

# UT coach likes Huskers' position

BY ANDREW STRNAD  
Staff writer

A tradition built on consistency. That's how Texas Volleyball Coach Jim Moore explains Nebraska's volleyball program.

As he talks about the Cornhuskers, Moore makes no mistake that despite UT's success in volleyball, the Longhorns can't match NU's tradition.

"People around here might not want me to say this, but (Nebraska) proved for many years, consistently, that they are the best program in this conference," Moore said.

In his second year coaching the Longhorns, Moore has gotten to see the Huskers up close for the last five years.

Before coming to Texas in 1997, Moore coached Kansas State for three years, directing KSU to three winning seasons and the school's first NCAA

tournament.

With such a successful beginning as a young coach, Moore said it wasn't until his days at KSU when he saw how tradition is built in a volleyball program.

**Nebraska vs. Texas**  
"The players (at Nebraska) realize that there's an attitude that has to be passed down from player to player," Moore said. "It's something the coaches can instill, but the players at Nebraska are able to pass that attitude down to younger players."

The attitude that Moore sees in Nebraska is a relentless drive to win and maintain the high standard set by previous Nebraska teams.

"Last year when (NU) came down to Austin and we beat them three to nothing, they fought to the end hoping to get back into it," Moore said. "It's just unacceptable for them to lose."

It's been so unacceptable for the No. 3 Huskers that they've refused to lose so far this season.

NU enters this weekend's matches against No. 22 Texas A&M (16-8 overall, 9-7 in the Big 12 Conference) and No. 12 Texas (21-3, 15-1) undefeated at 26-0 and a perfect 16-0 in the conference.

The lone conference loss on the Longhorns schedule was to Nebraska on Oct. 16. The Huskers swept UT 15-7, 15-11, 15-12 in Lincoln.

"I don't know what happened that night," Moore said. "And to this day I still don't know."

This weekend will not only provide the defending conference champions with a chance to rectify that loss against NU - it will give life to the Longhorns' Big 12 Conference title chances.

Nebraska will play the Aggies Friday night in College Station, Texas, before taking on Texas at Gregory Gym in Austin.

# Events in fan-friendly swim meet to include synchronized diving

BY DAVID WILSON  
Senior staff writer

Mention synchronized diving and a smile quickly comes to Jim Hocking's face.

It's not an official meet event, but the Nebraska diving coach will tell you that it's definitely catching on.

"It's like synchronized swimming with a destruction derby aspect to it," Hocking said. "We're pretty excited about it."

As the newest addition to the Sprint Classic, synchronized diving will be an exhibition event today at the Bob Devaney Sports Center pool. But the meet won't be short on non-traditional events. With the exception of the relays, all races will be cut in half. The meet, which begins at 7 p.m., also marks the first 11-dive

meet for NU.


Nebraska Swimming Coach Cal Bentz, along with his assistants, designed the Sprint Classic in the late 1980s to make for a fan-friendly atmosphere.

"This is a meet especially for people who aren't familiar with competitive swimming," Bentz said. "It's a very fast-paced event, and with some of the best swimmers from around the country, we are looking forward to an exciting event this season."

NU sprinter Beth Karaica is also pumped about the classic.

"It's the only swim meet like it in the country," said Karaica, who won the 50-yard freestyle at the Lady Mustang Invite Nov. 6-7. "This is the funnest meet."

Nebraska also will play host to the Husker Shoot Out on Saturday.



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# Nonen leads soccer team with stability

NONEN from page 7

hard for other people to get around her one on one."

The Huskers voted Nonen the co-all-around player of the year in 1997. And LeBlanc, who is one of six Canadians on the team, said Nonen played a factor in her decision to commit to Nebraska.

"She'll be the first to tell you if you're doing something that's hurting the team, but she'll say it in a way that helps you understand why," LeBlanc said. "It's good to know that someone is there for you."

Nonen concentrates on helping freshmen and other Canadians feel welcome because memories of her own difficult transition remain fresh in her mind. Not only did Nonen move to another country for soccer, but she was forced to change positions from striker to defender.

The 5-foot-6 junior relied on her new friends and her boyfriend, former Nebraska basketball player Tyrone Lue, to help her adjust.

"It was hard to be here at first," Nonen said. "I was ready to leave. I was homesick, but I needed to do this for myself."

Now Nonen, who spent the summer of 1997 with the Canadian National Team, feels more than comfortable with Nebraska now. Eventually, Nonen would like to move to Los Angeles with her older sister, Misha, in order to be closer to Lue, who signed with the Los Angeles Lakers.

But until then, her only goals are to obtain her degree and to continue to provide consistency for the Huskers as a defender.

"I really want to make it to the Final Four at some point when I'm here," Nonen said. "I want to give whatever I can to the soccer team, and I want to get my degree. After that, I'm outta' here."

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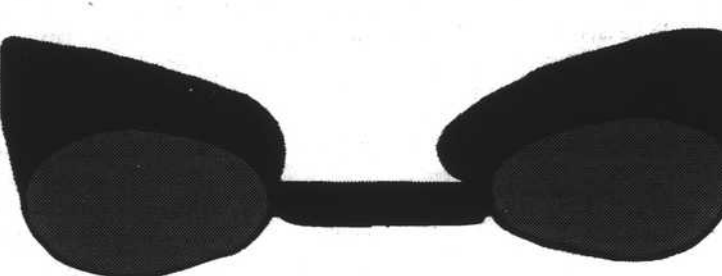
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