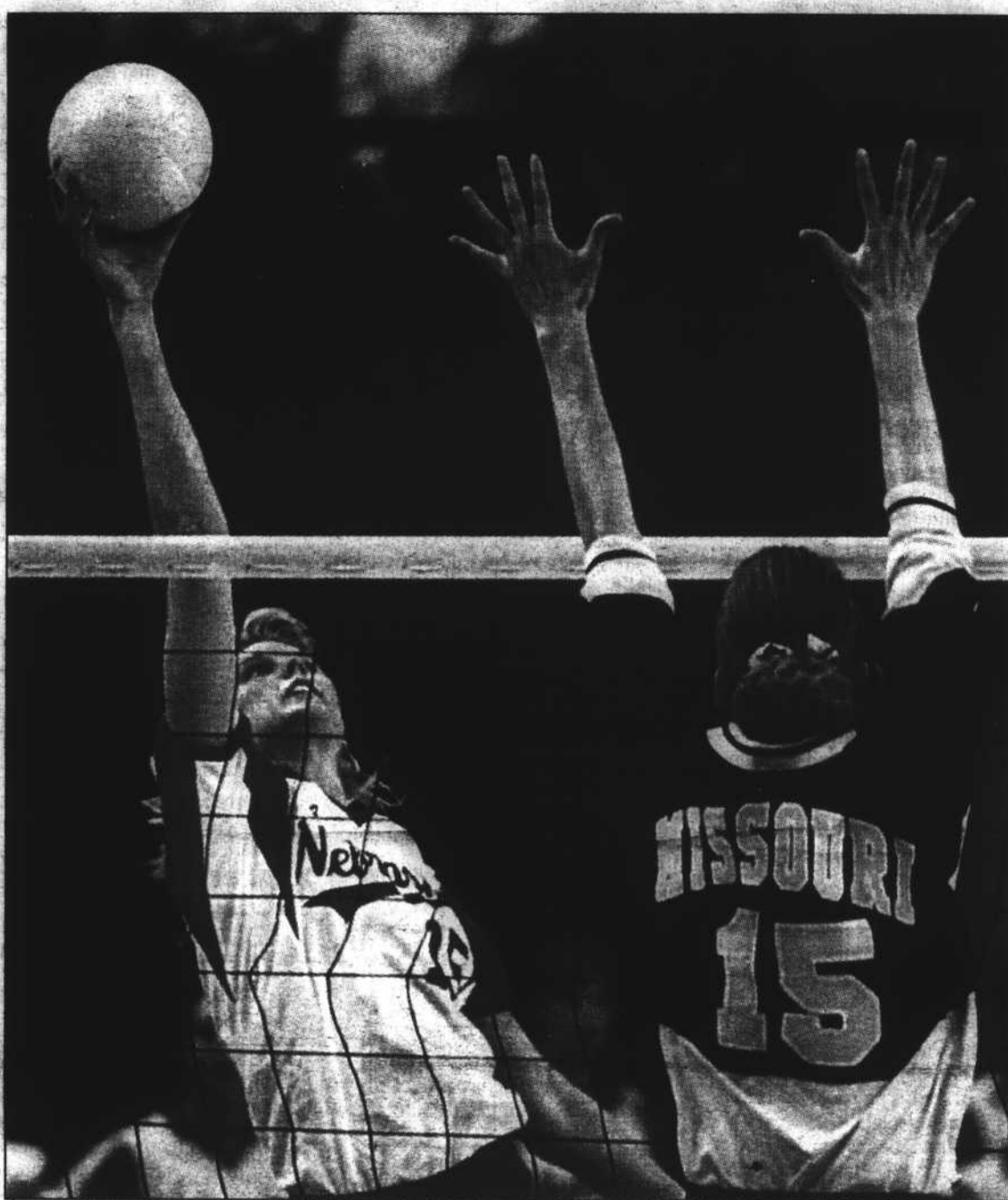
Missouri Coach Larry Smith said again Monday that the Nebraska defense is something special. Two days after the Huskers shut down the Tiger attack in NU's 51-7 victory, Smith compared the 1996 Nebraska defense to the 1991 Washington defensive unit.

Washington won a share of the national title that season, downing Nebraska 36-21 in Lincoln and Smith's Southern California team 14-3. "Nebraska dominates the way Washington did for a couple years," Smith said. "They just line up and stop everything you try to do on offense."

Despite a 5-5 record, Texas A&M has a chance to have four 500-yard rushers for the first time in school history. The Aggies already have three in that category: Sirr Parker (704 yards), D'Andre Hardeman (555) and Eric Bernard (554). If Dante Hall can manage 12 yards in the last two games of the season, A&M will complete the feat.

In other Big 12 action, Texas A&M came back from a 7-0 half-time deficit to defeat Baylor 24-7 in Waco, Texas.

Big 12 Notebook compiled by staff reporter Sam McKewon.



SCOTT BRUHN/DN

LISA REITSMA dinks a kill over Missouri's Jodi Maune last Friday. Reitsma and her Husker teammates play at No. 20 Kansas State Friday night.

K-State battle to begin season's stretch drive

By SHANNON HEFFELFINGER
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska volleyball team has little room for error if it hopes to return to the NCAA Tournament as a regional host next month, but the Cornhuskers aren't looking past this weekend.

Fifth-ranked NU (21-3 overall and 13-1 in the Big 12 Conference) will face four ranked teams in the next two weeks — including three on the road — to close the regular season, beginning with No. 20 Kansas State Friday in Manhattan, Kan.

Coach Terry Pettit knows his team needs to play well on the road if the Huskers are to gain a top regional seed in the NCAA Tournament for the third-straight year.

"There is a lot of parity in the country right now," Pettit said. "In college volleyball, it's not so much who you play as where you play."

Each of NU's three losses — Hawaii, North Carolina and Texas Tech — have come away from the

cozy confines of the NU Coliseum. Kate Crnich attributed NU's road problems to a lack of focus.

"But I don't think we'll have any more problems," said Crnich, a senior. "We know we cannot afford to lose any more matches."

By winning its last six matches, NU could possibly put itself in position to gain a top seed in the tournament and earn the right to play host to a regional, clearing a path to the Final Four, Dec. 19 through 21 in Cleveland.

Playing at home, Crnich said, will increase NU's chance of advancing to the tournament's final rounds. Currently, top-ranked Florida (26-1), No. 2 Stanford (21-2) and No. 3 Hawaii (25-1) appear to have inside tracks to play host to regionals.

Penn State (23-2) is ranked one spot ahead of NU at No. 4. In addition to records, the tournament selection committee considers attendance in determining regional sites. Nebraska ranks second nationally to Hawaii in attendance, averaging 3,511 fans in 12 home matches.

"Our crowd is so big and intimidating to other teams," Crnich said. "We absolutely love playing in the coliseum."

Pettit is reluctant to look past Friday's match but acknowledges that his team's remaining road

AVCA Top 25

Volleyball

Rank	Team	Record
2	Stanford	21-2
4	Penn. St.	23-2
6	Long Beach St.	26-1
8	Texas	18-4
10	Washington St.	21-4
12	Southern Cal.	16-6
14	Pacific	19-5
16	Cal-Santa Barbara	19-7
18	George Mason	22-2
20	Kansas St.	22-5
22	Texas Tech	21-6
24	UCLA	14-11

matches are important in determining its seeding in the tournament.

Nebraska will play at Kansas Saturday before returning home next weekend to face No. 22 Texas Tech and Baylor. The Huskers close the regular season on the road against No. 8 Texas and 13th-ranked Texas A&M.

Big 12 picture unclear

First-year league may not fill allotted bowl slots.

By SAM MCKEWON
Staff Reporter

With three weeks to play in the regular season, The Big 12 Conference bowl picture remains surprisingly unclear.

An upside-down inaugural year in the league's South Division has left some coaches wondering if the conference can fill the six bowl spots allotted for the Big 12.

"I think everybody is surprised at

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BIG 12 CONFERENCE				
Team	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
North Division				
Nebraska	6	0	8	1
Kansas	2	4	4	5
Iowa St.	1	5	2	7
South Division				
Texas Tech	4	3	5	4
Oklahoma	3	3	3	6
Oklahoma St.	1	6	4	6

Minor pains cannot slow Cornhuskers

By TREVOR PARKS
Senior Reporter

Bumps and bruises can't seem to stop the Nebraska football team.

Only twice this season have starters been held out of a game because of an injury. I-back Ahman Green did not play against Baylor on Oct. 12 and full-back Brian Schuster sat out the Oct. 26 Kansas game with a knee injury. Both players returned the next week.

Despite playing nine games this season — eight on consecutive Saturdays — NU has remained in fairly good health.

"I suppose there isn't anybody who is starting for us that doesn't have something wrong with them," Coach Tom Osborne said. "But they will play."

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