

NU plans to put 6-2 offense to use

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"We will use it situationally but never for a whole game," Pettit said. "And it's good for several reasons. You can catch a team off balance if they're expecting us to run a 5-1. Or if teams see early in the season that we're prepared to run the 6-2, that means they have to spend extra time preparing for two offenses."

A 6-2 switch could initially confuse teams, because it is rarely seen at the Division I level. Of the top 25-caliber programs across the country, Brigham Young is one of few teams that run the double-setter offense.

The primary setter is always the setter in the back row. The setter in the front row becomes a right-side hitter. In a true 6-2, the roles switch after three rotations. The front-row setter moves to the back and becomes the primary setter. The back-row setter moves to the front and becomes the secondary setter and right-side hitter.

Because Nebraska probably will run the offense in certain situations and not through six rotations,

McWilliams will not usually attack the ball.

Pettit does, however, want to give Nepo opportunities to attack from the right side.

"Fiona can hit any set we have," Pettit said of his All-American setter. "She is one of the best attackers on the team."

Nepo said the chance to play on the right side is a good opportunity.

"It makes me feel pretty good that Coach would say I'm a good attacker," Nepo said. "I've always loved to hit the ball. I love the challenge of setting, but I miss hitting."

"And Jill had developed really well. She's done a good job, and this is a good thing. Opponents have never seen me attack or play on the right side, so it will be a new look."

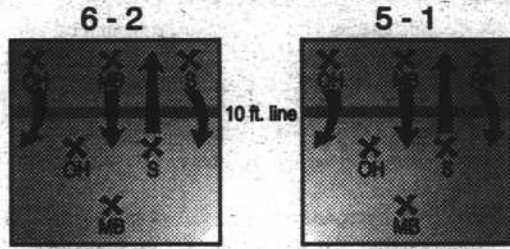
McWilliams, who rarely played during her freshman season, said she hopes to prove herself in the new offense.

"I'm really excited," McWilliams said. "I'm a lot more confident with the team now. I'm starting to feel comfortable with everyone, and I

want them to know they can count on me. Every time I'm in, my goal is to set hittable balls. I hope we get the chance to run a 6-2."

6-2 Switch

The Nebraska volleyball team plans to experiment with a 6-2 offensive scheme this season after using primarily a 5-1 last season.



When the ball crosses the net and the Huskers move into their offensive set, the back row setter moves to the net and becomes the primary "quarterback". The front row setter transitions to the 10 ft line and is available to either set or attack from the right side. The setters share duties. In a true 6-2 each setter sets for 3 rotations each.

Just like the 6-2, the setter moves to the net to run the offensive scheme. But instead of placing a secondary setter on the court, a right side hitter is available. The setter sets for 6 rotations.

JON FRANK/DN

Huskers say they'll let pace dictate passing

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Correll Buckhalter at least 40 times.

"Up the middle or outside, it doesn't matter at all where we run the ball," Buckhalter said. "That's what we do."

Whether the Huskers pass the ball any more than the usual number of times is up to the pace of the game.

"The game really dictates it," Quarterbacks Coach Turner Gill said. "We're an option team and that's still our focus. We'll respond to what (Louisiana Tech) throws at us, and we'll act accordingly."

As far as preparations for Saturday's game, historically the Huskers have scripted up a series of plays to begin the game.

This year will be no different for Solich, as he plans to put together a script between now and Saturday.

"We have an idea of what we're going to do," Solich said. "We'll finalize those things tomorrow."

Brown said preparations for Saturday's game are all but complete.

The Huskers will practice Thursday before a walk-through Friday.

For the Bulldogs, the Huskers' passing game is the least of their worries.

Louisiana Tech ranked 61st in the NCAA in rushing defense, giving up a total of 154 yards a game.

"Defensively they are a solid team; it's definitely not their strong suit, their offense is, but we don't take anybody lightly," Brown said.

Gill said he anticipates a talented unit from the Bulldogs' defense and said the Huskers' team speed will come into play once again.

"We'll be as fast as anybody we play this year, and that's a good asset to have no matter who you're playing," Gill said.

In other football news, Texas Christian decided to pull out of three games against Nebraska in 2000, 2001 and 2002. NU must find an opponent to fill those slots. Athletic Director Bill Byrne said there is a possibility of two teams filling that slot in the future.

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