

Sports Opinion



Mike Kluck

## Win or lose, Dr Pepper will be there

Texas and Oklahoma played a football game Saturday.

It was nothing special. The two teams have played 91 other games against each other, and their contest played every year at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas has grown to be known as the Red River Shootout.

But the last couple of years, a new name has been added to the list - Dr Pepper.

Dr Pepper, it seems, has taken over sponsorship of the game. So every logo you see promoting the game at the Cotton Bowl has the Dr Pepper symbol on it.

After the game, which Texas won 27-24, the Longhorns probably chugged Dr Pepper in celebration. And Oklahoma, well, they probably got to drink Dr Pepper, too.

Sponsorship is nothing new in college football. If Nebraska plays for the national championship this season, it will play in the Fed Ex Orange Bowl, but if it finishes second in the Big 12 Conference, NU could play in the Southwestern Bell Cotton Bowl Classic.

A fourth-place finish in the conference would send Nebraska to the Jeep Aloha Bowl, but the Huskers have virtually no chance of playing in the Poulan/Weed Eater Independence Bowl.

Now that sponsorship has started invading regular season games, Nebraska games will soon probably have a sponsor. We're close enough to that happening now.

You laugh?

How many times when you are sitting at Memorial Stadium do you see a good play on the field and quickly look up to the HuskerVision screens to see the replay. But before the replay is played, we must endure a corporate sponsor. For instance: "This replay is provided by State Farm Insurance or Coca Cola or Norwest Banks" or any one of the other companies that sponsor replays.

So how much longer before Nebraska plays in the Skippy Peanut Butter Nebraska-Colorado football game? This sponsor would honor Buffalo coach Rick "Skippy" Neuheisel.

Or a Nebraska-Missouri game would be the Charmin game, because we all know NU would wipe up.

If Nebraska gets a sponsorship, then how soon before all the other Big 12 schools will follow step? We could be watching the Panda Garden Chinese Buffet Iowa State-Baylor game, where a new soup is unveiled: Win Won Soon.

Sponsorship does not belong in regular-season games. It's bad enough in the bowls, where we have to be inundated with countless ads for the product.

Let's leave at least one thing for the fans of college football.

Kluck is a journalism graduate student and the Daily Nebraskan sports editor.

# OU sends Huskers reeling

Volleyball Score	
Oklahoma	17 15 15
Nebraska	15 11 10



BY ANDREW STRNAD  
Staff Reporter

NORMAN, Okla. - After losing its first-ever home match to a conference opponent on Wednesday night against Colorado, Nebraska followed with another first on Friday night against Oklahoma.

The 1997 Cornhusker squad became the first-ever NU team to lose a three-game match to a conference opponent, falling to the Sooners 17-15, 15-11, 15-10 in front of a raucous crowd of 423 at the OU Fieldhouse.

OU senior outside hitter Patrice Arrington said she thought the Huskers would be vulnerable, especially early in the match.

"We thought they would start off slow, and we could take advantage of that, and we did," Arrington said.

The Sooners (9-7 overall and 3-2 in the Big 12 Conference) wasted no time in the first game, jumping to a 4-0 lead, but allowed the fifth-ranked Huskers (13-4 and 4-2) to battle back and take a 14-12 lead.

The Huskers failed to convert on three-game points and let the Sooners steal the first game on the strength of three service aces.

Things didn't go much better for Nebraska in the second game. The Huskers hit .000 with only nine kills.

NU coach Terry Pettit said the Huskers were never able to get organized during the match, which enabled the Sooners to take advantage.

"I thought it was overall self-destructive play," Pettit said. "We were unable to make the necessary adjustments. I was over there just trying to keep us organized."

After NU dropped game two, frustration began to set in during the third game.

With OU leading 9-6, and after a series of points in which both coaches questioned the officiating, Pettit received a red card for walking on the court between a sideout.

NCAA rules prohibit coaches from commenting on the officiating of matches.

OU finished the match with nine ace serves. That, coupled with five of NU's 13 service errors in the third game, led to the Huskers' second loss in as many matches.

Nebraska hit .148 in the match, its second lowest percentage of the season.

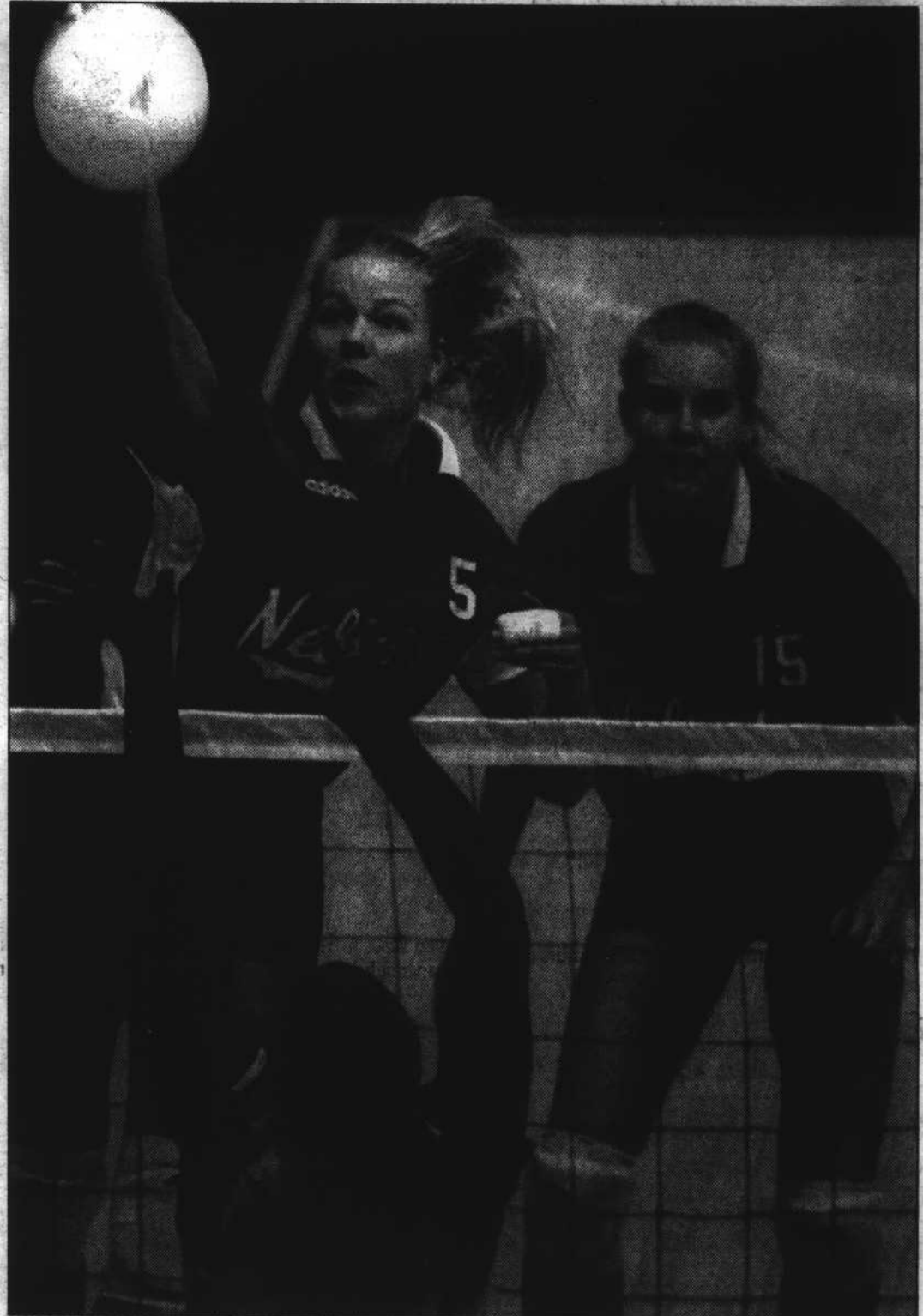
Senior Lisa Reitsma led the Huskers with 17 kills, and set an NU record for most attacks in a three-game match with 59, breaking her own mark of 58 set last year against New Mexico.

Reitsma never thought the Huskers would lose Friday night, especially after the tough home loss to Colorado.

"We thought we had refocused," Reitsma said. "We had a great practice and took a look at our goals, and we were ready to move ahead, but tonight was another step back."

OU coach Miles Pabst, who is 6-43 all-time against NU, said the Huskers don't have the same amount of confidence as previous Husker teams.

"I see a sense of self-doubt in them on the



RYAN SODERLIN/DN

NEBRASKA MIDDLE BLOCKER Megan Korver attempts a kill over Oklahoma's Patrice Arrington with NU senior Lisa Reitsma watching. Korver finished the match with 11 kills, and led the Huskers with a .429 hitting percentage.

court, and I don't ever remember seeing that before," Pabst said.

Junior outside hitter Jamie Kronk, one of the Huskers' vocal leaders, sensed a lack of enthusiasm on the court, an unusual trait for any Husker team.

The 6-foot Kronk, after missing the Colorado match because of a ruptured disc in her lower back, played the first two games before taking herself out before the third game.

Pettit said the loss of Kronk and junior

outside hitter Renee Saunders (broken foot) played a big part in the Huskers' loss.

"Jamie is one of our best passers, and losing her and Renee doesn't help any at all," Pettit said.

The road doesn't get any easier for the Huskers, who travel to Texas on Friday and Texas A&M Saturday.

"You regroup," Pettit said, "trust yourself, go out with a good game plan and do everything you can to win."

# NU closes homestand in style

BY JAY SAUNDERS  
Assignment Reporter

Soccer Score

Nebraska  
San Diego

Nebraska  
Kentucky



Not even Mother Nature could stop the Nebraska soccer team from winning its eighth straight game as the Cornhuskers defeated Kentucky 3-0 on Sunday.

The 10th-ranked Huskers (11-2) not only had to battle the Wildcats, but also had to contend with a rainstorm and 25-mph winds. A crowd of 348 at the Abbott Sports Complex braved the conditions to see NU do what it has done in the last seven games - win by shutout.

"The conditions were atrocious," Nebraska coach John Walker said. "On a day like this what you want to do is get

the result you want. Obviously we did enough to win, and that's good."

Senior midfielder Kari Uppinghouse continued her solid play against Kentucky with two goals. Uppinghouse also scored a pair of goals in Friday night's 5-0 win over San Diego.

Uppinghouse's first goal on Sunday came in the 14th minute on a shot from 25 yards that just got over Kentucky goalkeeper Carrie Kuhnell's head. Her

second goal came shortly after halftime.

Sophomore striker Lindsay Eddleman added another goal to put the game out of reach for the Wildcats.

Uppinghouse is scoring goals at the rate she did last season, when she earned first-team All-America honors. Uppinghouse said her play has been at the same level all year, but now she is fortunate enough to be in the right place at the right time and cash in on scoring opportunities.

Nebraska's defense made another strong statement by holding its eighth straight opponent without a goal. Against San Diego, the Huskers broke records for consecutive shutouts and consecutive minutes without allowing a goal. Senior goalkeeper Rebecca

Hornbacher was busier than normal against Kentucky, but still only faced three shots on goal.

"There hasn't been too many shots, but I try to keep my focus," Hornbacher said. "I think (eight straight shutouts) speaks well for our team. It is a complete team accomplishment."

The two wins this weekend closed out a month-long homestand in which the Huskers collected eight wins. Sunday, NU will face No. 6 Duke in Durham, N.C.

Walker said the win over Kentucky helped prepare NU to face Duke's challenge.

"We always seem to have good games against them," Walker said. "Next week is a large game."