

Arkansas to play NU

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska volleyball team will face Arkansas in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

The Lady Razorbacks (26-10) earned the chance to face the defending national champion Cornhuskers by beating Rhode Island 15-12, 15-8, 12-15, 9-15, 15-11 in the first round of the NCAA Tournament Wednesday night at Fayetteville, Ark.

Nebraska will play host to Arkansas Saturday night at 7 in the NU Coliseum. Tickets remain for \$7 and \$5 at the NU ticket office.

For Arkansas, a third-year program, it was the first NCAA Tournament win in school history.

Sophomore middle blocker Kim Storey, a Bellevue native, led the Razorbacks hitting .600. Storey pounded a match-high 26 kills in 40 attempts.

Senior outside hitter Denise Baez, who entered the match averaging 4.2 kills per game, finished with 16 kills. Krystal Osborne contributed 15 and Jessica Field added 12 kills for Arkansas. As a team the Razorbacks hit .296 for the match, including .478 in the decisive fifth game.

Kansas stars commit to NU

BY DAVID WILSON
Staff Reporter

A trio of seniors from Shawnee Mission (Kan.) Northwest High School have given verbal commitments to play football for Nebraska next season.

Rush end J.P. Wichmann, utility player Ben Cornelison and linebacker Grant Bunton were all offered scholarships on Sunday from NU Coach Tom Osborne, Northwest Coach Scott Diebold said Wednesday.

"Obviously, when you get an offer like that," Diebold said, "there's not a lot of decision making."

In his 11 years at Northwest, Diebold said, he had never sent three athletes to the same Division I university.

"It doesn't surprise me that they're all going to Division I schools,"

Diebold said. "But all three to Nebraska?"

Diebold said he sent film to Nebraska after Northwest finished its 7-2 season in Class 6A, the state's largest class.

"They were interested, and they wanted to see a little more," Diebold said. "They obviously liked what they saw in all three of them."

Bunton led Northwest with 156 tackles this season, but the 6-foot-1, 200-pounder also put up a 3.98 grade-point average in the classroom.

Unlike the other two, Bunton will not be given a football scholarship as a freshman, but he will attend NU on an academic scholarship and walk on to the football team. Athletes cannot sign letters of intent until Feb. 5.

Wichmann was the second-leading tackler for Northwest. The 6-4, 210 pounder was timed running the 40-yard

dash in 4.6 seconds at a Reebok combine held at Arrowhead Stadium last summer.

The player with the greatest chance to play as a true freshman, Diebold said, is Cornelison, the best all-around athlete of the bunch.

"He can do it all," Diebold said.

Cornelison, a 6-foot, 175 pounder, runs a 4.55-second 40-yard dash and finished fifth in his league in rushing, while scoring 13 touchdowns.

The three players, who all have qualified academically, made unofficial visits last Friday and attended the Colorado game by invitation from the NU coaches.

"All three are good students and quality citizens," Diebold said. "They're just great young men."

Mackovic: Texas will be ready

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let it all hang out," he said. "We called more plays and did more good things than at any time this season."

The matchup between the Texas offense and the Husker defense is a major concern for Mackovic heading into Saturday's 12:04 p.m. game at the Trans World Dome.

Mackovic said Nebraska's defensive line is one of the best he's ever seen. Still, Texas presents three different problems offensively, Mackovic said, something NU has not encountered this season.

One is quarterback James Brown, who has already predicted a three-touchdown Texas victory. Brown is one

of the quickest quarterbacks in the Big 12, and he ranks 27th nationally in total offense with 2,227 yards this season.

"We think James can give Nebraska a different look from what they've seen so far," Mackovic said. "He has a lot of confidence right now and is playing at the level we need him to be at."

The Longhorn offense also showcases a pair of standout running backs, sophomore Ricky Williams and senior Shon Mitchell. Williams leads the team with 1,265 rushing yards and 12 touchdowns. Mitchell has added 609 yards and four touchdowns.

"There's a lot of teams that have one great running back," Mackovic said, "but we have two that can get the

job done."

Not to be forgotten is senior wide receiver Mike Adams. Adams already holds UT career records for receptions, receiving yards and touchdowns. And he is second in all-purpose yards.

Despite the offensive weaponry, Mackovic said, Texas will have to execute to near perfection in order to put a serious dent in the Blackshirt defense, which has allowed five touchdowns this season.

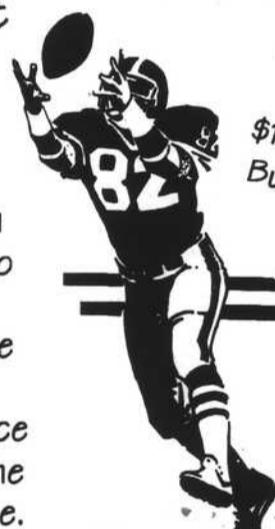
"We've got to put a lot of different looks into the game and execute at a very high level," Mackovic said.

"Both teams deserve to be here," he said. "It's going to be a hard-fought, four-quarter type of game. There won't be any quit on either side."

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