

## Cautious optimism merited

A h h , finally. There it is, right in your own hands. Your simple excuse to not worry about the prospects of the 2000 Cornhuskers.



David Diehl

Fear not, for what you have proves to you just how loaded these Huskers are.

It's the depth chart for the San Jose State game on Saturday. And, most likely, the depth chart for the Notre Dame game and the Iowa game and so on - save for a Dan Hadenfeldt punting and a potentially Thunderstruck running-back corps.

The latest and most crucial volume of Who's Who of Nebraska Football came out on Monday, and now Nebraska fans have supposed proof of this looming national title due in January.

It's all right there in front of you.

Bobby Newcombe, Matt Davison, receiving game. Check.

Dominic Raiola, Russ Hochstein, pancake syrup. Check.

Carlos Polk, Kyle Vanden Bosch, skull and crossbones Blackshirts. Check.

Now, most importantly, Eric Crouch and Sears Trophy. Check.

Wait a second. Back up the Cornhusker Caboose. It's not that easy.

If the NU season were a roll call of doormats - say if they played in the MAC or WAC or Pac 10 for that matter - this depth chart would get them through it.

While the schedule doesn't exactly match a triathlon in its difficulty, San Jose State and Baylor won't come calling each Saturday.

The top of the Big 12 is tops in the nation - the odds of either Kansas State, Texas or Nebraska making the Orange Bowl are better than none of them going.

The Huskers will have to develop more depth at key positions to get past Kansas State or a possible matchup with Texas in December or even past Oklahoma in Norman.

"You try and put those guys without experience in situations where they can be successful," Defensive Coordinator Craig Bohl said, "and you make sure they're doing the things they can do."

Situations where they can be successful. In other words, up by 35 points in the fourth quarter. But that won't be the case come Nov. 11 and Manhattan, Kan.

Certainly that won't be the case if Crouch goes down, which is (surprise of all surprises) a possibility in an option offense. In that scenario, Jammal Lord or Joe Chrisman will have to lead the Huskers to W's.

Not exactly peaches to fans or Coach Frank Solich.

"We don't have a guy that is ready to step in and play anywhere close to the level of Eric," Solich said. "That, of course, is because of inexperience."

Besides running an offense, nuances like running a huddle, getting to the line and managing the clock don't come automatically with a start, Solich said. It takes experience.

There's the same scenario on the other side of the ball.

Who do you think will get picked on in a tight game with exhausted starters on the sideline and green second-stringers between the hashes?

Randy Stella? Maybe early on, but he'll turn heads and All-Big 12 ballots come season's end.

Scott Shanley? Rod Baker? Erwin Swiney? Troy Watchorn? You betcha.

It's names like those dotting the depth chart that make your eyebrows raise in wonder. What if Stella gets a bad stinger and is forced to sit out two or three series? Can Blanchard Johnson get to the outside as fast and track down David Allen?

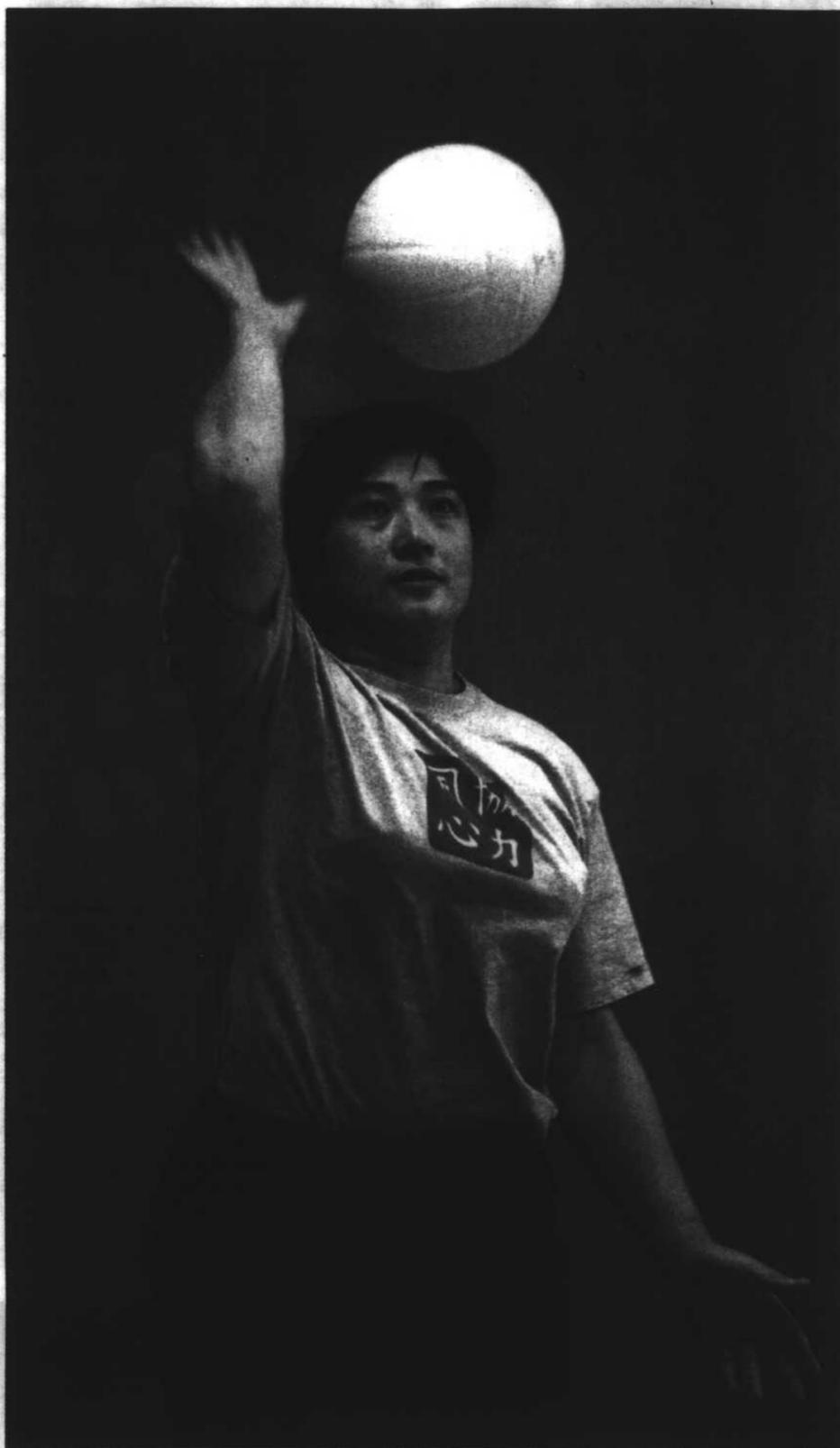
Certainly, Johnson will prove himself worthy, just like Willie Amos, T.J. Hollowell and other freshmen, true or redshirt, will.

Getting them experience now will pay dividends later, of course.

But focus on the now. The Big 12 hasn't seen or heard much from Pat Ricketts because the redshirt walk-on has never played college football.

Although he will develop into a prominent defensive back in

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Steven Bender/DN

Guo Jun Li of Shanghai, China, serves during volleyball practice Tuesday. Li, who at one time was considered one of the best volleyball players in the world, recently became a new addition to the Huskers' coaching staff.

## Chinese star helps coach NU

BY SEAN CALLAHAN

The Nebraska volleyball team got its fair share of souvenirs from its trip to China earlier this summer.

They were given Adidas practice jerseys with their names in Chinese. They picked up various trinkets during sightseeing tours. We developed a relationship with her there, and she followed us around for the rest of our trip."

Cook and Assistant Coach Staci Wolfe describe Li as a legend to international volleyball. Li was the star player of the 1988 and 1992 Chinese Olympic teams.

A story Cook related described her accomplishments as a player and what she means to China. "When they won the world championships in 1990 it was a huge deal," Cook said. "She shared with us that she was given two

ing with one of the premier college volleyball programs in the United States.

"We met her while we were in Shanghai," Coach John Cook said. "She was coaching a high school team that hosted us for three days. We developed a relationship with her there, and she followed us around for the rest of our trip."

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"When they won the world championships in 1990 it was a huge deal," Cook said. "She shared with us that she was given two

houses. Not one, but two houses. Not very many people in China even have their own homes, let alone two."

Li, whose American name is June, said she is happy to be a part of a program like Nebraska's, where she is a volunteer coach.

She received her green card earlier this summer and is now looking at earning some hours toward her graduate degree.

Before she can begin her graduate studies, Li must improve her English. She is enrolled in an extensive English program at the university.

"I like the Nebraska volleyball team, coaches and players," Li said. "I am honored to be a part of

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## San Jose game is first live webcast

BY JOHN GASKINS

Don't have tickets to Saturday's Nebraska-San Jose State game? Steaming that the game won't be televised? Still dying to see it live?

Well, for the first time in college football history, you're in luck. All you have to do is log on.

Foxsports.com, the fastest-growing sports site on the Internet, will webcast the game, slated to kick off at 11:30 a.m. with a pregame show at 11:00.

The Web site decided to go forward with the first webcast game in college football history after both ABC and Fox Sports television networks decided not to cover it.

Saturday's game will be the first college or professional football game webcast live.

"This is history," foxsports.com senior vice president Danny Greenberg said.

"It's exciting. We're thrilled to be at the forefront, and I think it's only the beginning. It's a chance to see what technology is capable of."

HuskerVision, NU's sports television, video and big screen production operation, will provide pictures.

Pinnacle Sports Network - which has produced the radio broadcasts of NU sporting events since 1996, will provide audio.

All of this coverage is also linked to huskers.com, the official site of the NU Athletic Department. Formerly huskerwebcast.com, the site has provided the Pinnacle broadcasts of Husker games for the last two years, recording over a million hits per week during football season.

The reason foxsports.com picked this game was simple: Nebraska's the No. 1 team and Husker fans all over will log on.

"Last year we received e-mail from people who received our games via the Internet from Guam and the North Pole," said Gary Sharp, a pregame announcer for Pinnacle.

"(Having the game broadcast on a national site) is a great way to introduce our product to even more people," he said.

Much of the family of starting right cornerback Erwin Swiney - who will play for the first time since late 1998 - will tune in. Swiney's family is from Dallas, and he has friends in Atlanta and other far-off places.

"Now, they get to see me play," Swiney said. "They're all excited about that."

The main glitch in what could be a successful technological breakthrough is the possibility of delay and break-up on computers.

Technically, Greenberg said, the following minimums are needed: a 56K Modem, DSL or Cable Modem with an Internet connection and a modem set to 800x600 and QuickTime 4 or RealPlayer G2. An information page on foxsports.com tells the user the requirements needed.

In layman's terms, however, "as long as you're able to watch video on your computer, you should be in good shape," Greenberg said.

"The faster the modem is, the better the video quality will be. People should not expect to turn on the computer and see something that is identical to what you're used to watching on television."

The audio will be clear for everyone, Greenberg said.

The process of receiving the webcast, assuming you have proper equipment, is simple: First, using your Internet server, log on to foxsports.com. There you should see a "Nebraska Webcast" icon. Click on it. From there, it is self-explanatory.

No other major sporting events are planned to be webcast on foxsports.com in the future.

"This is an experiment," Greenberg said. "We'll see how it goes. Then we'll decide if we should keep trying this in the future."

Football notes: NU had its last practice in pads before Saturday's game after what Solich called a "long, hard fall camp."

The health of the meat of NU's defensive line is still shaky, but looking up slightly.

Senior defensive tackle Loren Kaiser will return to practice today after an appendectomy left him out for a week. He is listed as day-to-day for Saturday. Listed behind Kaiser is Jeremy Slechta, whose left knee still swells occasionally from a torn ACL he suffered seven games into last year.

No. 1 nose tackle Jason Lohr continues to recover from a sprained toe and "moved around well" Tuesday, according to Solich. He will most likely start.

Please see WEBCAST on 9

## NU soccer team overcomes yellow cards, ejection

■ A rule prohibiting profanity on the field left the team without Christine Latham.

BY JAMIE SUHR

Not even a couple of naughty words could slow down the rolling Nebraska women's soccer machine.

During NU's 5-0 win over Southwest Missouri State, the Cornhuskers (3-0) were forced to play at a one-player disadvantage for the final 44 minutes after Christine Latham received her second yellow card for using profanity.

The NCAA adopted a new rule, enforcing a no-profanity policy. Any players heard swearing would receive a yellow card.

"The new rule is no swearing, and for some people it just

comes out," Kelly Rheem said. "It depends on the ref, but he was listening for it."

Because of her ejection from the game, Latham has a mandatory one-game suspension, which she will serve Sunday against Drury.

Meghan Anderson, who also received a yellow caution, was sorry to see Latham lose her cool.

"It's disappointing because Coach (John) Walker spent a lot of half time talking to us about it," Anderson said.

Aside from the ejection, the Cornhuskers were also penalized with five yellow cards.

As for the team's on-field action, Walker was pleased with how well the women played.

NU dominated on defense, allowing just one shot on goal. For the season, the Huskers have yet to allow a goal.

Rheem put NU up 1-0 after scoring her first goal of the season off of Anderson's deflected shot.

All four first half goals were scored by different players, including Latham's fourth.

"It took us awhile to score, but that's okay," Walker said. "It forces the issue and keeps the girls playing hard. We scored a couple of good, quality goals."

Just one minute into the second half, Latham was ejected, and the Huskers were playing a person short.

NU still didn't allow a shot on goal.

The Huskers rounded out the scoring with a Breanna Boyd direct kick.



David Casen/DN  
NU Junior Danica Carey beats an SMSU player to the ball Tuesday night. The Huskers stifled the visitors 5-0, shutting out an opponent for the third time in three games this season.