

Sports Opinion



Antone Oseka Volleyball tourney fills football void

Since the Sea of Red will be absent this Saturday, most people think the sports scene in Lincoln will be brutally blank.

Oh, how wrong they are.

The fifth-ranked Nebraska volleyball team will play host to three top-30 teams in the First Bank Invitational Friday night and all day Saturday in the NU Coliseum.

The 2-1 Cornhuskers are coming off a disappointing loss to No. 4 Florida last weekend in Gainesville, Fla.

They could use your support when they face off against No. 25 Arkansas at 7:30 Friday night. The Huskers defeated Arkansas last season in the NCAA Tournament, but the Razorbacks return nearly everybody from that team.

The other match Friday will pit George Mason against Pacific at 5 p.m.

Probably the best match of the invite will come at 7:30 Saturday night when Pacific, No. 7 in the nation in the USA Today poll, faces off against Nebraska. There's plenty of volleyball before that, though.

NU starts the day against No. 29 George Mason at 11 a.m. Then, Pacific plays Arkansas at 1 p.m. George Mason and Arkansas take to the floor at 5:30 p.m., followed by the Pacific-NU match.

Granted, volleyball doesn't have quite the same atmosphere as a Saturday packed house in Memorial Stadium, but it's still a great sport in which to partake.

Take players like senior All-American outside hitter Lisa Reitsma, junior All-American setter Fiona Nepo and junior all-Big 12 middle blocker Megan Korver.

Reitsma could be one of the best players in the country, while Nepo could be the best setter in the country.

The match against Pacific should bring out the best in these players.

Besides, this NU team was closer to the national championship than the football team was last season. The players are a great bunch of athletes to get out and see. And a great bunch of role models to boot.

The NU volleyball team provides young girls (and boys) with role models that shouldn't come crashing down on the 5 o'clock news. I can't remember the last time a volleyball player was in even a little bit of trouble. Take those kids to the Coliseum this weekend and give them a great taste of sports action with a little different flavor.

All in all, it'll be a great weekend of volleyball action in Lincoln, with its own mini-Sea of Red.

Oseka is a senior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.

The last line of defense



NEBRASKA GOALIE REBECCA HORNBACHER is an imposing force to Nebraska opponents. Hornbacher finished fifth nationally last season with a 0.51 goals-against average while earning third-team All-American honors. MATT MILLER/DN

Hornbacher fits definition for goalkeeper

By JAY SAUNDERS
Assignment Reporter

Webster's Dictionary defines a goalkeeper as "a player stationed at a goal to prevent the ball or puck from crossing or entering it."

Rebecca Hornbacher fits that definition.

What the dictionary doesn't say is that a goalkeeper needs to be intense, aggressive and a leader on the field.

Hornbacher adds that on her own. The senior from Ralston has become one of the best goalies in the

country. Last season, in her first season for the Huskers, Hornbacher earned third-team All-American honors after posting a 0.51 goals-against average while giving up only 11 goals in 1,940 minutes of play.

Hornbacher set a Nebraska single-game record with 10 saves in a 3-

2 overtime victory over Minnesota last year in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. Hornbacher also has the single-season record for saves with 82.

She also was named to the Big 12

Please see GOALIE on 14

Invite offers NU rematch for Arkansas

By ANDREW STRNAD
Staff Reporter

When the Arkansas Lady Razorbacks volleyball team visits Lincoln this weekend, Coach Chris Poole is hoping his team's visit will be a bit more enjoyable than last year's trip to the NU Coliseum.

The Lady Razorbacks will take on the Huskers Friday in the First Bank Invitational. The two teams met last year in the second round of the NCAA Tournament, with the Huskers winning in four games.

"It was a great atmosphere to play in," Poole said. "A big crowd and a great team like Nebraska provided a good experience for our program."

Poole leads the Lady Razorbacks in only their fourth year of existence and brings a team with seven returning starters after having lost only one to graduation. Arkansas finished last season 26-11 overall and 11-4 in the Southeast Conference and returns five starters.

"We made this schedule three years ago anticipating that we would be a

Please see ARKANSAS on 14

Freshmen grow in first game

■ Newcombe among several newcomers to see significant action.

By SAM MCKEWIN
Staff Reporter

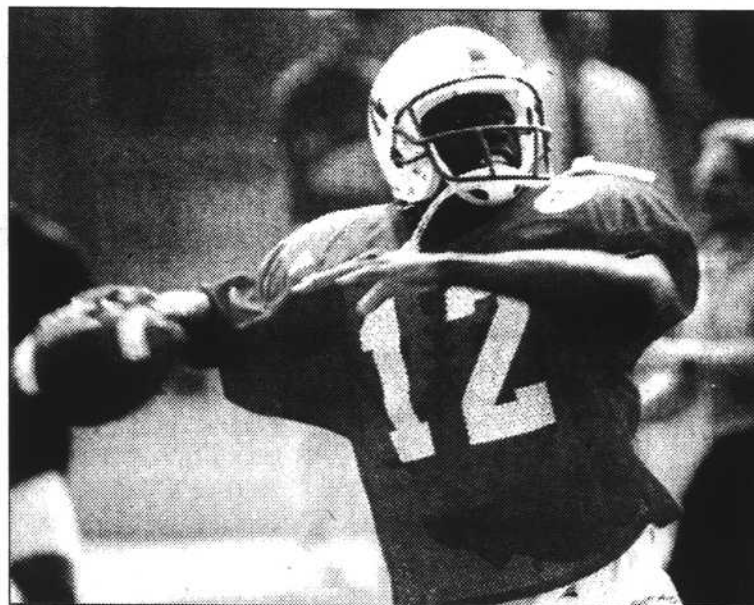
On his first play from scrimmage as a Nebraska quarterback, freshman Bobby Newcombe opened up the wrong way, saw the rush, reversed his field, shook four would-be Akron tacklers and scampered for a 22-yard gain.

"As soon as I realized that I turned the wrong way, I wanted to make something out of it," Newcombe said. "I didn't want Coach (Tom) Osborne to take me right out again."

Newcombe joined five other freshmen and newcomer Brandon Harrison in seeing significant playing time in NU's 59-14 victory over the Akron Zips on Saturday.

Running back Correll Buckhalter, split end Matt Davison, defensive back Erwin Swiney, rush end Kyle Vanden Bosch and defensive back Joe Walker, along with Harrison and Newcombe, contributed and gained valuable experience against the Zips.

"This game is going to help us a lot as the year goes on," said Swiney,



FRESHMAN QUARTERBACK BOBBY NEWCOMBE passes downfield to his receiver during practice Wednesday. Newcombe was one of six freshmen to play in the Huskers' 59-14 win over Akron. MICHAEL WARREN/DN

who had a 28-yard punt return in the fourth quarter. "Any team, now, we're ready for."

Davison made the most noise for the Husker offense during the day. He led all NU receivers with three catches for 64 yards, including a 46-yard grab from quarterback Frankie London in the second quarter. It was

the longest NU pass play of the day and helped to set up a Kris Brown field goal.

A freshman from Tecumseh, Davison gained praise from both quarterbacks, especially senior Scott Frost, who hooked up with Davison

Please see FROSH on 14