

Husker reaches out

KRICKET from page 9

have so much fun." Gay said the reason she fits in so well with the girls is that she loves being with kids.

"I'm kind of a little kid myself when I am around them," Gay said.

Growing up in Texas, Gay said, she didn't have any female role models so she looked up to Magic Johnson and Larry Bird.

However, when she became a collegiate athlete, she didn't want young girls to have the same problem she had encountered.

"It's important for your girls to have role models," Gay said. "I don't mind taking on that role."

Gay also has been a role model to at least one of her Nebraska teammates, Meghan Anderson.

Anderson, a freshman from Omaha, said she had followed Nebraska soccer for a while and had

Gay marked as someone to model herself after.

"When I came here, I gained even more respect for her," Anderson said. "She goes out of her way to make (freshmen) feel a part of the team."

Gay's genuine love of soccer and people is good for Lincoln soccer, Anderson said. She gets people interested in NU soccer, he said, and has the biggest fan club on the team.

Bechtold said that, as a coach, she loves to see Gay go out and do these activities on her own.

"That way you know they are doing it because they want to," she said.

Gay plans to keep working with these teams throughout the season and until she graduates.

Even after she graduates and is long gone from Nebraska, her legacy will last, Bechtold said.

"There are a lot of little girls who want to be like Kristen Gay someday,"

NU ready for road test

ROAD from page 9

Solich agreed last season's Washington game was big, but he didn't see many similarities with this season's first road game.

"We were more experienced in a number of positions on the offensive side of it than what we are now," Solich said.

One similarity from 1996 will be California Defensive Coordinator Lyle Setencich, who served as Arizona State's linebacker coach in 1996.

But that doesn't necessarily give anyone an advantage, Solich said.

"He's one-for-one," Solich said. "But certainly we've studied that film. We know exactly what they do on the defensive end of things. We have a pretty good feel for it."

"I think, where our football team is at, I feel comfortable going on the road. I don't see it as a big issue or a problem, and I certainly don't want to build it into a problem by talking about it too much."

Injury update:

Sophomore rush end Kyle Vanden Bosch left practice Tuesday with a "fairly severe ankle sprain," Solich said. Vanden Bosch is questionable for Saturday's game. Cornerback Erwin Swiney, a sophomore, also left practice early because of an ankle sprain suffered earlier this season.

Senior rush end Mike Rucker was not able to practice Tuesday because of a groin injury, and senior center Josh Heskew missed practice with a sore back.

Monson questionable for Ohio tournament

BY ANDREW STERNAD
Staff writer

It may be early in the season, but the Nebraska volleyball team is finding itself in a precarious position.

As the Cornhuskers (4-0) prepare for this weekend's Ohio State Tournament in Columbus, Ohio, they may have to do so without one of their outside hitters.

Junior Mandy Monson, who sprained her left knee Thursday in San Diego, may be delegated to back row play only this weekend in order to speed up her recovery.

"We don't know what the status of Monson is," Pettit said. "Maybe she'll get to serve and pass a little, I'd be surprised if she gets to play any front row this weekend."

In the meantime, Pettit will look to sophomore outside hitters Kim Behrends and senior Jaime Krondak.

"I thought Kim did a nice job (last weekend)," Pettit said.

Behrends is currently fifth on the team in kills with 17 and is hitting .333.

Krondak has been nursing a sore left foot for more than two weeks, but was able to provide a spark for Huskers in the match against Stanford.

"She wanted to be on the court versus Stanford," Pettit said. "I was really impressed with the way she took charge in that situation."

In limited action Krondak is hitting a team-best .467.

The fourth-ranked Huskers will probably need another big week from what Pettit calls a large corps of players.

NU will play Oregon State on Friday and the winner of the Ohio State

Xavier match on Saturday.

The 14th-ranked Buckeyes are 2-1 having defeated 11th-ranked Florida and 20th-ranked UCLA.

"Their sets are very quick," Pettit said. "They're a very quick team with a very up tempo offense."

"This week's challenge is probably a little bit greater than last week's."



Pettit

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