



Huskers serve up some revenge vs. Buff spikers

No. 1 Nebraska sweeps CU at home

By CJ Powell For the Camera
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The last time Nebraska was in Boulder to play the Colorado volleyball team, the Buffs handed Big Red its first and only loss of the 2006 season, defeating the Huskers 3-2 on Nov. 11.

Since then Nebraska hasn't lost.

On Saturday No. 1-ranked and defending NCAA champion Nebraska got its revenge, sweeping Colorado 30-25, 30-18, 30-20, making it an unlucky-seven losses in a row for the Buffaloes.

"We just gotta play a little bit better in crunch time," coach Pi'i Aiu said after his Buffs fell to 5-10 overall and 0-7 in the Big 12. "We need to play at a nice, steady high-level all of the time, and we don't."

The 3,708 fans in attendance marked the second-most for a CU volleyball game in history — the largest crowd ever witnessed the meeting in 2006 — but nearly two-thirds of the crowd were donning Nebraska red and booing the home team.

"Well, we'll be ready when we go to Nebraska," Aiu joked.

Junior Lauren Schaefer actually enjoyed playing in front of sea of red.

"It was really fun," said Schaefer, who had nine kills and hit .333. "It was awesome to play in that environment, whether or not they're really rooting for you."

Colorado got on top of the Cornhuskers (14-0, 7-0) early in the first game. Emilee Sisco had three quick kills, and at one point the Buffaloes were winning 17-9.

But Nebraska 13 won of the next 15 points and eventually claimed the first game.

Aiu thought that moment was a turning point in the match.

"We battled after that," Aiu said. "But that's where the matched turned, and we got a little tentative."

Colorado was playing Nebraska tough in the second game, and when Jordan Larson began serving for the Huskers, CU was only down 19-13.

Unfortunately for the Buffaloes, three of her first four serves were aces, and Colorado was never able to overcome Nebraska's momentum.

"When teams really push like that, we have to make sure we stay strong," said freshman Schylur Edelman, who led the Buffaloes in kills (10) and blocks (four). "We got flustered for a couple points, which gave them a run."

Larson, who has a cold, said she has played in Boulder twice, and each time the altitude got the best of her. The junior's performance Saturday of 13 kills and .333 hitting percentage are evidence she has overcome it.

"Every time I've come here, the altitude has really affected me and my play," Larson said. "This year I came out and really wanted to make an impact and show I could play (in Boulder)."

Colorado now travels to Kansas (9-8, 2-5) to play the Jayhawks on Wednesday.

The Buffaloes are only a few games from the half-way point in the season, and coach Aiu said it's important for his team to start winning soon.

"We gotta find some wins in this first half before we start thinking about the second half," he said. "Our only goal right now is to go to Kansas and get them."



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CU's Castro, Sparks fly at Fort Hays State

Camera staff report

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HAYS, Kan. — Colorado seniors Greg Castro and Shanna Sparks each finished second at the Fort Hays State Invitational on Saturday.

Castro finished the 8k loop in 25 minutes, 47.91 seconds for his best-ever placing in a college race.

Sparks was second in the women's 6k race with a time of 18:52.73.

The CU men's "B" team was third place. Chris Pannone placed eighth, Dan Edwards was 16th, and Seth DeMoor was 30th. Cameron Clayton rounded out the team score with a 32nd place-finish and Matt Herzl was 55th.

Colorado School of Mines won the meet with 56 points and Butler Community College was second with 73 points.

Colorado did not compete in team scoring in the women's race as the Buffs only had four runners.

For CU, Dani Rodriguez was 14th, Candace Alai was 20th and Allison Francke was 33rd overall.

Next up for CU is the Pre-National Invitational on Saturday in Terra Haute, Ind.

Fort Hays St. Invitational

MEN'S 8K

Teams — 1. Colorado School of Mines, 56; 2. Butler CC, 73; **3. Colorado 'B', 79**; 4. Air Force Academy 'B', 92; 5. Missouri Southern, 127; 6. Adams State 'B', 134; 7. Fort Hays State, 196; 8. Nebraska-Kearney, 208; 9. UC-Colorado Springs, 225; 10. Hutchinson CC, 268; 11. .Garden City CC, 303; 12. Colby CC, 326; 13. Northern Colorado, 366; 14. Colorado College, 398; 15. Oklahoma-Panhandle State, 476.

Cu Men's Finishers — 2. Greg Castro, 25:51.20; 8. Chris Pannone, 26:20.60; 16. Dan Edwards, 26:51.22; 30. Seth DeMoor, 27:16.14; 32. Cameron Clayton, 27:20.34; 55. Matt Herzl, 28:40.10.

Cu Women's Finishers — 2. Shanna Sparks, 18:52.73; 14. Dani Rodriguez, 19:36.92; 20. Candace Alai, 19:52.51; 33. Allison Francke, 20:23.85.



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