

Gameday Notebook

■ NU junior Mark Vedral played in his first game this season after being acquitted of first degree sexual assault, Sept. 15. The linebacker recorded two tackles. Vedral said the reaction he has gotten since returning to the team has been mixed.

■ For more gameday coverage, see pages 6-7.

"People can believe what they want," he said. "People are entitled to their own opinions."

"But, hey, I can't convince everybody. I have a lot of family and friends who've loved and supported and prayed for me through this whole situation. I love them all to death."

■ For the 41st time in school history, NU had two 100-yard rushers in Dan Alexander (113) and Correll Buckhalter (100). Eric Crouch contributed 93 of the Husker's 331 total yards on the ground.

The Huskers are 177-5 in the last 28 years when rushing for 300 or more yards and 12-0 under Frank Solich in that category. NU had all these rushing accolades despite the fact it did not score a rushing touchdown for the first time since the 1998 Holiday Bowl loss to Arizona.

It was Alexander's fourth-straight 100-yard game and the ninth of his career, including eight in the last 11 games. He leads the team with 433 yards on 56 carries with three TDs this season and an average of 7.7 yards per carry.

■ Buckhalter, meanwhile, hasn't been too shabby himself, averaging 6.3 yards per carry versus Iowa and 7.0 yards per carry this season. His 100 yards made him the 18th Husker to rush for 2,000 yards in his career. He now has 345 carries for 2,032 yards and 20 TDs to rank 18th at NU.

■ Another Husker almost reached the 2,000-yard milestone. With his 74 yards, split end Matt Davison now has 1,192 for his career, third on the all-time NU list and four yards short of Irving Fryar. Johnny Rodgers holds the school record with 2,479.

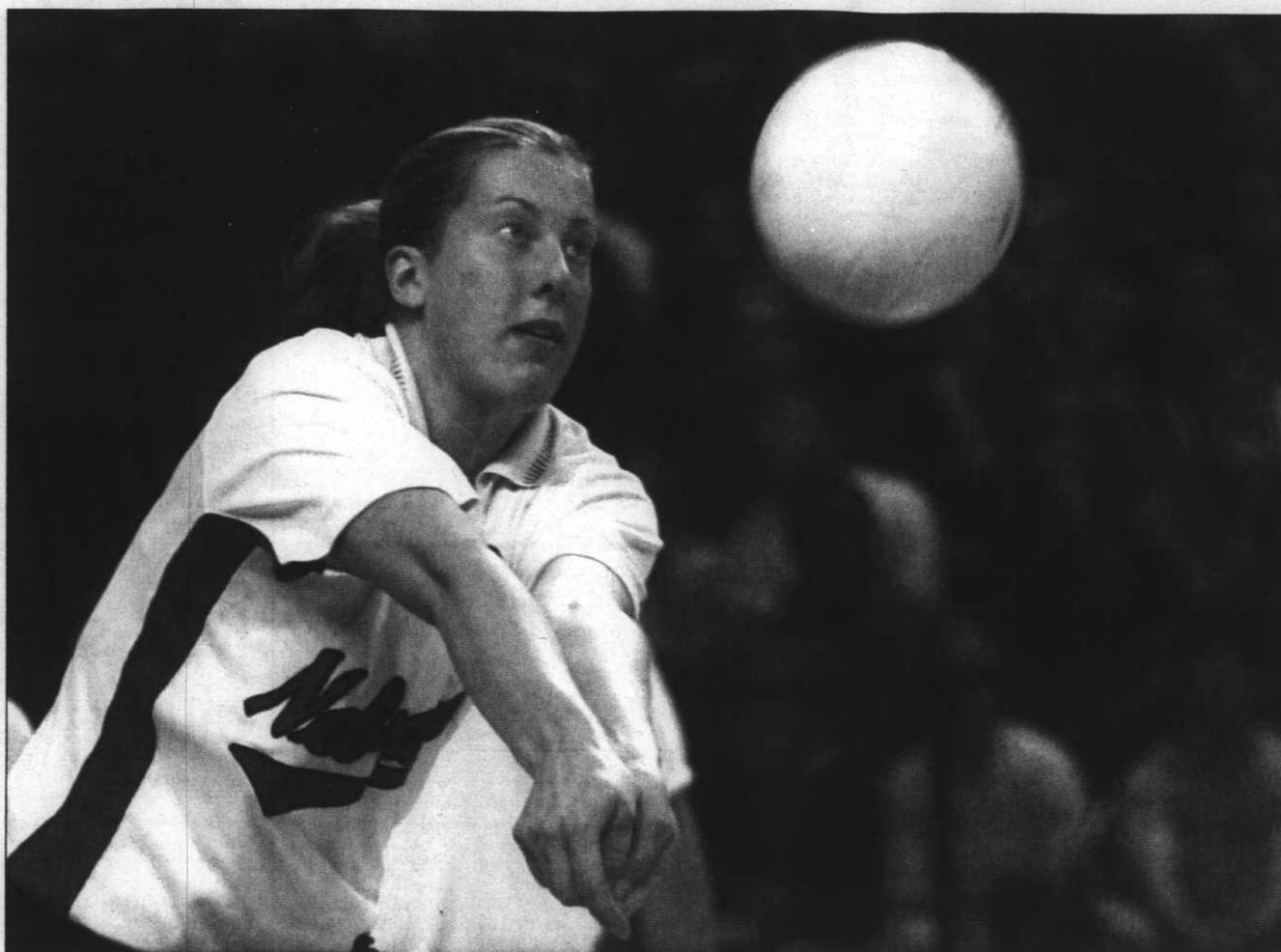
■ So much for the sack problem, at least for a week. The Blackshirts - who had just two sacks for a loss of 13 yards coming in - recorded a season-best six sacks for a loss of 41 yards on Iowa's Scott Mullen, quadrupling their season sack total. Five of those sacks came in the second half.

■ Nebraska lost its first fumble of the season in the third quarter on a pitch from Crouch to Buckhalter at the Iowa 16-yard-line. NU now has four fumbles on the season but only one lost, which is way behind last year's pace of 49 for the season. The turnover marked the first time this season that the offense failed to score in the red zone.

■ Saturday's crowd of 78,075 set yet another attendance record at Memorial Stadium. It was the first time the mark topped 78,000.

All of the top-eight attendance games in the stadium have been set in the last two seasons, thanks to the new \$36.1 million press box and luxury box facility.

Compiled by Josh Camenzind and John Gaskins



Scott McClurg/DN

Nebraska senior Angie Oxley attempts a dig against Oklahoma at the NU Coliseum on Saturday night. The Huskers made short work of the Sooners, defeating them in three-straight games to the delight of a season-high crowd of 4,175.

Unbeaten NU dominates again

■ The Cornhusker reserves get into the act in an easy victory over Big 12 conference foe Oklahoma.

BY BRIAN CHRISTOPHERSON

Perhaps, it would be more appropriate for the volleyball pollsters to rank Nebraska as No. 1-A and No. 1-B in this week's edition.

Because after Saturday night's 15-5, 15-4, 15-3 manhandling of Oklahoma, Nebraska's second-teamers showed that they could be a dominant force on their own, not too far behind the starting six.

The Cornhuskers played game three with four substitutes on the floor. NU didn't skip a beat, winning the game 15-3 and sending the season-high NU Coliseum crowd of 4,175 home after a brief 74-minute match.

The win moved the top-ranked

Huskers to 11-0, 4-0 in conference play.

"It was a great match to get experience for other players and work at developing our depth," Nebraska Coach John Cook said.

"And that lineup we had in the third game gave up the fewest points," Cook said noting the success of NU's lineup, which featured reserves Pam Krejci, a sophomore, senior Jill McWilliams, sophomore Lindsay Wischmeier and true freshman Anna Schrad.

Oklahoma Coach Kalani Mahi was hard-pressed to find a weak spot in Nebraska's play despite their lineup switches.

"In that third game, there wasn't a lot of difference. Their second-team is as athletic as their first," Mahi said, after seeing his Sooner team fall to 5-6 for the season.

One of the backup stars Mahi spoke of was outside hitter Krejci, who saw her most extensive action

as a Husker connecting on five kills and totaling a .625 hitting percentage.

"It felt really good out there. I've been developing over the last few years and everything has started to click for me," Krejci said. "Tonight gave me confidence for the future."

OU's offensive attack was in retreat mode all night no matter who was on the floor for Nebraska. The Sooners hit a miserable .011 hitting percentage for the match compared to NU's .351 mark.

Nebraska featured a balanced attack, with senior outside hitter Kim Behrends leading the team with seven kills. Both Behrends and senior Angie Oxley didn't commit an error for the second-straight match.

"It's been one of my major goals in the last few weeks to cut down on my errors and hit smart shots," Behrends said of her performance.

As a team, Nebraska has only compiled 13 errors in the last two

matches, an accomplishment Cook referred to as "phenomenal."

Cook credited much of his team's hitting success to the training they receive each day from hitting against the block of players as skilled as red-shirting, former All-American Nancy Meendering, Krejci and Schrad.

"I'll tell you why teams aren't blocking us. The team we go up against everyday ... that's a big block to go against everyday," Cook said. "We're learning how to hit smart."

Krejci said it's always a goal in practice to make the starters work for everything.

"Our most important job is to make them go out there and make shots and make them run for every point," Krejci said.

For certain, they left the OU coach impressed.

"I haven't played a whole lot of No. 1 teams, but they played like a No. 1 team," Mahi said. "They have the complete package."

Play ball: NU opens fall baseball in cold

BY DANE STICKNEY

Cold temperatures may have forced the Nebraska baseball team inside on Sunday, but it didn't chill their burning passion to get back onto the field.

Fall baseball practice started Sunday, as the Cornhuskers took batting practice in Schulte Fieldhouse and went through defensive drills in Cook Pavilion as temperatures dipped into the 40s outside.

NU Coach Dave Van Horn said he was pleased with his team's first practice of the season even though it was indoors.

"We would have liked to get out on the (Buck Beltzer) field, but this was all right," he said.

"We were able to do a lot of things that will help us. All in all, it was good that we could move inside and keep on schedule."

Sunday's practice marked the first of 24 fall practices, which ends with the Red-White

World Series on Oct. 18.

It also marks the first time the team has played baseball since last season, when they came within one win of the College World Series.

"They know how close we were," Van Horn said. "And they know how close we are. They've got a lot of motivation and that helps."

Van Horn said fall baseball provides a forum for younger players to learn the NU system and for coaches to evaluate the new players' talent.

"This is the first opportunity that we get to answer some of the questions we have about the team," he said.

"We've got some quality new players who have talent, and we have an idea of how they're going to contribute, but this gives them the opportunity to prove it."

Veteran players play an important part in fall baseball by mentoring the younger players, Van Horn said.

Junior pitcher Shane Komine, Big 12 player-of-the-year last season, is one of the key veterans on the squad.

"My main goal is to get some of the new guys acquainted with what goes on here and what they can expect," Komine said. "We want to get them to take the same kind of pride we do in this program."

Drew Anderson, a freshman outfielder, said he was hoping to catch the coaches' eyes with his talent.

"I want them to notice me for my speed and my hitting," Anderson said. "If I show that I can play in fall ball, then maybe I can be a backup when the season starts."

Anderson said that may be tough because he is still in an adjustment period.

"I'm trying to get accustomed to how the team operates," he said.

"More than that, I'm just trying to adjust to the differences between high school and college baseball."

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Dave Van Horn
NU baseball coach



Mike Warren/DN

Creighton defender Lucie Howe tries to steal the ball from Nebraska forward Christine Latham.

NU soccer struggles a little with Creighton

BY JAMIE SUHR

A score can be deceiving. The Nebraska soccer team's 2-0 win over Creighton wasn't as close as the score may have indicated.

The Bluejays were held to one shot on goal and didn't have a single corner kick, but stayed as close to the Cornhuskers as any team has this season.

Only on the scoreboard though, junior midfielder Meghan Anderson said.

"People who don't understand soccer will look and see 2-0 and think we didn't play great," Anderson said. "They only played a third of the field. We out shot them 15-1. That should be added to the story."

The Cornhuskers had plenty of chances to score with a shot by Najah

Williams deflecting off of the cross bar as well as other breakout opportunities.

Creighton goaltender Jaimie Thompson had 13 saves - not bad for a freshman against the No. 3 team in the country.

"She played well," Coach John Walker said. "We have to do a better job of finishing."

Breanna Boyd scored her second goal of the season when she headed a ball off of the corner kick by Anderson 18:03 into the game.

Anderson would add her seventh goal of the season just 11 minutes later. The midfielder hit a laser beam from 35 yards out.

"Their defense played well," Anderson said. "Every shot we took, someone was in our face."

NU (10-0) kept the ball deep in

Bluejay territory for most of the game. When Creighton (3-7) did have the ball, four defenders stayed back.

Walker said the team played well, but Thompson made some excellent plays.

"It was just one of those nights," Walker said. "Sometimes it doesn't matter how many shots you get, you just don't score."

The Huskers out-shot the visitors 33-2. The Jay's only shot on goal didn't come until 53 minutes into the game.

"It's a moral victory for them," Anderson said. "They played the No. 3 team in the country. We didn't play any different. The shots didn't find the net."

Brooke Jones, who has been out with an ankle injury, started the second half in place of starter Najah Williams.

"I want to put who I think the best team is on the field," Walker said.

Friday, the Huskers proved to Baylor who was the best team on the field was.

NU opened up conference play with a 3-0 win over the Bears.

Defender Jenny Benson started the scoring off with a goal nine minutes into the game. Forward Christine Latham tallied her ninth and 10th goals of the season to increase her conference-leading goal total.

Preseason All-American goaltender Karina LeBlanc out-duelled Dawn Greaterhouse, who along with LeBlanc was tabbed as the preseason All-Big12 goalie.

LeBlanc now has seven and a half shutouts on the season and hasn't allowed a goal in 420 minutes.

NU has now posted four shutouts in a row and has blanked an opponent eight times in 10 games.