

Huskers roll again with wins in Texas

BY JAY SAUNDERS
Staff writer

The beat goes on for the No. 3 Nebraska volleyball team.

The Cornhuskers finished their four-game road trip with wins over Texas Tech and Baylor this weekend. NU (15-0 overall and 6-0 in the Big 12 Conference) beat Tech 15-4, 15-6 and 15-11 Friday night. The Huskers also swept Baylor in three games, winning 15-8, 15-8 and 15-6.

"The weekend went really well," junior Mandy Monson said. "We won both matches in three games, so it was a good weekend."

Against Texas Tech (12-4 and 2-3), sophomore Nancy Meendering led the way for the Huskers with 13 kills. Senior Jamie Krondak added 12 kills. In the first game, NU had a .407 hitting percentage. Tech hit only .063. For the match, Nebraska held Tech to a .023 hitting percentage.

This is the first time in the three years of the Big 12 that Nebraska was able to beat Tech in three games in Lubbock. Last year, the Huskers won in five games. In 1996, Tech upset NU in a match went five games.

"It was nice that we went down to Tech and won in three games," Monson said. "We haven't done that

Volleyball

Nebraska (15-0 6-0)	15	15	15
Texas Tech (12-4 2-3)	8	8	6
Hitting %	NU .407		
	TT .023		

in two previous years."

Meendering and Krondak provided the offensive spark again for the Huskers against Baylor. Meendering led all players with 16 kills, and Krondak had 10. Nebraska also held the Bears' offense in check, with Baylor hitting only .085 for the match.

"Jamie Krondak did very well and so did Nancy," Monson said. "I think we passed well, and our defense is just so much better than the last few years. It makes a huge difference."

NU has now won 14 of its 15 matches in three games. The Huskers have dropped only one game all season, to then-No. 4 Stanford.

The Huskers return home for four games before heading out on the road again in the last weekend of October.

Monson said NU's practices is helping the team at match time.

"We have been working hard every day in practice, and it shows on the weekend," Monson said. "We can go into other people's places and win in three games pretty easily."

"It is definitely a confidence booster."

Women run well at pre-NCAAs

BY BRANDON SCHULTE
Staff writer

Tuning up for the NCAA Nationals the Nebraska men's and women's cross country teams competed over the weekend at the NCAA Pre-Nationals in Lawrence, Kan.

The University of Kansas' cross country course, Rim Rock Farm, played host to the invitational. Participating in the meet were 32 ranked teams out of the 84 team field. The event was the most rugged regular season competition that Head Coach Jay Dirksen has seen in his 16 years with the team.

"This meet was the toughest meet we've ever been to, other than NCAA Championships," Dirksen said. "We competed hard and had an excellent effort."

The women led the charge with a 13th place finish in the 32-team field. Jeannette Zimmer, a freshman from Port Orchard, Wash., paced the Husker women in the 5,000 meter event with a time of 18:16.13, good enough for 34th place.

The men, on the other hand, struggled to a 27th place finish among the 32 teams, partially because of the fact sophomore All-American Jeroen Broekzitter was held out because of a viral infection. Sophomore Marcus Witter clocked in on the 8,000 meter event with a time of 26:23.50 as NU's top finisher, placing 104th.

Senior Captain Lou Petricca found positives in the 27th place finish.

"None of us ran a bad race, but we didn't really have a good race either," Petricca said. "We're progressing well, improving a lot. If we compete harder we should be solid."

The top five runners on the women's side displayed consistency all finishing within one minute of one another. Dirksen believes the women could have cracked the top 10 with a healthy performance by Amy Wiseman who suffered from bronchitis in past weeks. With Jeroen Broekzitter, a 20th place finisher at the national level last season, Dirksen feels that the men would have easily placed in the top 20.

The event gave the Cornhuskers a chance to see the quality of competition that exists at the national event. Dirksen said this meet was exactly like nationals and that many of the teams participating in the NCAA Pre-National will race in the nationals.

"The race simulated both the size and quality of the nationals," Dirksen said. "The race gave us a chance to see the make-up of the team and the quality of competition."

Nguyen still in running for top lineman award

From staff reports

Twelve players have been named semifinalists for the Lombardi Award, the Rotary Club of Houston announced Saturday.

Among the semifinalists are Texas A&M linebacker Dat Nguyen, who had eight tackles in the Aggies' 28-21 upset of Nebraska on Saturday. Also included is Texas Tech defensive end Montae Reagor.

The rest of the field has a heavy representation from the Big 10 Conference, as usual. Ohio State linebacker Andy Katzenmoyer, Iowa defensive end Jared DeVries,

Wisconsin offensive tackle Aaron Gibson and Michigan offensive tackle Jon Jansen all represent the conference.

Two players come from the same team. Both Ed Chester and Jevon Kearse play for Florida.

Georgia offensive lineman Matt Stinchcomb, UCLA offensive tackle Kris Ferris and Colorado State offensive guard Anthony Cesario round out the field.

The Lombardi Award honors the best college football lineman of the year. In 1997, Nebraska defensive end Grant Wistrom won the award the day Coach Tom Osborne retired.

Texas A&M shocks Huskers

A&M from page 9

Nebraska, which rushed for only 71 yards a week ago against Oklahoma State, had trouble moving the ball on the ground at the beginning of the game. NU had only 27 yards on its first five possessions before driving 48 yards in eight plays to tie the score at 7-7 on a Correll Buckhalter touchdown run.

It took the Huskers more than 18 minutes to get a first down until Newcombe hit split end Matt Davison, who caught 10 passes for a team-record 167 yards, at the Aggie 31-yard line.

A&M answered with another big play on Toombs' 71-yard run down to the NU 1-yard line. Hall scored to put A&M up 14-7 going into halftime.

"I called for a blitz, and I was taking a chance with it," McBride said. "It was a dumb mistake on my part."

A&M's defense made the big play in the third quarter, sacking Newcombe on three straight plays, the third resulting in a Newcombe fumble that was recovered by linebacker Warrick Holdman in the end zone. "I really don't what happened," NU center Josh Heskew said. "It was just real frustrating for us."

NU struck back, getting to the A&M 10-yard line. On fourth down and two, Solich called a wingback reverse, but wingback Shevin Wiggins was stuffed by cornerback Jason Webster.

"We thought it was a good time; we thought it might get us into the end zone," Solich said.

The Aggies responded with 13-play,

86-yard touchdown drive to build a seemingly insurmountable 28-7 lead.

Nebraska did score 76- and 66-yard touchdown drives, largely thanks to Davison. NU then was in position to get the ball back with 3:07 remaining.

But A&M got a pass interference call on a third-and-15 play when Ralph Brown was flagged for holding onto flanker Leroy Hodge. The flag came five seconds after the play had ended. It gave A&M an automatic first down.

"I didn't see any flag for a long period of time," Solich said. "I thought it was a clean play."

The Aggies milked another minute off the clock and forced NU to use up its timeouts before punting.

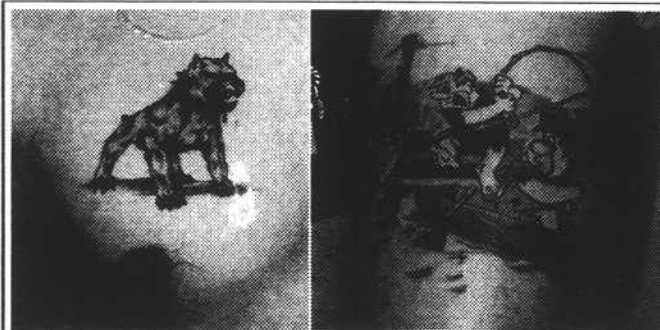
Newcombe, who completed 15 of 27 passes for 204 yards, moved the Huskers near midfield. A holding penalty set NU back to the 32-yard line. Three plays later, Newcombe was picked off.

It sealed an Aggie win and NU's first loss since Dec. 7, 1996, when Texas beat Nebraska in the Big 12 Championship game.

"I'm not happy," Davison said. "It's pretty simple. I thought we were going to win. Honestly."

For the second straight game, the Huskers had problems sustaining the high levels of play the coaches and players have been accustomed to.

"I really don't understand what we're doing," Davison said. "We seem to be struggling, and that doesn't happen to Nebraska."



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