

# Invitational



Clockwise from top left:  
**TONIA TAUKE** embraces Nikki Henk Saturday after the Huskers survived a five-game battle against No. 7 Pacific, winning the fifth game 17-15. Photo by Matt Miller/DN  
**LISA REITSMA** hammers an attack against Arkansas Friday night. Reitsma was named to the all-tournament team along with teammate Fiona Nepo. Photo by Matt Miller/DN  
**DENISE KOZIOL** digs the ball in the game against Pacific Saturday night. This weekend marked Koziol's first-ever matches at the NU Coliseum. Photo by Matt Miller/DN  
**NANCY MEENDERING** (left) jokes with fellow freshman Angie Oxley on the bench Friday night during the Huskers' five-game win over Arkansas. Photo by Matt Miller/DN  
**THE NEBRASKA PEP BAND** swings into motion Saturday night as NU faces Pacific. Photo by Ryan Soderlin/DN



## Razorbacks give Nebraska all it can handle in 5-gamer

BY ANDREW STRNAD  
*Staff Reporter*

While most fans will remember the First Bank Invitational for Nebraska's five-game thriller over Pacific on Saturday night, none of the Husker players will forget Friday night's exciting five-game win over Arkansas.

The 25<sup>th</sup>-ranked Razorbacks pushed the Huskers to the edge, but couldn't push them over as NU won 15-5, 12-15, 15, 11, 16-14, 15-13.

"Both teams, I don't think, could have played harder," Nebraska coach Terry Pettit said.

The 2 1/2-hour match climaxed in the fifth game with the Huskers trailing 10-9 in rally scoring.

Nebraska faced the prospect of going down 11-9 with the ball falling to the ground, but Husker setter Fiona Nepo dove to the ground and hit the ball into the net. Middle blocker Tonia Tauke then played Nepo's ball off the net and fisted it over. Outside hitter Lisa Reitsma then blocked an Arkansas attack, giving the Huskers the point and tying the game at 10.

"I didn't think I was going to be able to get up," Nepo said. "I was like 'Oh, there's the ball,' and I got the ball up and just hoped that Tonia could get it over."

Tauke said she knew Nepo



would get to the ball.

"I was just sitting their watching (Nepo) hit the ball into the net and I knew I was going to get to it. But if it wasn't for Reitsma's block, we wouldn't have gotten the point," Tauke said.

That point was clearly the turning point in the match as the Huskers woke up a stunned Coliseum crowd of 4,066.

After that point the Huskers never trailed. Sophomore Nikki Henk served three consecutive points to give the Huskers a 13-10 lead.

Then on the Huskers third match point, outside hitter Mandy Monson put away the Razorbacks with a kill to give the Huskers the

15-13 victory.

The five-game match was the Huskers' second in a row, the first time that has happened since the end of the 1988 season. Nebraska played Florida in the finals of the Suntrust Invitational on Aug. 31, but lost in the fifth game.

On Saturday, NU won another five-game match over Pacific, and improved its five-game match record to 18-7 this decade.

Despite the Huskers' stellar record in five-game matches, Pettit would like to have seen a shorter match.

"(Five-game matches) teach you some things," Pettit said. "Man, I could go for a good three-game match."