

NU swimming coaches suspended

Swimmers allege coaches violated NCAA rules

BY SEAN CALLAHAN

"(Swimmers) would take a cut in their scholarships, and (the coaches) would pay them under the table."

Justin Kapinus
former NU swimmer

One current and one former member of the Nebraska swim team said they may be able to shed some light on why NU Athletic Director Bill Byrne suspended Coaches Cal Bentz, Keith Moore, Kelly Nordell and Rick Paine last week.

Byrne announced Friday the four coaches were suspended indefinitely and named Paul Nelsen as interim coach. Byrne gave no specific reason for the suspensions.

But Sara Jowsey, a fifth-year women's

team member, and Justin Kapinus, who completed his eligibility in 1998, both said during their careers at Nebraska they heard of several NCAA violations committed by people affiliated with the swimming team, including the suspended coaches.

Jowsey said she knows athletes on the men's and women's swimming teams who received money to fulfill scholarship promises.

"(NU swimming coaches) would ask people to give up some of their scholarship so they could give the new people money," Jowsey said. "The people that

lost some of their scholarship would then be paid back."

Kapinus backed Jowsey's allegations, saying knowledge of the wrongdoing was widespread.

"(Swimmers) would take a cut in their scholarships and (the coaches) would pay them under the table," Kapinus said. "I know a couple of my buddies were asked to take a cut in their scholarship money. I've seen a couple of my buddies taken into the office and talked to about the money."

The men's swimming and diving team have 9.9 scholarships. The women have 14. Around 60 athletes comprise both teams.

Moore and Nelsen both declined to

comment on the suspensions or the alleged violations. Bentz and Nordell could not be reached for comment.

Paine, a 17-year assistant, said Byrne gave the coaches specific instructions not to comment about the situation.

He said he is just as confused as everyone else.

"We've been instructed as of Thursday not to have any contact with the team," Paine said. "I feel bad for the kids right now. They're kind of left out in the dark."

Jowsey said when she was a freshman, her class was made up of more than 20 members.

Please see COACHES on 11

Two more shutouts for soccer

■ NU goalkeeper Karina LeBlanc completed her 10th scoreless game this year.

BY JAMIE SUHR

Nebraska soccer goalkeeper Karina LeBlanc must seem like a brick wall to Husker opponents.

With her back-to-back road shutouts in the Cornhuskers' 2-0 win over No. 24 Missouri and a 3-0 victory against Kansas, LeBlanc has pitched six straight shutouts for the No. 3 ranked Cornhuskers.

The senior hasn't allowed a goal in more than 600 minutes. To put things in a little better perspective, LeBlanc hasn't been scored on in 10 hours of game time.

Following her 10th shutout of the year, LeBlanc now has a career goals-against average of 0.55 – the seventh best in NCAA history. On the season, LeBlanc is allowing a conference-best 0.31 goals-per-game. In all, the 12-0 Huskers have outscored opponents 56-3.

In NU's victory over the Tigers, LeBlanc, a finalist for the prestigious Hermann Trophy, faced only three shots on goal.

The Huskers will get all the goals they need when forward Christine Latham scored 7:43 into the game.

To round out the scoring, freshman Kelly Haxton notched her fourth goal of the season to drop Missouri to 6-5 on the year.

"It was a tough battle," NU Coach John Walker said. "We played well defensively. It was a good, tough road win against a ranked team."

The game also marked the return of Kori Saunders, who has been out all season since being hospitalized Aug. 10 when an eight-inch shard of glass penetrated her back after she fell through a glass table. The sophomore played nearly 40 minutes against the Tigers and picked up her first assist of the season.

The Huskers used the same formula of great goal tending and an early score by Latham to claim victory.

LeBlanc, a preseason All-American, only faced four shots in NU's 3-0 win against the Jayhawks.

"Overall, it was just a good, solid performance," Walker said.

With 16:59 remaining in the first half, Latham took a pass from midfielder Shannon Tanaka and scored her 12th goal of the season.

In the second half, Latham would return the favor, assisting Tanaka's second goal of the season.

Latham would then add her conference-best 13th goal with 1:55 to go in the game. The score gave Latham the league lead with 29 points.

"She's done a good job of shooting," Walker said. "She always has a shooting mentality."

The shutout wasn't all because of LeBlanc. NU didn't allow any corner kicks for the Jayhawks and took only eight shots.

The Huskers will return home to play Texas on Friday at the Abbott Sports Complex.

The Longhorns will enter the contest 8-3 and 3-0 in the conference for the first time in school history.



Photos by Josh Wolfe/DN

Stepping up the pressure



ABOVE: Senior Lindsay Wischmeier dives for the ball against Texas A&M Saturday.

LEFT: Senior Jill McWilliams, left, shares excitement with junior Kim Behrends after winning a point against Texas A&M on Saturday at the NU Coliseum. The Huskers improved their record to 13-0 with a sweep of the Aggies before a crowd of 4,007 fans.

Huskers' aggressive play in sweep of Aggies impresses coach

BY BRIAN CHRISTOPHERSON

When you're undefeated, sometimes you have to nit-pick.

So last week, Nebraska Coach John Cook took junior middle blocker Jenny Kropp aside. They examined her play, and both agreed that she could improve a few aspects of her game.

Maybe Saturday afternoon's match against Texas A&M was what they had in mind.

Kropp, a Grand Island native, hammered 12 kills to go along with four blocks and a .455 hitting percentage in a NU 15-3, 16-14, 15-6 sweep of the Aggies before 4,007 fans at the NU Coliseum.

The match improved No. 1 Nebraska's record to 13-0 overall, 6-0 in conference play. A&M fell to 8-4, 3-2 in the conference.

"I told Jenny there were times we needed her to step up," Cook said. "And she did it blocking, attacking and with her serve. That's what's so great about coaching this team. You have people who are capable of stepping up."

Not to be outdone by Kropp, fellow middle blocker Amber Holmquist stepped up to pour a game-high 15 kills and nine blocks on A&M. Holmquist hit .522 for the match.

Freshman outside hitter Laura Pilakowski was sandwiched in between Holmquist and Kropp with 13 kills, but hit well below the blockers with a .207

hitting percentage.

"Our left sides were struggling a bit, and we felt like A&M would struggle to stop those two, so we kept encouraging Greichaly (Cepeiro) to set them," Cook said.

Kropp said she and Holmquist sensed a mismatch at the net early in the match.

"I think we were successful because they were smaller blockers, and when Greichaly sets so fast, that's a really hard set to block," Kropp said.

"And when you're successful, it gives you motivation to keep swinging away. We kept swinging and that is why we were so successful."

Aggies Coach Laurie Corbelli said Kropp and Holmquist's domination of the middle blocker position caused her team to struggle offensively.

"The effectiveness of their middles took our middles out of the mix in a lot of ways, and we rely heavily on our middles being effective," Corbelli said.

The constant harassing at the net caused the Aggies to hit only .096 for the match with 28 errors.

Meanwhile, NU logged a solid .287 hitting percentage for the match.

Cook would like to bottle his team's aggressive play up and save it for matches down the road.

"That's how I want Nebraska volleyball to play, to constantly pressure teams with our serve, our blocking, our defense," Cook said. "A&M had an uncharacteristic amount of hitting errors for them and that's

because of our serve, block and defense."

If there was a bright spot for the Aggies, it was in game two, when A&M's outside hitter Erin Gibson discovered her shot, pounding down 10 of her 11 kills after her team's miserable game one showing.

"The jitters finally wore off, we got into our rhythm in game two and attacked more," Corbelli said.

Behind Gibson's play, the Aggies led the second game 11-9, until a four-point run by the Huskers.

The game stood tied at 14 until Holmquist powered a kill to the floor, and a hitting error by A&M gave the game to Nebraska.

Nebraska rolled through game three by concentrating on shutting down Gibson.

"We made a great adjustment on Gibson who looked all-world in game two," Cook said.

Gibson was blanked in the kills column and the Aggies were sent home as another Nebraska victim.

"It was a good match for us. Texas A&M pushed us in that second game, and it stressed us," Cook said.

"It was good to see us go through that, work through that and win that second game and come out and take it to them in the third game."

"A&M had an uncharacteristic amount of hitting errors for them, and that's because of our serve, block and defense."

John Cook
NU volleyball coach

Gameday Notebook

ASSOCIATED PRESS POLL

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Florida St. (42)	5-0	1,745	2
2. Nebraska (28)	4-0	1,731	1
3. Virginia Tech	4-0	1,576	4
4. Kansas St. (1)	5-0	1,574	5
5. Clemson	5-0	1,451	7
6. Michigan	4-1	1,353	9
7. Miami	3-1	1,274	10
8. Ohio St.	4-0	1,218	12
9. Oregon	4-1	1,031	20
10. Oklahoma	4-0	1,017	14
11. Texas	3-1	999	13
12. Florida	4-1	940	3
13. Washington	3-1	920	6
14. TCU	4-0	875	16
15. Auburn	5-0	869	19
16. UCLA	4-1	831	15
17. Southern Miss	3-1	608	21
18. Southern Cal	3-1	514	8
19. Georgia	3-1	455	25
20. Mississippi St.	3-1	406	NR
21. Tennessee	2-2	364	11
22. Northwestern	4-1	312	NR
23. Oregon St.	4-0	279	NR
24. Wisconsin	3-2	210	17
25. Notre Dame	2-2	118	NR

COACHES POLL

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Nebraska (37)	4-0	1,452	1
2. Florida St. (21)	5-1	1,434	2
3. Virginia Tech	4-0	1,334	4
4. Kansas St. (1)	5-0	1,295	5
5. Clemson	5-0	1,180	8
6. Michigan	4-1	1,120	9
7. Ohio State	4-0	1,119	10
8. Miami	3-1	1,033	12
9. Florida	4-1	886	3
10. Texas	3-1	856	13
11. Washington	3-1	734	6
12. Oklahoma	4-0	713	16
13. Auburn	5-0	697	20
14. TCU	4-0	695	18
15. Oregon	4-1	613	25
16. Southern Cal	3-1	582	7
17. UCLA	4-1	550	17
18. Southern Miss	3-1	531	21
19. Georgia	3-1	455	24
20. Mississippi St.	3-1	355	NR
21. Tennessee	2-2	338	11
22. Wisconsin	3-2	242	14
23. Oregon St.	4-0	171	NR
24. Northwestern	4-1	140	NR
25. Michigan St.	3-1	136	15

NU falls to 2 in AP poll

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Nebraska Cornhuskers are no longer tops in college football, at least according to Associated Press voters.

After starting the season as the No. 1 team in the AP Poll and maintaining the top position for five weeks,

</