

Lizama adjusts to NU

LIZAMA from page 14

Lizama this summer, said the freshman's success comes from her discipline both in practice and during games.

"She knows exactly what she expects of herself," Sippel said. "She's very disciplined in practice. She's the one person that I know that you can't tell whether she's at practice or in a game. It's always the same whatever setting she's in."

But the setting in Nebraska has been a culture shock. Her acclimation to life in Lincoln has been a struggle at times, she said.

"The people here are completely different from the people back home," said Lizama, who is from San Lorenzo, Calif., and attended high school in Oakland.

"I'm not used to the lack of diversity here," Lizama said. "That's something I'll never be completely comfortable with. I still miss the diversity in the Bay Area, which is racially, culturally and religiously diverse. All kinds of races live there."

Lizama's mother is of Anglo-American descent, while her father is a native of Guam.

The differences between Lizama's California culture and the lifestyle in Nebraska became apparent when she returned to Lincoln after the winter break.

"Within the first few minutes after I got it, I counted 17 people staring at my nose."

JENNIFER LIZAMA
NU shortstop

During the break, she and her cousin planned on getting nose rings, which in California would not have made her stand out in the crowd.

However, the two never got together, but that didn't stop Lizama. Two days after returning to Lincoln she had her nose pierced.

"Within the first few minutes after I got it, I counted 17 people staring at my nose," Lizama said.

The nose ring also didn't sit well with NU Coach Rhonda Revelle, Lizama said.

"She really didn't say anything, but I knew she didn't like it," Lizama said. "Now it's starting to grow on her. And she told me if anyone had to get it, that it looks better on me."

Reitsma gets shot at Team USA

REITSMA from page 14

Cornhusker Assistant Coach Cathy Noth said Reitsma, a right-side hitter, will train with the national team from June 15 through July 15, providing her with the opportunity to train with Haley and the world team before she returns to NU to prepare for the fall.

"This will be a great experience for her if she has aspirations to continue with the national team after this season," Noth said.

The upcoming season will be Reitsma's last at Nebraska. A native of Sanborn, Iowa, Reitsma has developed into one of the most consistent all-around players in college volleyball over the last three years, Husker Coach Terry Pettit said.

"We believe that Lisa is one of the best — if not the best — all-around player in college volleyball," Pettit said. "We just want her to continue to develop."

Playing alongside co-national player of the year Allison Weston as a sophomore on the 1995 national championship team, Reitsma averaged four kills a game while earning first-

"The university, as well as the people of the state of Nebraska, have always understood what a great talent she is, and now the rest of the country does."

MICK HALEY
Team USA volleyball coach

team All-America honors.

As a junior last season on a team that listed nine freshmen and sophomores on its roster, Reitsma became the Huskers' main offensive threat. Despite being the main focus of every defense NU faced, Reitsma pounded a school-record 611 kills. Reitsma also improved defensively, recording the team's third-highest dig and block totals per game.

Haley, who left his coaching position at Texas last winter after 17 years, witnessed Reitsma's development the past three seasons.

"I've seen improvement in her every year," Haley said. "It's encouraging. Sometimes when college athletes can dominate like Lisa can, they become complacent. You have to give her credit for striving to improve."

The chance to improve while training among elite players is the biggest advantage of playing with the world team, Reitsma said.

"I am so excited," Reitsma said. "I know that I will be nervous and there will be pressure, but I like that. I want the challenge."

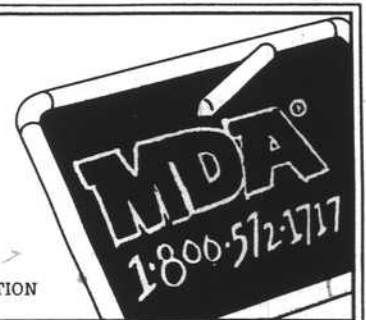
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