

Three NU players make team

From Staff Reports

One day after placing four players on the All-Big 12 volleyball team, Nebraska had three players selected to the AVCA District 5 volleyball team Wednesday.

Lisa Reitsma, who was picked as the conference's player of the year Tuesday, joined sophomore middle blocker Megan Korver and sophomore setter Fiona Nepo as Nebraska's selections.

Korver was picked as the league's newcomer of the year Tuesday. She transferred to Nebraska from George Washington this season. Kate Crnich, who was an All-Big 12 selection, was not selected for the team.

Three Cornhuskers earned all-district honors marking the eighth consecutive season that NU has had three players on the team. Last year Billie Winsett, Allison Weston, Christy Johnson and Reitsma were District 5 selections.

Wistrom first-team All-American

From Staff Reports

Nebraska rush end Grant Wistrom made the first-team Associated Press All-America football team. The team was announced Wednesday.

Wistrom, a junior from Webb City, Mo., finished a stellar defensive season with 75 tackles — 20 for losses — along with 9½ quarterback sacks and an interception he returned for a touch-down against Michigan State. He also had two blocked kicks.

Wistrom, who was a third-team All-American last year, was picked as the Big 12 defensive player of the year by both the coaches and the media last week.

Three Cornhuskers, center Aaron Taylor, guard Chris Dishman and rush end Jared Tomich, made the second team.

The All-America team has a Big 12 flavor in the backfield with the selection of 2,000-yard rushers Troy Davis and Byron Hanspard. Davis was the nation's leading rusher with 2,185 yards and Hanspard finished behind him rushing for 2,084 yards.

Colorado offensive lineman Chris Naeole, linebacker Matt Russell, Texas tight end Pat Fitzgerald and Kansas State's Chris Canty were also selected.

Parrella craves return to playoffs

By PETER MARHOEFER
Staff Reporter

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Former Nebraska defensive tackle John Parrella and his San Diego Charger



Parrella

teammates have one goal on their minds: making the playoffs. "Our goal from the first day of practice was to make the playoffs," Parrella said Nov. 24 following a 28-14 shellacking of Kansas City at Arrowhead Stadium.

The Chargers' goal of making the playoffs might have come crashing down after beating the Chiefs. With two games left in the regular season, San Diego needs to win its final two games and hope for some other teams to lose as well to keep its goal alive.

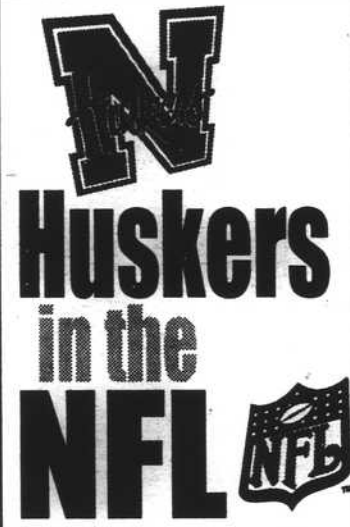
In four NFL seasons — three with the Chargers — Parrella has achieved many goals other players can only dream about. He is a starter, he has played in a Super Bowl and he is happy.

Parrella became a starter for the first time this year at defensive tackle. Now, Parrella is the one to ask for a substitute, not the one coming off the bench.

"We have a rotation system to keep us fresh," Parrella said. "I'm just happy to be playing."

One game Parrella said he was lucky to play in was the 1995 Super Bowl, as a substitute in the Chargers 49-26 loss to San Francisco in Super Bowl XXIV.

Parrella has been playing well this season in his quest to return to the playoffs. He has 29 tackles — 24 of those are solo tackles — and



This is one in a series of stories about former NU players in the NFL

two quarterback sacks.

Defensively, the Chargers have struggled this season ranking 27th out of 30 NFL teams in total defense. In the past two games, New England and Pittsburgh ripped the San Diego defense for 61 points.

Parrella has kept ties to Nebraska even though his football career has taken him more than 2,000 miles away.

He and his father run an automobile dealership in his hometown of Grand Island during the off-season.

Through his business, he tries to give back to the community sponsoring baseball and football clinics.

"I'm trying to do a lot and be involved through the dealership, but I want to do more," he said. "I want to let the community know we're here to help."

While playing in the NFL, Parrella said he still keeps a close eye on the Nebraska football program.

"I still talk to (NU Defensive Coordinator) Charlie McBride," Parrella said. "He's like a father to me. I love that guy."

Huskers bounce Kangaroos

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committed just six turnovers and outshot UMKC 56 percent to 37 percent. For the fifth straight game, Nebraska made better than 50 percent of its field goals.

"(At halftime) we just said, 'You have to take a little pride in it,' and personally be responsible (for turnovers)," Nee said. "That was the key to the game."

"It's very hard to win on the road. I was really pleased that we could come into Kansas City and control our own destiny. UMKC is a good scrappy, solid basketball team."

But the win did not come without a lapse in second half.

After a Moore dunk put Nebraska ahead 44-33 with 15:31 left in the game, the Kangaroos responded with a 17-6 run to close the gap to 55-50.

But the Huskers finished the game with a 9-4 run to win their sixth-straight game.

Sophomore Tyrone Lue, who is still battling the flu, was held to seven points in front of his hometown crowd. Lue, a graduate of Kansas City's Raytown High School, who led Nebraska averaging 19.7 points per game, ended his streak of scoring in double figures at eight games.

Belcher, from Mexico, Mo., also had a below average scoring night with just six points — all on dunks in the first four and a half minutes of the game.

Nebraska will have a nine-day lay-off for finals before playing No. 18 Minnesota at Bob Devaney Sports Center Dec. 21.

Samuel takes post at NMSU

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he handled himself in the interview, indeed, he's ready to make that step."

Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne and Athletic Director Bill Byrne both gave Samuel strong recommendations, Orenduff said. The strongest endorsement came from the Aggie football players.

"I wasn't in the meeting when he met with the players," Orenduff said. "Basically, what they said is they felt he would be a player's coach. They were impressed with him."

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