

## Gillespie: NU can still run the ball

■ Nebraska's running backs coach says Cal's defense dictated game flow on Saturday.

By JOSHUA CAMENZIND  
Staff writer

It would seem that Nebraska Running Backs Coach Dave Gillespie might be a little upset following the lack of ground production in the California game.

But that is not the case.

Gillespie credited the Golden Bears' defense with dictating the Cornhusker offense.



Gillespie

played us last year."

"The majority of the time they had nine or 10 guys in the box," Gillespie said.

"We anticipated that. That is really how they

The Huskers were led in rushing by Dahrran Diedrick, who totaled 29 yards on 5 carries. DeAngelo Evans and Dan Alexander, the No. 1 and 2 I-backs, combined for 32 yards on 12 carries. NU, as a team had only 114 yards on 48 rushing attempts. Gillespie said there was more than one reason for the inefficiency.

"A lot of factors went into it," Gillespie said. "We think that they are a very good defense and playing with a short field where we did not have to go very far. Big plays, passing plays had something to do with it as well."

When asked if the coaching staff

would do anything different to get the I-backs more carries against Southern Mississippi, Gillespie said no.

"We have a lot in our offense, and we are just going to try to utilize our offense according to how the defense plays us," Gillespie said.

That does not mean Gillespie would not like to run the ball more than what the Huskers have in their first two games.

"We would certainly like to see us run the ball more effectively," Gillespie said. "But certainly not at the expense of scoring."

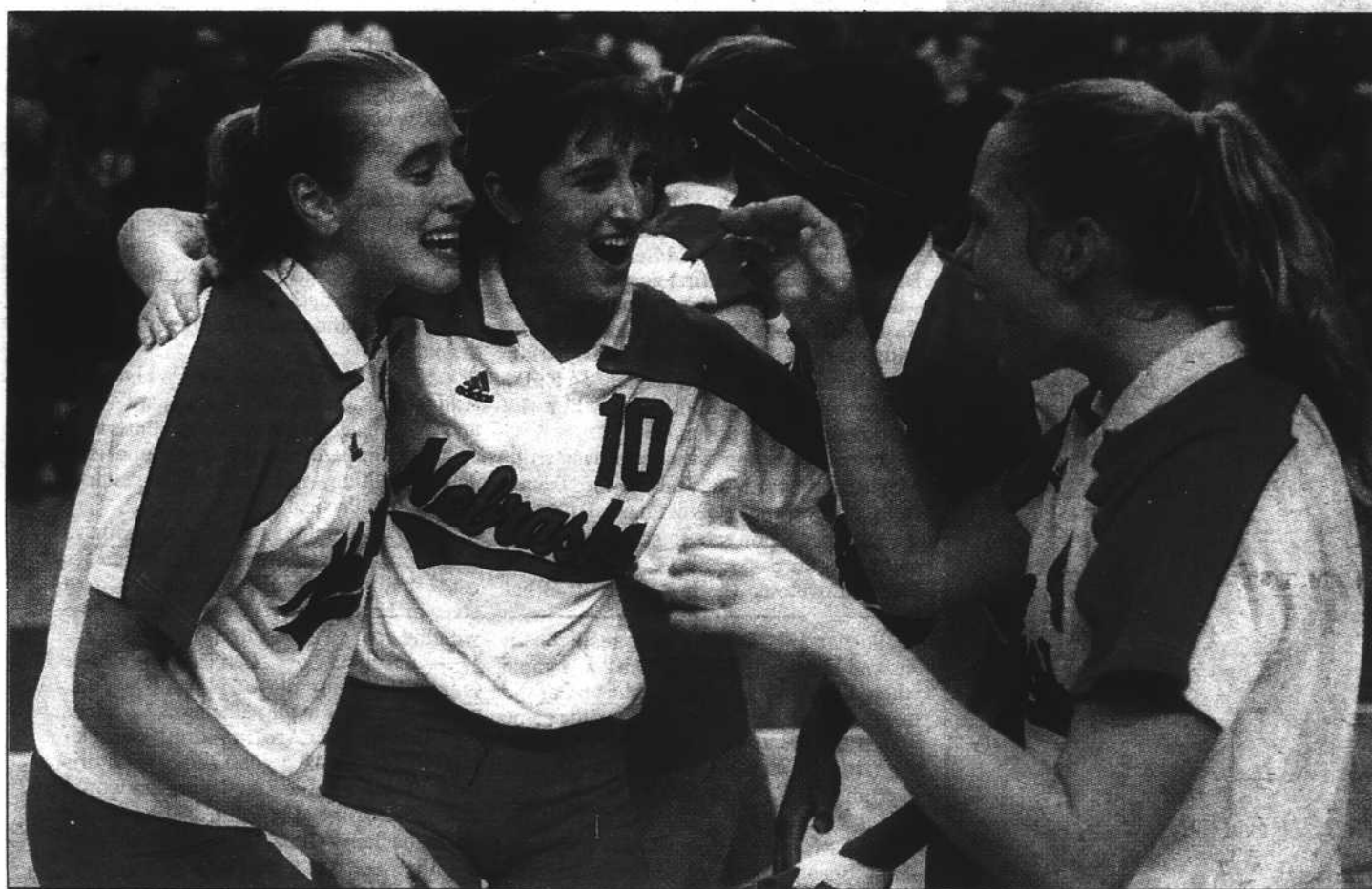
As for the I-backs themselves,

Gillespie said their spirits were high after the game.

"They are all team players, and ultimately the bottom line is to win the football game," Gillespie said. "So I think they felt good about that. I am sure that in their minds they would have liked to have been able to carry the ball more and have done more with the opportunities that they did have."

Gillespie summed up the Husker philosophy on offensive balance in one sentence.

"The bottom line is scoring points," Gillespie said.



Nebraska volleyball players Nancy Meendering, left, Jill McWilliams, Greichaly Capero and Mandy Monson celebrate Saturday night after beating Arizona in three straight games at the Coliseum.

LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN

## NU wins three in tourney

*But Pettit not thrilled with inconsistency against Arizona*

By JOHN GASKINS  
Staff writer

Dripping in sweat and gasping sighs of relief, Nebraska outside hitter Mandy Monson could only shake her head and smile at the post-game press conference Saturday night after the Cornhusker volleyball team's three-game sweep of No. 15 Arizona.

Sitting right next to her, a grim NU Head Coach Terry Pettit was far from cracking a grin.

The fifth-ranked Huskers had just dug themselves out of a hole once again against a top-15 team, scraping back from a 9-2 deficit in the second game en route to a 15-9, 16-14, 15-6 victory in front of 3,874 fans at the Nebraska Coliseum that clinched the US Bank Invitational title.

The match followed NU's three-game strolls in the park over South Florida (15-3, 15-5, 15-2) Friday night and San Diego State (15-7, 15-5, 15-10) Saturday morning. With the three weekend wins, Nebraska (7-2) upped its winning streak to seven.

"Wow, that was quite a second game," said Monson, whose 10-kill, 12-dig performance was the best on both offense and defense for the Huskers.

"I didn't feel we were in sync for most of the night. Our block set-up wasn't there."

TERRY PETTIT  
NU volleyball coach

"We just gutted it out and won it. I'm proud we came back and won."

Seconds later, Pettit marched in. For someone who had been complimentary about NU's performances through the first eight matches, proud was not exactly the word to describe his demeanor.

"I didn't feel we were in sync for most of the night," Pettit said. "Our block set-up wasn't there, our ball handling and setting was inconsistent, which resulted in an inconsistent attack. I think it was a good match in that they played well enough to win, but I can see that there are some issues we need to work on."

Although they fought their way back to win the second game and coasted through the third game to defeat one of college volleyball's blossoming powers, Nebraska was not as sharp as it had been in the earlier matches

nor in its four-set win at No. 6 Florida last week.

The Huskers failed to keep alive a five-game streak of hitting .300 or higher. In fact, NU's .242 performance was its worst offensively since its loss to Pacific in the season opener.

Junior outside hitter Nancy Meendering wasn't beaming about her team's performance, either. Despite her 1.18 hitting performance in the final matches, Meendering was tournament MVP thanks to 10 kills against UA (6-2).

And although it was a nice confidence booster, the All-American didn't consider her team's ability to come back in the second game anything special.

"It's a quality that every good team has," Meendering said. "They don't get down on themselves when the score has them down."

## Corner kicks key Huskers' tourney wins

By DARREN IVY  
Senior staff writer

Connecticut goalkeeper Shanna Caldwell had more Nebraska soccer players around her than she knew what to do with Friday night.

On 16 corner kicks, NU flooded the box with five or six players trying to rattle the sophomore.

"I just saw a lot of black shirts in there," Caldwell said. "We gave them quite a few more (corner kicks) than we would have liked."

Caldwell stopped most of the shots, but NU's Amy Walsh and Kelly Rheem scored goals off corner kicks. In its two games this weekend, NU earned 35 corner kicks compared to three by Connecticut and Portland.

NU knows it has an advantage on corner kicks and works hard on them in practice, Assistant Coach Megan Bechtold said.

The Huskers spend a half hour each day working on perfecting existing plays and adding new wrinkles.

"It's one thing in practice that we try to make sure the focus is there," Bechtold said. "Sometimes it is more mental. It is one thing where you are stopped completely, and you have to be mentally ready to shoot it if it comes to you."

"There has to be an urgency to finish when the ball does come into the box."

Nebraska has the advantage because its players know where they are supposed to be.

For everyone else, it can be almost impossible to draw up the X's and O's of a Husker corner kick.

Prior to the kick, two players are in the corner of the field, five players inside the penalty box, one on the opposite side of the goal behind everyone and one at the top of the penalty box.

As soon as the ball is put into play, mayhem ensues with NU sending everyone to the front of the net.

Although Nebraska couldn't find the back of the net on 19 tries against the Pilots, Benson said, it showed the Huskers were dominating the game and were the more aggressive team.

"Our goal is to get as many corners as we can," Benson said. "If we can't get a cross, we try to knock it off them and get a corner."

"A corner kick is basically like a free kick. We have time to set up and pick someone out. Anything can happen when the ball is bouncing around in front of the net."

Benson said it was frustrating to not finish opportunities, but she credited Portland's defense for that.

"To have that many corners and not score says they were playing great defense," Benson said.

Twice in overtime, Pilot goalkeeper Cheryl Loveless had to make stops on corner kicks.

NU was one touch away from a goal several other times as well.

What makes NU dangerous in the box is the athletic and aerial ability of several players, said Connecticut Captain Carey Dorn.

"Our problem was that they were better in the air," Dorn said. "They were overall bigger than us. If you have size in the box, you are going to win the ball."