

# Johnson takes job as Badger coach

**Former Husker setter starts coaching job on Friday.**

BY SHANNON HEFFELFINGER  
Staff Reporter

Personally, Christy Johnson will take on new challenges when she becomes an assistant volleyball coach at Wisconsin on Friday.



Johnson is something she regarded as a long-term goal.

But Johnson will not be breaking new ground. The road from Lincoln to Madison, Wis., has been traveled before. Badger Coach John Cook was an assistant under NU Coach Terry Pettit during the 1989 and 1990 seasons before taking over the Wisconsin program.

Teaming up with another product of the Cornhusker program will help to ease the transition, Johnson said.

"I don't think I would take a chance like this unless I was really comfortable with the program and the coach," Johnson said. "He runs his program a lot like Coach Pettit does, and it will be nice to have those similarities."

Those similarities were also on Cook's mind when he considered Johnson for the position. Although Cook never had the chance to coach the two-time All-American, he is confident that Johnson formed a good work ethic while at NU.

"Subconsciously, it played a part in my decision," Cook said. "Both of us have been influenced by the tradition at Nebraska, and I think that we will work well together. We will probably look at a lot of things from the same viewpoint. It should be an easy fit."

Not surprisingly, Johnson and

Cook looked to their old ties at Nebraska before entering into their new partnership. Before offering Johnson the position, Cook discussed the move with Pettit, his good friend and former boss.

"We talked through Christy and some of the other candidates," Cook said. "But Coach Pettit would never make my decision for me. That's just the respect we have for each other and the nature of our friendship. After I hired her though, he told me I had made a great decision."

Johnson also discussed her options with her former coach. Pettit said he was supportive of the possibility of Johnson coaching for UW.

"Everything Christy does, she does exceptionally well," Pettit said. "She combines commitment and passion with a tremendous amount of energy. She will be an exceptional coach."

Of all the candidates, Johnson was the youngest and had the least experience. Johnson coached her alma mater Millard North High School to a 15-12 mark in her first season.

Johnson is also the math teacher at Millard North but will not complete her contract because her new position requires her to take over in two days. Her main responsibility with the Badgers will be to work with the setters and to recruit in the Midwest.

"Even though I can't even stay the full year," Johnson said, "I'm so grateful for the opportunity I had there. I learned so much about coaching. There is such a big difference between coaching and playing, and I never realized how much."

Whatever Johnson lacks in experience, Cook said, she makes up for with her character.

"When I need to hire someone," Cook said, "I look for someone who is an exceptional person. Exceptional people have success. They set goals, focus on the big prize and get things done."

"Christy is that type of person. She accomplished something at Nebraska that none of their other great setters ever could by winning a national championship."

# Lavy strives to soar higher

BY VINCE D'ADAMO  
Staff Reporter

Emerging from the shadow of NCAA indoor high-jump champion Petar Malesev has not been easy for Nebraska high jumper Shane Lavy.



But this season, Lavy, a sophomore from Glasco, Kan., has jumped out from Malesev's shadow by leaps and bounds.

Last Friday, Lavy posted a career-best clearing 7-feet 5 1/4-inches at the Nebraska-Iowa Athletic Conference Invite. The leap was the best by any collegian posted this season.

The week before in the Frank Sevigne Husker Invitational, Lavy scaled the bar at 7-5 tying his personal best.

Despite nursing a sore knee and ankle, he finished first, a position Lavy has become accustomed to this season.

"I feel more healthy right now,"

Lavy said. "I'm just trying to keep it strong."

It marked the second straight year Lavy triumphed in the high jump at the Husker Invite, duplicating Malesev's accomplishment.

"I didn't know that Petar had done it for two years in a row," Lavy said. "I'd like to keep the streak."

This weekend Lavy will be hoping for another personal best when he competes in the Big 12 Conference championship meet at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

In his last two meets, Lavy has just missed clearing the 7-6 1/2 mark which will set a Nebraska school record.

Lavy, who was an NCAA indoor All-American after finishing sixth as a freshman, said clearing the mark in future meets is not farfetched.

"I think the problem was that I was clearing too soon," Lavy said.

Otherwise, Lavy said, he has improved in all aspects of his high-jumping ability.

"I feel more advanced in my approach, my form and my aggressiveness," Lavy said. "I think the indoor season is a big practice session for the outdoor season."

"I would definitely like to be on

"I would definitely like to be on top in the Big 12."

SHANE LAVY  
NU high jumper

top in the Big 12." Pepin said Lavy's development starts with Lavy's productive work habits.

"He's had a real good season so far," Pepin said. "He has prepared better in every area. He is a year better and more mature."

Lavy's personal indoor best last season was a 7-5, which he jumped at the Husker Invite. He struggled in last year's Big Eight indoor championships clearing only a height of 6-11, good for a third-place finish. Lavy improved enough to jump a 7-5 and win the final Big Eight outdoor high-jump title.

Lavy said he wants to use his recent success as a springboard for the Big 12 Championship meet.

"I'm going to hit it hard," Lavy said.

# Bears, NU on skid

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in the 1983-84 season.

Against Baylor, Beck said she hopes to get the same type of performance the Huskers gave Monday night against the ninth-ranked Longhorns. Nebraska had eight different players score against Texas, and the Huskers won the battle of the boards 47-44.

Freshman center Charlie Rogers grabbed a career-best 12 rebounds, including seven in the first seven minutes, and scored 10 points. Beck said the 6-foot-2 Rogers out-played Texas All-America candidate Angela Jackson.

"We wanted to attack Jackson inside so we put Charlie Rogers back inside and she had a great game," Beck said.

Since Jan. 7, Rogers has started 10

of NU's last 12 games, and for the second straight contest she will have her hands full in the post. This time Rogers battles Baylor's 6-4 sophomore center Kacy Moffitt.

Moffitt leads the Bears in scoring averaging 10.5 points per game and 12.7 points in conference action.

Beck said the Huskers might have a slight disadvantage having played Monday night and using only one day to prepare for the Bears.

"I'm not real concerned about the back-to-back thing," Beck said. "We've been put in a difficult situation because they played on Saturday. But we're kind of taking the Big Eight attitude. When we were in the Big Eight Conference and played Friday-Sunday we had a one-day turnaround. Our team is capable of putting a one-day turnaround together and playing well."

# Brandt awaits Huskers

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is a big factor in the game.

"In this conference, you definitely have an advantage to be the home team," he said.

Baylor is 13-2 at home this season, its two losses coming to Kansas and Colorado. Nebraska is 2-7 on the road this season and has yet to win a league road game.

Need said the Bears' home record shows they are a difficult team for anyone to face.

"They're a very, very good basketball team at home," Need said. "The road has not been very good to us, and we're just going to have to find a way to play a consistent 40 minutes."

One of two seniors on the Bears' roster, Brandt said his experience has helped the Bears reach a higher level

of consistency this season.

Brandt has led the Bears in scoring four times this season, including a 20-point effort in the Bears' 76-72 overtime win over Texas last month.

He will have his hands full against Nebraska's Mikki Moore and Venson Hamilton. The 6-9 Hamilton averages 10.7 points and 8.6 rebounds per game. The 6-11 Moore averages 11.5 and 7.8 boards a game.

"We had seen him play and we thought he was a player with a lot of potential," Need said. "And he absolutely does a great job for them now."

But it hasn't been just this season that Brandt has been a vital piece of the Baylor lineup.

"I've been lucky enough to start every game since I've been here," Brandt said. "So the experience has definitely been a factor."

# Angels move Erstad to first base

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when outfielder Jim Edmonds sprained his thumb last June. Erstad was promoted to Anaheim, where he got his first taste of major league baseball. Two months later, Erstad found himself back in triple-A Vancouver.

"It was a good learning experience," Erstad said. "I had the opportunity to go up to the big leagues before I could ever imagine. Getting sent down was a humbling experience, but it taught me not to take anything for granted."

In September, when major league teams can expand their rosters to 40 players, Erstad was recalled by the

Angels.

"It was nice when I got back." Erstad said. "It felt like I was part of the team. They were great to me — very supportive and always willing to help. Obviously, being a rookie, you're going to take your heat."

Erstad was the first pick of the 1995 June draft and after signing a then-record \$1.575-million bonus, he made his way from rookie-league ball in Mesa to class-A Lake Elsinore (Calif.).

After boasting a .363 average at Lake Elsinore, Erstad hit .344 in the Arizona Fall League, which earned him a trip to his first major league

spring training camp last February.

This winter, Erstad said he worked out in his hometown of Jamestown, N.D., and is eager to get back on the playing field. Erstad spent the first two weeks of this month practicing with the Nebraska baseball team.

"I've been working my tail off for three months now," Erstad said. "I'm in the best shape of my life. I'm faster and stronger than I've ever been. There's really no excuse for not doing what I'm capable of doing."

"If I do my job at first, I don't see why I shouldn't be starting on opening day. That's my goal right now."

## Women's Basketball Starters

Today, 7 p.m.  
Devaney Center

### Nebraska 17-5 (7-5)

Pos	Name	Ht.	Yr.
F	30 Anna DeForge	5-11	Jr.
G	24 Jami Kubik	5-11	Jr.

### Baylor 11-11 (4-8)

Pos	Name	Ht.	Yr.
F	32 Tasia Wright	6-1	Jr.
G	24 Amy Alcalá	5-9	So.

## Men's Basketball Starters

Today, 8:07 p.m.  
Ferrell Center  
Waco, Texas

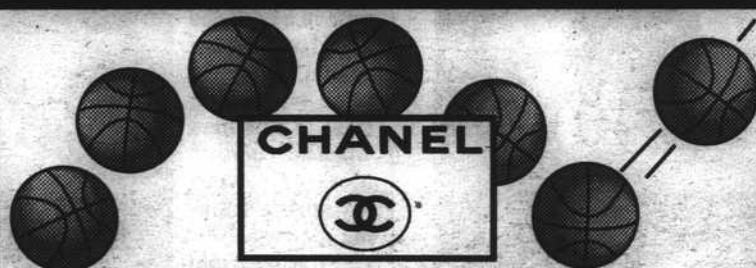
### Nebraska 14-11 (5-7)

Pos	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
F	4 Venson Hamilton	6-9	240	So.
F	5 Larry Florence	6-5	225	So.
G	30 Cooke Belcher	6-3	200	Fr.

### Baylor 16-9 (4-8)

Pos	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
F	5 Doug Brandt	6-10	210	So.
F	25 Leon Morris	6-6	215	Fr.
G	22 Patrick Hunter	5-9	185	Jr.

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Nebraska Women's Basketball

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