

Sports Opinion



Sam McKewon

Solich hour lacking in excitement

Tune in Sunday night. You'll get to see one funny show. And I don't mean Seinfeld.

The Frank Solich Show, starring Frank himself and a hundred Cornhusker players, aired for the second time Sunday night on KLIN, which, apparently, is the official Husker station. It comes on at 10:30 p.m. It lasts for what must be a gut-wrenching hour for Solich.

It used to be the Tom Osborne Show. Old Tom got to be a pro at the show. Osborne never looked comfortable, but he got used to it, and he was a TV man.

Not so with Solich. He literally glares at the screen, as if he's ready to attack the cameraman. Maybe this is just a look he has. Maybe he's just mad he has to do something like this.

For an hour, Solich and host Bill Doleman, who's good at his job, mill through the highlights and lowlights of the Nebraska football game. But the way it's handled, there really aren't any highs or lows in a show like this. They're more like flatlights.

Through all of this, it's clear to see that whatever football genius Solich has, he's not boob-tube savvy. When he answers a Doleman question, he turns toward the host and keeps peeking back at the camera, just to check if it's still there.

Beyond that, the show isn't all that enlightening. Not much is learned about Nebraska's strategy or why a particular play is called.

In its place, however, I learned lots of things I didn't know before.

■ In a commercial, Frank Solich tells us what his favorite toppings are on a Valentino's pizza. Funny, I never expected Solich to be a Canadian bacon, green peppers and onion man.

■ In another Valentino's commercial, Solich reveals to us he used to (gasp!) go out for late-night pizza snack.

■ I found out that when it comes to video games, Kenny Cheatham's a lot better than Shevin Wiggins at college football. Of course, Cheatham got to be Nebraska.

■ According to Solich, one can find exclusive Husker wear only at JC Penney's. Take that, Husker Authentic.

Really, it's not a bad show, and the highlights do give the viewer a second look at the game. And there's a beautiful picture of Memorial Stadium as the set. Hey, I watched it, video games and all.

But the show needs to be spiced up. I suggest a dancing bear. Or maybe a funny hat for Solich. It might offset that rock-hard look of his. Either that, or they've got to stop taping that thing at night.

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NEBRASKA SENIOR Fiona Nepo celebrates during the third game of the Huskers' sweep of the Creighton Bluejays Tuesday evening at the NU Coliseum. The Huskers defeated Creighton 15-2, 15-1, 15-3.

SCOTT McCLURG/DN

NU sweeps Creighton in opener

By **ANDREW STRNAD**
Staff writer

Nebraska Volleyball Coach Terry Pettit accomplished two things with the Cornhuskers' season opener against Creighton.

His team won the match, while giving young children from Omaha and Lincoln an opportunity to see the Huskers and Bluejays in action.

Nebraska (1-0) made quick work of the Bluejays with a 15-2, 15-1, 15-3 sweep in front of 3,149 people at the NU Coliseum, but that wasn't the focus after the game for Pettit.

"Maybe the most important thing in this match is that we brought some kids from Omaha and Lincoln, and introduced them to volleyball," Pettit said.

The match was sponsored by Dean Johnson of Arby's, which brought over 150 kids from the Omaha Boys and Girls Club and the Malone Center in Lincoln to the match.

"Volleyball has pretty much been a middle-class sport," Pettit said, "and the plan is to start a development program at the Omaha Boys and Girls Club. So there may be some kids here that didn't have that opportunity before."

What the children did see was one of the most explosive teams in the coun-

try as the fifth-ranked Huskers hit an impressive .394 for the match.

Junior Mandy Monson sparked the Huskers with four kills and nine digs.

"We came off the alumni match disappointed," Monson said. "So we really had to come out tonight and keep up the intensity."

After winning the first two games of the alumni match last Saturday, the Huskers looked disjointed and unorganized the rest of the way.

Tuesday night was anything but disappointing as they limited CU to a -.060 hitting percentage.

Bluejays Coach Howard Wallace gave great praise to Nebraska, a team Creighton hadn't faced since 1980.

"This is a Final Four-type team," Wallace said. "This is the type of team we want to be down the road."

The Huskers wasted no time in the first game as senior Fiona Nepo served the first 10 points without a sideout.

Creighton did grab the lead in the second game at 1-0, but the Huskers ran off the next 15 points, highlighted by four service aces, including two from sophomore outside hitter Angie Oxley.

Game three allowed Pettit to experiment with the 6-2 offense at the end with sophomore Jill McWilliams entering as NU's second setter on the floor.

Pettit's big concern for the match was to keep the intensity level high, something the Huskers were unable to

Volleyball Score

Nebraska (1-0)	15	15	15
Creighton (0-1)	2	1	3
Kills:	NU 35 (Meendering, Tauke, 6)	CU 17 (Walsh, 8)	
Hit Percentage:	NU .394	CU -.060	
Attendance:	3149		

do during the alumni match.

"I was pleased with our focus," Pettit said. "That was our goal tonight. At the end of game three we wanted to be playing as good as we did at the beginning of game three."

Nebraska now travels to the West Coast to compete in the San Diego State Tournament, where it will play three matches.

CU continues to build program

By **SHANNON HEFFELFINGER**
Senior staff writer

Creighton Volleyball Coach Howard Wallace watched his team walk off the court dejected and drained after falling to Nebraska Tuesday night at the NU Coliseum.

But Wallace said he can't wait

for his team's next trip to Lincoln. He may face a long wait.

The Bluejays mustered just six points and hit -.060 against the No. 5 Cornhuskers. Nebraska dominated CU in every aspect of the match, winning 15-2, 15-1, 15-3. For the Huskers, a perennial national power, scheduling Missouri Valley Conference contender Creighton

doesn't make a lot of sense.

"I'd love to see it happen," Wallace said of an annual Nebraska-Creighton match. "But coming from Hawaii, I know what scheduling is like for Nebraska. He (NU Coach Terry Pettit) has been very gracious to play us."

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Beer, chicken make for crazy bike race

By **TODD MUNSON**
Staff writer

Last Friday night, while visions of Husker football danced in the heads of the many, the few took place in an entirely different sporting event.

As the sun set over Bike Pedalers, at 33rd and B (as in bike), a keg of Crane River's finest arrived with a heap of chicken and a finely tuned racing machine rolled out of the mechanic's area.

It was time for the 15th annual

Chicken-N-Crit bicycle race.

As you might have figured, the likes of Lance Armstrong or Bobby Julich weren't in attendance. They may be America's top cyclists, but get a few beers in them and they'd be out of commission worse than a 98-pound sorority girl on her 21st birthday.

The rules were quite simple. Anyone wishing to compete may do so, preferably buzzed on the intoxicant of their choice, on the same bike, racing against the clock on a specially designed course, with the best of

two runs counting toward the overall classification.

To call the rig a "Frankenbike" would only begin to do it justice. Designed with a 10-year-old in mind, it was specially modified to handle the rigors of high-speed racing. Six gears were added, a disc wheel was mounted on the front and an aero handlebar was installed to keep the speed and danger at a premium. Its sharp handles were perfectly spaced to poke

out one's eyes in the event of a crash.

The course for the evening's festivities wasn't exactly Tour de France caliber, but the danger level ranked up there with driving a Ford Pinto or telling "Stone Cold" Steve Austin you violated his mother with a spatula. A figure-eight that was a whopping tenth of a kilometer, the course

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Munson on Sports

