

Nee No. 1 on career-win list

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second-highest scoring total of his career. The crowd of 8,406, who gave him an extended ovation before tip-off, was chanting his name by game's end.

Florence, who said Friday that nearly everything about the season was disappointing, saw the positives of his finish one day later.

"I wanted to give people something to remember me by," he said. "It is a great feeling to come out here and get a victory in my last game."

That victory looked doubtful for much of the game, as the Buffs (16-10, 6-8) led for almost all of the first 30 minutes. But, sparked by 14 second-half points from Florence and the long-range bombing of Cary Cochran and Danny Walker, NU erased the small Colorado lead and held on for the win.

Record-breaking victory No. 254 for Nee wasn't assured, however, until the closing moments. Nebraska held a 67-61 lead with only 22 seconds left, but Nick Mohr hit CU's only three-pointer of the game, and Cochran threw away the ensuing in-bounds pass.

But Mohr's three-point attempt that would have tied the score bounced high off the rim, and NU's Walker sealed the win with two free throws.

Colorado shot only one of 20 from the three-point line and 37 percent from the field in the loss, while Nebraska hit five of 11 treys. Cochran hit all three of his second-half attempts from beyond the arc, and Kimani Ffriend contributed 18 points and a game-high 15 rebounds.

Nee said the record-breaking win, coming in a season of sagging attendance and increased calls for his dismissal, was appreciated.

"It's a mark on the line of 100 years of Nebraska basketball," Nee said. "It's something that Joe had that I'm fortunate enough to have now."

"I pity the next son-of-a-bitch in here," Nee added before declining to elaborate on his future at Nebraska.

Leiter goes strong as NU drops two

By John Gaskins

Staff writer

Nebraska gymnast Derek Leiter said he had a case of the jitters before competing in the final home meet of his career Sunday night.

That turned out to be a good thing. Jitters propelled Leiter to set two career highs, four season highs and his best all-around score of the season. He was pretty much the sole bright spot in a banged-up NU team's 226.375-217.825 dual loss to No. 7 Oklahoma on Senior Night.

"I felt really weird before the meet," Leiter said. "I was shaky. I don't know why. I've never felt that way before a meet before. It's not like I hadn't been to a Senior Night before. But it was hard to push that stuff aside."

The All-American from Lincoln Southeast won the all-around with a 57.5 - .15 points shy of a career high - and won or tied three of the events. His 9.95 vault routine drew roars from the 893 in attendance at the Bob Devaney Sports Center and yells of "give him a 10!" from teammates.

Leiter said the vault was the best of his career. He also called his first-place high bar routine of 9.80 his best ever.

The news was not so good for the 10th-ranked Cornhuskers, who fell to 5-3. NU also lost at No. 4 Iowa on Friday night 226.30-216.675. The two weekend scores marked the two lowest four-score totals in school history since the NCAA went to the scoring format in 1995.

Noetzel rolls as Nebraska improves to a 5-1 overall record

By Trevor Johnson

Staff writer

Improving to 5-1 on the season, the Nebraska women's team rolled over Southwest Missouri State University, winning every one of its matches and barely dropping a set.

The Huskers thrashed SWMSU by a score of 9-0.

The play of Sandra Noetzel, Nebraska's No. 1 singles player was encouraging. Noetzel used an excellent serve-and-volley game and forced her opponent, Cassandra Godfrey, to play a different kind of game, keeping Godfrey as far away from the net as possible, while barely ever approaching the net herself.

"I didn't feel like cracking it today," Noetzel said. "It was a hard match, though. All of my shots kept getting returned."

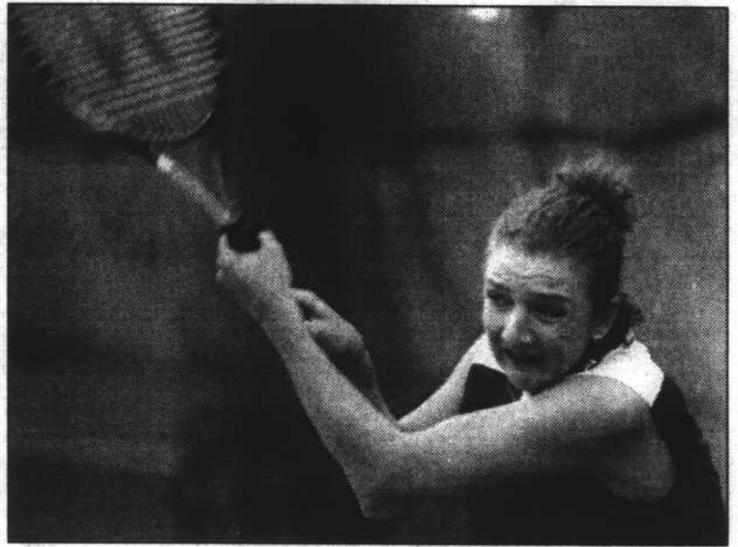
Noetzel, who had taken a cou-

ple matches off earlier in the season because of a groin injury, said her injury "does not bother her at all any more."

In winning her match, Noetzel kept her perfect record alive. Her teammate Katarina Balan did the same, winning a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Sandra Salado. In what was one of the lighter moments of the matchup, Balan screamed to her opponent, "Why are you so good?"

Coach Scott Jacobson said the win was indicative of the players' growth. He said that as the team was improving, his players were "growing both on and off the court." Jacobson pointed to the leadership of his older players Noetzel and No. 2 singles player, Ndali Ijomah, as examples.

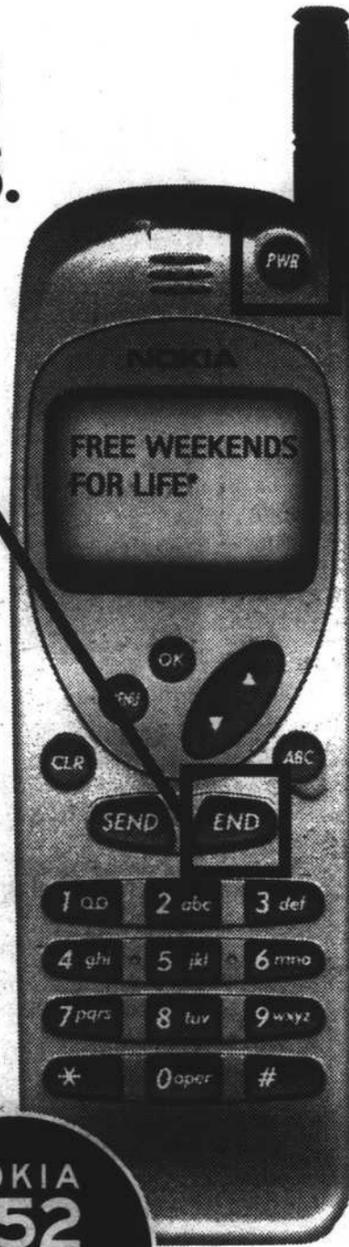
"Ndali's level has grown dramatically," Jacobson said, "and her internal growth is showing in how she plays."



Josh Wolfe/DN
SANDRA NOETZEL returns a serve against Wichita State at the Woods Tennis Center on Sunday. Noetzel, who returned this weekend after recovering from a groin injury, said she felt better but was not back to full speed.

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