



MATT MILLER/DN

LISA REITSMA takes one of her 56 swings Saturday night at the NU Coliseum in Nebraska's four-game win over Arkansas. Reitsma recorded a season-high 34 kills, in the process breaking NU's single-season kill record.

Husker women top Iowa

Freshmen come through in Sunday's victory over No. 9 Hawkeyes.

By MIKE KLUCK
Senior Reporter

Sunday's win over ninth-ranked Iowa guarantees the Nebraska women's basketball team its second-best start ever, and it may be the biggest win in the history of the Cornhusker program.

The Huskers (7-0) beat Iowa 73-67 to finish second in the Big Kona Classic Sunday in Kona, Hawaii. On Friday, Nebraska beat Pacific 82-55.

Although the Huskers finished the tournament with a 2-0 record, they received the runner-up trophy. Because every team in the tournament didn't play each other, the championship was determined by point margin, and Arkansas, which beat Pacific by 31 points on Sunday, took home first place.

"This is a wonderful feeling," NU Coach Angela Beck said. "This has been a forward direction we have been moving all season. We showed a lot of character in this game. This earns us some respect, and it's the biggest win we have had."

Beck said she was proud of the play of her freshmen, especially Brooke Schwartz and Nicole Kubik, both of whom were named to the all-tournament team.

Against the Hawkeyes (4-2), Kubik scored 15 points, and Schwartz finished with 13. Junior Anna DeForge led the Huskers with 16 points.

Schwartz led the team with 14 points on Friday.

NU iced the game Sunday by making eight free throws, including four by Schwartz in the last 30 seconds.

"She told the official to 'hand me the ball because I'm going to ice it right now,'" Beck said. "That's a little cocky, but I tend to like a little cocky."

Nebraska, which received one vote for The Associated Press Top 25 last week, trailed by seven points with seven minutes remaining in the game, but outscored the Hawkeyes by 13 points down the stretch.

The Huskers will play Central Michigan Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Reitsma leads NU attack

Huskers advance to face Louisville Friday in regional semifinals.

By SHANNON HEFFELFINGER
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska volleyball team overcame a mediocre defensive showing with a potent offensive attack to defeat Arkansas Saturday night at the NU Coliseum in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

The defending national champion Cornhuskers (28-3) had difficulty early in the match controlling the unranked Lady Razorbacks (26-11), but NU eventually battled its way to a 15-8, 12-15, 15-7, 15-7 victory.

Despite advancing to play host to an NCAA regional for the third consecutive year, Nebraska's play Saturday did not please Coach Terry Pettit.

"It's certainly one of the flattest matches we've played defensively this season," Pettit said.

Fourth-ranked NU will play Louisville on Friday in one of two regional semifinal matches, which will be played at 5:30 and 8 p.m. at the NU Coliseum. The Cardinals (26-4) defeated Maryland in four games Sunday in Louisville, Ky.

Third-ranked Penn State (30-2) will play 25-7 Wisconsin in the other semifinal. The Lady Lions swept Georgia Tech on Sunday, and Wisconsin upset George Mason in four games. Both Wisconsin Coach John Cook and Penn State's Russ Rose are former assistants at Nebraska.

The Huskers, who have held opponents to a .130 hitting percentage this season, could not find an answer Saturday for Arkansas outside hitters Denise Baez and Krystal Osborne. The two combined for 44 of the team's 75 kills, including 15 in the second game. The Razorbacks hit .270 at the net, the

highest percentage Nebraska has allowed all season.

"They were just more aggressive than our block was," Pettit said. "I didn't anticipate we'd have problems digging the left side. Defensively, we just didn't appear to be organized, and I don't really know why."

The Huskers, who have dominated teams defensively this season, were forced to rely on a record-breaking performance from All-American Lisa Reitsma in perhaps their best offensive showing of the year. Reitsma pounded a season-high 34 kills to improve her 1996 total to 545, surpassing Kathi DeBoer's previous single-season record of 511.

Reitsma, a 6-foot-4 junior — who moved into 10th place on Nebraska's all-time kill chart with 1,006 — also established a new record for total attempts in a season with 1,298. Pettit said Reitsma's play in recent matches has been impressive.

"I said down in Texas that I thought

Arkansas	8	15	7	7
Nebraska	15	12	15	15

Lisa was the strongest player in our conference," Pettit said. "And I think she's come to believe that."

Reitsma wasn't the only NU player that sparkled offensively. Husker setter Fiona Nepo set a season-best 70 assists and posted five kills while hitting .625. Middle blocker Megan Korver recorded 16 kills to tie her best mark of the season.

Korver was perfect in the first game, hitting 1.000 on seven attempts, and sophomore Stacie Maser posted five kills while hitting at three different positions.

The Huskers led the whole way in a game that included 55 possession changes. NU served for game point six times before Korver ended the game on a kill from the right side on a serve

Please see NCAA on 11

Lue battles flu, directs Nebraska to title

By DAVID WILSON
Staff Reporter

The only thing more disturbing than the 53 turnovers committed by the Nebraska basketball team this weekend may have been its health.

But sophomore Tyrone Lue, who played a team-high 37 minutes with the flu, still managed to lead the Cornhuskers (5-1) with 24 points Saturday. NU beat Bowling Green (4-2) 73-68 in the championship game of the Ameritas Classic at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.



Lue, the tournament's Lue most valuable player, hit four of five free throws in the final minute to secure the victory.

"I was really proud of our players," said NU

Coach Danny Nee, whose team won its ninth straight Ameritas Classic championship. "We're just fighting the flu bug. When Tyrone Lue can play the way he played and be battling the flu, it's just unbelievable."

After a slow start, including a three-minute scoring drought that started just more than a minute into the game, the Huskers found themselves trailing 14-6 with 12 minutes, 40 seconds remaining in the first half.

But the Huskers, who committed 12 turnovers in the first half, went on a 20-10 run and turned the game around, gaining a 26-24 lead on a Lue layup with 3:53 left in the first half.

Nebraska, which led 35-32 at halftime, never led by more than 10 in the second half after switching to an effective 1-3-1 zone defense.

"We didn't move the ball well against their zone," Bowling Green Coach Jim Larranaga said. "For many of our players, it was the first time they've ever seen a team run a zone defense."

With 3:49 remaining in the game, true freshman Cookie Belcher banked a 3-pointer off the glass as the shot clock expired, giving NU a 62-54 lead. The shot also ignited the crowd of 8,323 that filled the Devaney Center.

"I don't know where I got that shot from," Belcher said. "I just threw it up and started running back down court, because I thought it was going to hit the top of the backboard. But I guess it hit somewhere in the square and landed in the net."

Though he said he felt sick all week, Belcher scored 39 points this weekend — including a career-high 22 points in a 88-72 victory over Coppin State Friday — and was named to the all-tournament team.

Bowling Green soon found ways to beat the Huskers' zone, and the Falcons battled back to trail 64-63 with a minute left in the game.

"(The zone defense) worked real good at first, but I think we had a few breakdowns, and they got a few quick baskets off of that," Belcher said. "We let them penetrate too far into the

Coppin St.	72
Nebraska	88
Bowling Green	68
Nebraska	73

middle."

With 42 seconds remaining, Lue drove through traffic and was fouled while making a layup. After the free throw, NU led 67-63. Lue scored six points in the final minute of the game. But fatigue set in, he said, and he was playing at just 50 percent near the end.

"I've been having diarrhea and stuff all day," Lue said with a bottle of Imodium A-D in his hand. "But that's no excuse. I was just going to play through it no matter what."

Senior Bernard Garner, averaging 16 points and eight rebounds per game, also caught the

Please see AMERITAS on 11