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#### NU volleyball setter Nepo wants to lead this season

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-ancing our offense," Nepo said. "I've been working with the middles a lot and I feel a lot more comfortable and more confident with them than I did last year.'

In 1996, the Huskers' top three middle blockers - Megan Korver, Tonia Tauke and Stacie Maser recorded 1,835 attacks, while outside hitters Lisa Reitsma, Jaime Krondak and Kate Crnich had attempted 3,277

"I wasn't thinking a lot about balancing the offense last year," Nepo said. "We had a game plan and if I followed the game plan I was fine but I wasn't doing too well without the coaches telling me what to do. I think I'm much better this year. I'm more mature in my game."

The inexperience of Korver, Tauke and Reitsma's school recordbreaking attempts also contributed to Nepo's uneven set distribution last season. But playing a starting role for an entire year should help to rectify the situation, Pettit said.

"Fiona understands that by the end of last year, we were running a more balanced offense," Pettit said. "We need to continue to develop everybody, and I think she's more comfortable with that now. She's been in tough situations and she's won. I think our team has a lot of confidence in her. I think she'll be a better player this year."

Pettit said Nepo's teammates appreciate more than just her setting. Nepo's ability to serve short or drive the ball long makes her one of the team's best servers.

"I think she's improved a lot this

She's not overly vocal, but she's working hard and I take that as leadership."

> RENEE SAUNDERS outside hitter

year," Pettit said. "When its your first year setting, you concentrate on setting, and sometimes ... some of the other things don't really get the attention they might deserve. But once you're confident in your setting then you can start to focus on defense and ball-handling and some of those other

"The year of experience gives her the opportunity to not be so concerned with what she's doing, and she'll have energy to give to other players."

Junior outside hitter Renee Saunders said that is something Nepo has already accomplished.

"You can just see it in practice," Saunders said. "Everything is clicking so much better than last year when people were really young. Having Fiona with a year of experience is helping us a ton. She's not overly vocal, but she's working hard and I take that as leadership."

#### Taylors leads experienced Husker line

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again," Heskew said.

Besides Heskew all the rest of the linemen are seniors and many should contend for postseason honors and recognition.

The best chance will go to Taylor, who moves back to his original position at left guard this season. He a preseason favorite for the Outland Trophy and has been a member of most preseason All-

America teams. Anderson and Zatechka return to right tackle and guard, respectively. This will be Anderson's third season starting while Zatechka will be starting his second.

Anderson said the extensive experience on his side will be a big plus.

"The fact that we played together in the past will make it smooth offensive line for us," he said. "We just have to work out the rhythm and the

Nebraska opens its season Aug. 30, against Akron, which finished 77th in the nation against the run last season, yielding 185.5 yards per game on the ground.

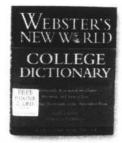
"We're going to run the ball against anybody, that's all there is to Taylor said.

Nebraska plays Washington on Sept. 20 in Seattle. The offensive linemen said they are looking forward to their showdown against Washington.

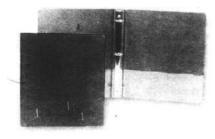
"They've got a load of starters back, so we know it's going to be tough," Heskew said, "but we have something to prove."

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