

# Foe hopes for more than airplane trip

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the opportunity to play in the atmosphere that surrounds Nebraska volleyball.

And as if that weren't good enough, they get to travel on a plane. "To actually travel on a plane, we're pretty excited for," Davidson outside hitter Mara Mordini said. "We road trip most everything, and academically we can't really afford to miss classes."

The plane ride might be the best part of this visit for the Wildcats.

Mordini was Southern Conference Player of the Year, leading Davidson to a 20-0 record in its conference. However, she stands only 5-foot-9, and that should have the NU middle blockers licking their chops.

Size, among other things, is what concerns Davidson Head Coach Lisa Martson.

"Nebraska is a pretty large team," Martson said. "I don't think we've ever faced anything like that."

NU has won 10 straight matches, and it seems unlikely that the 25-5 Huskers will trip up this week. However, Nebraska Head Coach Terry Pettit says NU's many championship banners will mean nothing to those teams.

"Our record in the tournament is very good," Pettit said. "But you can't go out there and hand the other team your media guide and say, 'Read this about us. We're pretty good in this deal.'"

An NU win puts Nebraska against the winner of today's game, which pits 25th ranked San Diego and another first time NCAA Tournament visitor, James Madison.

A second-round Nebraska and San Diego match could produce fireworks. Nebraska's Nancy Meendering and USD's Petia Yanchulova are both All-American players.

"I'm definitely confident that we can come in and play well," San Diego Head Coach Jennifer Tornis said. "We know Nebraska."

# Applewhite nabs Big 12 honor

AUSTIN (AP) — Major Applewhite wasn't supposed to have such a good season.

Out from under Ricky Williams' shadow, many expected the lanky Texas sophomore to be exposed as an average quarterback. Some figured that by midseason, freshman sensation Chris Simms would make Applewhite a forgotten man.

Instead, Applewhite became No. 12 Texas' first 3,000-yard passer and led the Longhorns (9-3) to the Big 12 South Division title, earning a spot in title game Saturday against Nebraska.

On Wednesday, Applewhite was

named the Big 12 Offensive Player of the Year by The Associated Press. Top defensive honors went to Kansas State senior linebacker Mark Simoneau.

Oklahoma quarterback Josh Heupel and Kansas safety Carl Nesmith were named the offensive and defensive newcomers of the year.

"The only thing I wanted was respect," Applewhite said. "Last year, I played OK. This year, I had to deal with the fact that Ricky was gone, we lost seven starters and had the incoming high school player of the year."

"All that talk, and I came back and played well."

# Texas still seeking respect

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the fact that we have beaten them before will intensify the emotion," All-Big 12 receiver Kwame Cavil said.

"I know that Nebraska is a well-coached team, and that they are going to come ready to play, but the fact that nobody on this team has lost to them is in the back of our minds."

"I think we have to beat them every time we play them to get the respect we deserve. Texas and Nebraska is a rivalry in itself."

Many Longhorn players said that because NU-UT is a rivalry, it will help Texas players get back up after losing an emotional game to Texas A&M Nov. 26.

That is what Coach Mack Brown has said repeatedly this week. Brown and his players know they can't be flat

"You have to come with 'A' game because they are going to come with their 'A' game."

**KWAME CAVIL**  
UT wide receiver

if they want to beat NU again.

"To beat a team like that over and over is extremely hard," Cavil said. "You have to come with your 'A' game because they are going to come with their 'A' game. When two teams come into a game prepared like that, the team that makes the fewest mistakes will win."

Looking strictly at turnovers, Texas has the advantage. Nebraska has had a tendency to fumble the ball

this year. Turnovers helped UT defeat NU the first time. Despite beating NU three times in a row, Cavil said, Texas had a lot of respect for NU.

Not too much, though.

"What you want to do is respect every team you play, but not fear them," Cavil said. "I think we respect them a lot but do not fear Nebraska like other teams do. If you go into a game like that, you can play your best game."

# Speedster Zajicek says yes to NU

■ The running back from Beatrice was hurt most of the season, but runs a 4.4 40-yard dash.

BY SEAN CALLAHAN  
Staff writer

The Nebraska football team may have lost a commitment in offensive lineman Josh Plisch of Wisconsin on Friday, but on the same day, the Cornhuskers gained a verbal commitment from Ben Zajicek of Beatrice.

Plisch chose to back out on his commitment to Nebraska to go to Minnesota because he wanted to be

closer to home.

Zajicek, a 6-foot, 200-pound running back, plans to play receiver and wingback for the Huskers.

Zajicek never had an official visit to Nebraska but said he was noticed by the NU coaches at the Big Red summer football camp. Zajicek chose the Huskers over Iowa State, Kansas State, Colorado and Colorado State.

"I feel you can get recruited by anyone if you go to their summer camp," Zajicek said.

This season, Zajicek was plagued by a shoulder injury that caused him to miss four games. Zajicek fully recovered from the injury and joined his team for the end of the season.

In the five games he played, he rushed for 571 yards on 70 carries

and was also his team's leading tackler at the free safety position.

What impresses most people about Zajicek is his speed and strength. Zajicek runs an electronically timed 40-yard dash in 4.4 seconds, bench presses 315 pounds, squats 500 pounds and power cleans 365 pounds. He also runs track, in which he placed ninth at state in the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.8 seconds.

Zajicek said his family was excited for him when he committed to play at Nebraska.

"Like any parent in Nebraska, they want their son to play for the Huskers," Zajicek said. "I am really excited about finally having a goal and dream come true."

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