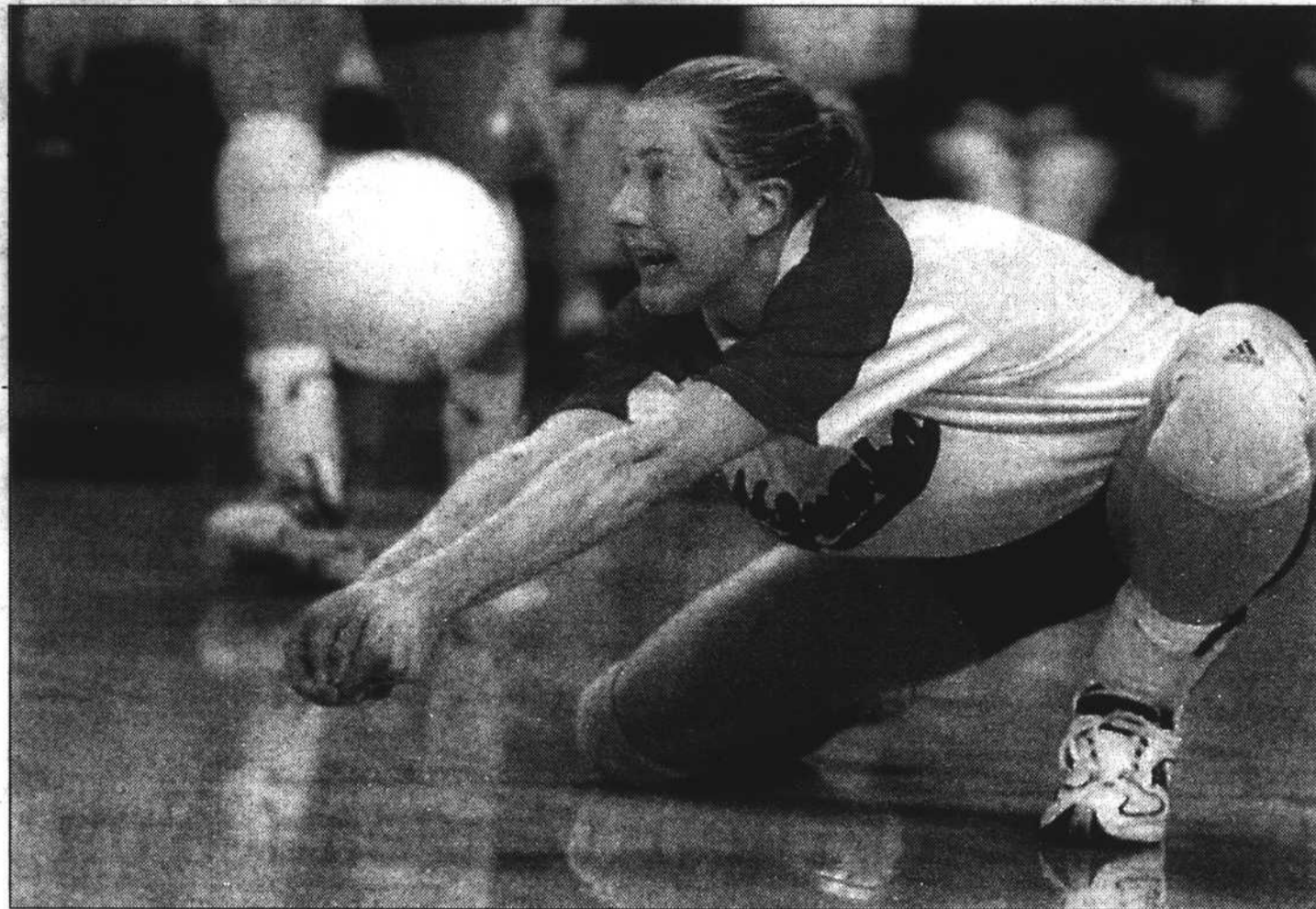


# SPORTS

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1999

## Win sends Huskers to regional semifinals



Katie Jahnke looks on while Angle Oxley makes a dig for the Huskers on Friday night.

JOSH WOLFE/DN

### After tricky start, NU sweeps San Diego

BY JOHN GASKINS  
Staff writer

In true Terry Pettit fashion, the 23-year Nebraska volleyball coach answered a question Friday night about his coaching future by focusing on the present.

Pettit was asked if he was worried in the first game of the Huskers' matchup with No. 25 San Diego, when NU found itself down 12-7, that Friday's match might be his last.

He replied, "I hope not," to laughter from inquiring reporters.

The Huskers went on to defeat the Toreros 15-12, 15-8, and 15-9 in the second round of the NCAA tournament. Pettit quickly jumped off the retirement subject to rave about junior reserve right-side hitter Katie Jahnke.

If it had been Pettit's last match at the NU

Nebraska	15	15	15
San Diego	12	8	9

Coliseum, in front of 3,137 fans, he would have gone out with a win.

Nebraska got help from Jahnke, who came off the bench in the first game to relieve freshman Greichaly Cepero on the right side. She provided career-highs in digs (11) and blocks (seven) to help fend off the Toreros' early scare and advance the 10<sup>th</sup>-ranked and fourth-seeded Cornhuskers to the Pacific Regional semifinals, where they will play UC-Santa Barbara on Thursday at 7p.m.

"She's as good of a right-side blocker as we've had," Pettit said. "Not many teams can go to something like that and get that type of player off the bench. Everyone's confident that when she comes in, she'll raise the level of play up a notch."

Please see VOLLEY on 11

### Huskers brace for a competitive bracket

BY BRIAN CHRISTOPHERSON  
Staff writer

Nebraska Head Coach Terry Pettit has molded his volleyball team to be hitting on all cylinders come tourney time.

NU dominated San Diego in Friday's second round, but Pettit will know exactly how many cylinders his young team has this week at the Sweet 16 in Palo Alto, Calif.

The Huskers will come in as the underdog in next Thursday's game against a second-seeded UC Santa Barbara (28-5) team that is ranked seventh in the country.

"It's a war now," Pettit said. "I think we're in a very competitive bracket, and there will be some great teams at that regional."

However, UCSB is coming off a four-game struggle in its second-round 15-5, 15-11, 14-16,

15-5 win over Loyola Marymount.

Meanwhile, the Huskers are 27-5 now, with 12-straight victories, and they haven't tasted defeat since a loss to Texas on Oct. 23.

Despite not being able to host the regional final this year, Pettit feels very comfortable in taking this team on the road.

"We've been a great team on the road this year," Pettit said. "The only matches we've lost on the road this year have been by two points in game five."

If Nebraska does take out Santa Barbara, the Huskers will face either Arizona or No. 2-ranked team and host Stanford one night later.

Stanford is 28-2 this season, and the Arizona Wildcats proved to be no slouch themselves by whipping Texas in three games in the second round in Austin.

Please see TOURNEY on 11

### Cochran helps NU to a split

BY JOSHUA CAMENZIND  
Staff writer

It was not exactly what the Nebraska basketball team had in mind at the start of the season when it saw the Ameritas Classic schedule.

The Cornhuskers had won 22 games in a row and the 11 previous titles in its own tournament at the Bob Devaney Sports Center, dating back to a loss to Ohio State in the inaugural championship game.

But for a team struggling to find themselves, a consolation game win over Monmouth (N.J.) College will have to do. The Huskers disposed of the Hawks on Saturday night, 63-47, after being embarrassed at home Friday by eventual tournament champion, Western Carolina, 74-72.

NU Coach Danny Nee said the Monmouth win came down to one determining factor.

"It came down to pride," Nee said. "We didn't want to lose two-straight home games."

"This is a big step forward because we could have easily lost. We know we

"A lot of guys did enough things right, especially from the free-throw line, for us to win."

DANNY NEE  
NU coach

got some problems, so we need to get them fixed, but we also know we need a lot of guys playing well. Today a lot of guys did enough things right, especially from the free-throw line, for us to win."

After yet another slow start produced a 23-14 Hawk lead with seven minutes, 50 seconds remaining in the first half, NU decided to pick up the defensive intensity. Monmouth would not score again before halftime as Nebraska took a 26-23 lead at the break.

Monmouth shot only 36 percent in the first half but was 5 for 14 from beyond the arc, three of which came from forward Quin Hayes. The Huskers picked up their defensive intensity in the second period and again limited the Hawks to 36 percent shooting.

"I thought we played real solid

Nebraska	63
Monmouth College	47

defense in the half court," Nee said. "We took away 3-point shots, didn't get beat back door, but most of the time we played good defense."

But the difference after halftime came down to free throws. NU made 19 on the game, while MU was held to three.

Forward Steffon Bradford, who came off the bench, led the Huskers with 18 points and 11 rebounds, and was 8 of 10 from the line. Bradford struggled over Thanksgiving at the Hoop and Quill Classic, and Louis Truscott started both games of the Ameritas Classic in his

Please see HUSKERS on 11

### Snyder, Vering roll again as Huskers win

■ NU took first place in Pennsylvania, and an NU player was named the tourney's outstanding wrestler.

From staff reports

Placing six wrestlers in final matches, eighth-ranked Nebraska took first place at the Billy Sheridan Invitational Saturday in Bethlehem, Pa.

Bryan Snyder, No. 3 in the nation in his class, was named Outstanding Wrestler for the tournament while taking the 157-pound title. Snyder, the No. 1 seed, was a major decision winner over Rider's Nick Harrington.

Fellow team captain Brad Vering picked up two pins, the fastest coming in 37 seconds in the first round against Brian McTigue of East

Stroudsburg. Vering won his second tournament of the year, taking the 197-pound crown.

Todd Beckerman, at 133 pounds, was the other Cornhusker to capture an individual title.

Joe Henson (149), Ati Conner (174) and Charles McTorry (184) all earned second place in their respective brackets.

Redshirt freshman Justin Flores returned from early season knee surgery and placed third at 141 pounds after his first collegiate wrestling matches.

Assistant Coach Mark Cody said before the invite that it was important to continue the early season success and gain some confidence going into the thick of the season schedule.

"We won the championship by scoring bonus points by the guys going after pins, major decisions and technical falls," Head Coach Tim Neumann said. "That is what a veteran team does to win."