

Les Robbins

From: Jeffrey Gold <jeffrey.gold@nebraska.edu>
Sent: Sunday, June 22, 2025 7:54 PM
To: Les Robbins
Subject: Re: Forgotten 4 from '74

Many thanks...I will follow-up.

jg

From: Les Robbins <lesrobbins@cox.net>
Date: Sunday, June 22, 2025 at 7:20 PM
To: Jeffrey Gold <jeffrey.gold@nebraska.edu>
Subject: Forgotten 4 from '74

Caution: Non-NU Email

President Gold,

Thank you for taking the time to briefly talk to me last night at our happenstance meeting inside the suites area at the CWS. My 13-year-old granddaughter, Eleni Robbins, is a huge Husker Volleyball fan and was pleased to meet you.

The attached letter from you, dated April 30, 2025, indicated you had forwarded my concerns on to Troy Dannen. I have yet to receive any response from Mr. Dannen and am questioning whether he has even addressed the issues and concerns presented.

Your question of why the University Athletic Department would not want, and has totally refused, to recognize the forgotten 4 from the 1974 volleyball team as the first Husker volleyball team to receive Athletic Scholarships under Title IX is the exact question these four former athletes have been asking for over a decade, always with no explanation from the Athletic Department. Upon learning of this unexplained injustice, I too have been struggling with this question myself for almost a year now.

Some of the many reasons why they should receive the fully deserved accolades are contained in the nearly 60 pages of documentation I mailed to you on April 20, 2025, including the following:

- Cheryl (Nolte) Henry's scholarship letter dated December 13, 1974
- Coach Pat Sullivan was an employee of the University's Athletic Department in the fall of 1974 and reported to Athletic Director Bob Devaney
- 1974 Fall's volleyball season scholarships – the first under Title IX - included three senior players
- Husker Illustrated article "Amending Husker History" – February 2023
- Seniors from the '74 team receiving N Club Cards and its afforded privileges on March 22, 2023
- Coach Pat Sullivan's email dated April 11, 2023, stating, "As stated on the N-Club website regarding the awarding of athletic letter: "Letterwinners are determined by each sport based upon meeting athletic criteria and playing time as a varsity intercollegiate student-athlete." I was there. The seniors on that varsity team were

integral players. Based on playing time alone, Cheryl Nolte, Vicki Ossenkop, Denise Stange (senior athletic scholarship recipients) and Ann Garrett were all letter winners.”

- Husker Illustrated article “When Letter-Winners Aren’t Letter-Winners” dated April 2023
- Coach Pat Sullivan’s email dated November 18, 2024
- Name tag for Coach Kelly’s introduction event stating Volleyball Letterwinner Cheryl Henry as Nebraska Volleyball Letterwinner
- Wikipedia contradictory statements:

“The program was founded in 1975” and then in the history Pat Sullivan (1974 -76). “Pat Sullivan was hired in 1974, and she led the program’s first season of varsity competition.”

“ . . . the University recognizes 1975 as its inaugural season due to a lack of records [from 1974] and tradition.’ ”

I see no logical reason to not recognize the 4 from ’74 as the first Husker Volleyball team receiving women’s athletic scholarship under Title IX, for that is the truth of the matter. I hand delivered all the above information and a letter stating my concerns about this injustice to Mr. Dannen on October 5, 2024. At that time the promotion of the 1975 team and its 50th anniversary was imbedded in the media, and I believe that the University Athletic Department held the stance that any change to that scenario would be an open admission of an error.

As I told you last night, the resolution of this matter will not cost the Athletic Department any money and can be implemented in a nonpublic manner. These four pioneers of Husker volleyball have been seeking a correction of history for decades and do not want to make a public spectacle of this matter.

You said you would meet with these ladies but first wanted to talk to Troy. That is reasonable. I, along with the four scholarship winners, the forgotten 4 from ’74, look forward to the opportunity to meet with you and Mr. Dannen so these fine ladies can share their approach to putting this matter behind us all. Thanks!

Regards,

Les