

(#3) Allison WESTON

Last month the U.S. National Volleyball team held an awards banquet. One award was given to the player the coaches thought had performed the best. Another was given by the players. A third was chosen by both coaches and players.

Allison Weston won all three. "(Weston) is as complete a player as we've ever had here," Nebraska Coach Terry Pettit said.

Weston's career stands out as one of the finest in Nebraska volleyball history. Far from dominating any single aspect of the game, her name appears in almost every category of offensive and defensive record.

She is third in career attacks (3,659) and block assists (422), fourth in solo blocks (84), fifth in hitting percentage (.353), sixth in service aces (119) and eighth in digs (913).

She hit 28 or more kills in seven matches and holds the four-game match record with 38 kills against Colorado on Nov. 26, 1994.

She led the

team in kills for three years (93-95), twice for kills per game and blocks (94-95) and once for blocks per game and hitting percentage (95). She is the No. 3 athlete on the Daily Nebraskan Century list.

Weston is the only Husker to be named first-team All-American three times, was named 1996 AVCA co-national player of the year and is one of four Huskers to have had her jersey retired.

Weston also was an integral part of the 1995 national championship team.

"Winning the national championship in 1995 would have to be the best thing we accomplished as a team," Weston said. "It's such an amazing feeling. It's something very special that the team will have forever."

Weston said she was happy with her individual performance but thought any accomplishment belonged to the team.

"Volleyball is the epitome of a team sport," Weston said. "You can't afford not to be a team player."

As an individual, Weston said she was proudest of being named a GTE/CoSIDA Academic All-American twice and All-District three times.



(#4) Karen JENNINGS



The Nebraska women's basketball program is now looked at as one of the top programs in the country.

The Cornhuskers have been to the NCAA tournament for the past two seasons and have garnered national attention.

But it hasn't always been that way. At one point, Nebraska went through six coaches in 12 years. The notoriety started with Karen Jennings, who is No. 4 on the Daily Nebraskan Sports Century list.

"Every program is built around a couple of superstars," former NU Coach Angela Beck said. "(Jennings) put Nebraska women's basketball on the map."

Jennings played at Nebraska from 1989-1993, and played on the first NU team to win an NCAA tourney game.

In 1993, Jennings was selected as a Kodak First-Team All-American. When those 10 players were honored at

the awards ceremony, Jennings made the acceptance speech on behalf of the first team.

Beck said that personified the type of person Jennings was.

"She was a perfectionist both on and off the court," Beck said. "She was always looking for ways to broaden her horizons."

In that same year, Jennings was also awarded the Wade Trophy, which honors students, and not just athletes.

"I don't believe I did it sometimes," Jennings said. "It amazes me that I did it. I've always been driven to excel."

Jennings did all this while becoming the career leader in scoring, field goals made and points per game. She is one of two Huskers to have scored more than 2,000 points in a career.

"She was the kind of player that wasn't the fastest, wasn't the strongest, and wasn't the best athlete," Beck said. "But she probably had the best offensive skills of any player I coached."

(#5) Tressa THOMPSON

The view from the university shot-put practice area at the north end of the State Fair Grounds is typically Nebraskan. Two grain elevators are on the horizon, a dirt road runs behind the shot put circles and a line of stopped freight cars can be seen to the north.

Views like this one are probably pretty common around Bloomfield, Tressa Thompson's home town.

And noticeably absent in Sydney, Australia, where Thompson recently competed in the Optus Grand Prix and Australian Nationals in the shot put. She won both events.

Or even around Washington, D.C., where five weeks ago, Thompson threw the second-farthest mark in the world. At 19.44 meters, the throw was Thompson's best so far.

Thompson, the No. 5 female on the Daily Nebraskan Sports Century list, has seen the world now. It's going to be hard to keep her on the farm.

"Now I've got this idea that I want to kick everyone's butt and be the best in the world," Thompson said.

A 10-time All-American while at NU, Thompson has ranked in the top three women shot putters in the nation the last three years and was seventh before the 1996 Olympic games. She won two outdoor and one indoor NCAA championships in 1997 and 1998.

Thompson currently holds the indoor shot put Big 12 Best, Big 12 Meet and the NU All time records. Outside, she holds the NCAA meet, Big 12 Best, Big 12 Meet and the NU all-time record.

Thompson said she always had a strong arm, but still struggled her freshman year. Although she got to nationals, Thompson finished dead last.

Between her first and second years, Thompson changed her

throwing style from a glide - a style that concentrates all a thrower's power in one push - to a spinning throw. Spinning around in the thrower's ring, she's able to build momentum before releasing the shot.

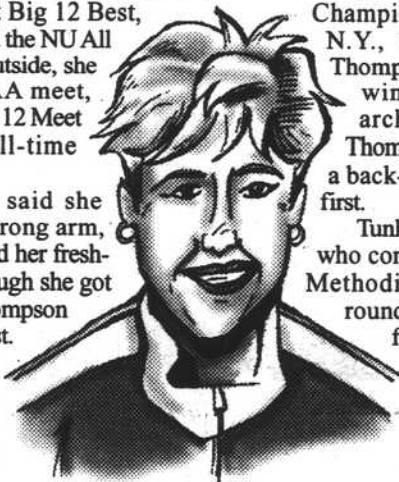
Equipped with a new style, Thompson stepped up her junior year, winning both the indoor and outdoor national championships in the shot put.

"My junior year, it all just started clicking," Thompson said.

The 1998 NCAA Championships in Buffalo, N.Y., was the scene of Thompson's best collegiate win. Going against archrival Terry Tunks, Thompson found herself in a back-and-forth battle for first.

Tunks, a Nebraska native who competed for Southern Methodist, both threw five rounds before Thompson finally triumphed, taking her third national championship.

"It was one of my best wins ever," Thompson said.



(#6) Lori SIPPTEL

A good half-hour before practice begins, Assistant Coach Lori Sippel is out on smoothing the damp red clay of the infield at the Husker softball complex.

From her place in the bleachers, All-American Jennifer Lizama smiled and said she loves playing for Nebraska because "Sippel doesn't have to do that," Lizama said.

Cleaning up infields is nothing new to the assistant coach. Sippel's pitching career at NU from 1985-1988 ranks

as probably the greatest for any softball player in the history of the school. She's No. 6 on the Daily Nebraskan century list.

She holds records for best single-season winning percentage (.870), earned run average (0.37), most single season strikeouts (285), and is tied with current pitcher Jenny Voss for shutouts (14).

In career records, she holds the title for most victories (73), innings pitched (695.1), strikeouts

(838), shutouts (39), saves (16), complete games (80), and no hitters pitched (6). That's eight of nine categories for pitchers. In the ninth, career winning percentage, Sippel is second at .760 behind Mori Emmons (.816).

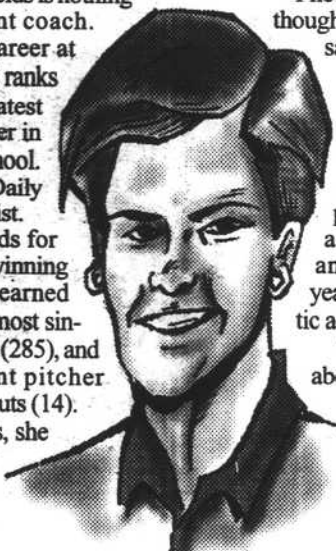
Perhaps the greatest moment in both Sippel's career on the mound and in NU softball's history was in the 1985 World Series. In her first World Series appearance, Sippel tossed a no-hitter that sent Louisiana Tech home and helped NU reach the finals for the first and only time in its history.

NU did not get to the College World Series for 11 years after Sippel left NU in 1988.

"I never thought I was gifted. I thought I was fortunate," Sippel said.

For all the records she set and games she won while playing for NU, Sippel said the accomplishment she is most proud of was being named academic All-American and NCAA athlete of the year in 1988 for her scholastic achievements.

"No one ever talked to me about that back then," Sippel said. "You were either a jock or you were in academics. It was my private goal to do both."



(#7) Lisa REITSMA

Lisa Reitsma climbed into the ranks of Nebraska volleyball history by proving herself one of the most prolific attackers to wear a Husker jersey.

Reitsma, whose career spanned from 1994-97, ranks second on NU records in career kills with 1,633 and career attacks with 3,766. Reitsma played basketball this winter for Nebraska as well.

Her contributions have earned her the No. 7 spot on the Daily Nebraskan Sports Century list.

Reitsma said she came to NU a

strong attacker, but judging from the work she put in during her first year, she wasn't strong enough.

"Lisa spent a lot of extra time her freshman year becoming a strong attacker," NU Coach Terry Pettit said.

Under the strong leadership of seniors, Reitsma said she grew during her freshman year.

"Things just started to click for me," Reitsma said.

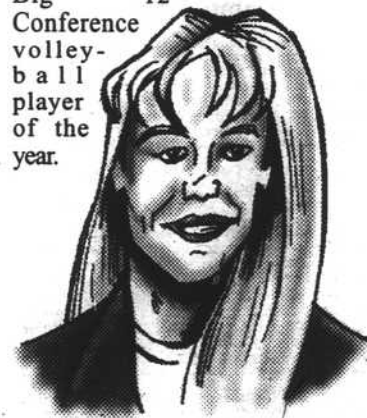
If things were clicking for Reitsma after her first year, they were booming after her third. Reitsma's 1996 season stands out as probably one of the most impressive campaigns in NU history.

Her 1,468 attacks are second on the Big 12 single-season record list, and she's third in kills (611). Her '96 numbers top the NU single-season records in total attacks, attacks per game

(12.13), kills and kills per game (5.05)

She was named most valuable player on the NCAA regional All-Tournament team, was a unanimous Big 12 first team selection and 1996 Big 12 Conference

volleyball player of the year.



(#8) Ali VIOLA

When Nebraska Softball Coach Rhonda Revelle started her job, the very first recruiting phone call she made was to Ali Viola.

Viola became the first of Revelle's recruits, blowing away

the old saying that starts with "if at-first you don't succeed," because Revelle did, picking up the No. 8 female on the Daily Nebraskan Century list.

"First and foremost," Revelle said, "Ali was born with a natural gift for the game. She was a leader by example and her stats speak for themselves."

Viola holds seven career records, including home runs (53), runs batted in (213) and total bases (478). Viola ranks second in three categories and holds the single season Big 12 Conference record for home runs.

Because of her numbers, Viola was named an All-American three times, the only Husker to have this honor. Last season, she was part of the first NU team since 1988 to go to the softball College World Series.

"I still feel like I am a Cornhusker," Viola said. "I still carry it around with me. I took away a lot of things from Nebraska that I am using now."



(#9) Lori ENDICOTT

Lori Endicott made her mark on volleyball as a sport in a way that perhaps no other Husker has.

Her four years at Nebraska led to six appearances on the U.S. National team and two Olympic appearances, a series of accomplishments that establishes her place at No. 9 on the

Daily Nebraskan Sports Century List.

After helping the national team to a bronze-medal performance in 1992, Endicott was named the best setter in the world. She participated in the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta before leaving the team.

"I think she is the best setter this country has ever had," NU Volleyball Coach Terry Pettit said. "She is certainly the player that other players have to measure up to."

While at Nebraska, Endicott was a two-time All-American and three-time All-Big Eight player. She was named Big Eight player of the year in 1987 and 1988 and GTE/CoSIDA Academic All-American 1988.

She led the team in assists in 1987 and 1988 and is fourth in career set assists with 3,117. "I don't believe I would've made it as far as I have were it not for the tradition and success of Nebraska," Endicott said.



(#10) Fiona NEPO

In the future, Fiona Nepo wants to be a teacher and a mother.

For now, she is going to have to settle for being one of the most successful volleyball players in Nebraska history and the woman on the Daily Nebraskan Sports Century list.

"When I have children in a few years," Nepo said, "I want to be able to go through the record books and have them say, 'Ooh, look what Mommy did.'"

When Nepo's future children see what their mother achieved, the records may still be as impressive as they are now. Nepo, who finished her career this past fall, put together a résumé that stacks up with the great setters who donned the scarlet and cream.

Nepo played on three teams that went to the Final Four, including the Cornhusker team that won the national championship in 1995.

At the end of this season, Nepo's 4,824 career assists ended up shattering the previous mark of 3,786 set by Nikki Stricker in 1993.

"(Fiona) had the total package," NU Volleyball Coach Terry Pettit said. "She certainly is among the group of great setters we've had here."

