

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN
WOMEN'S ATHLETICS

WPE 206
December 13, 1974

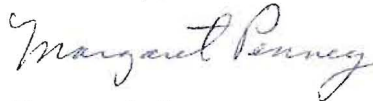
Dear Cheryl ,

As you know, this is our first year for granting financial aid for women athletes and we have some first year snags which caused considerable delay and uncertainty concerning the date that financial aid checks would be ready. The first semester checks are now at the Bursar's Office, Administration Building 204. If you have not already picked up your check, please do so soon.

We know now that second semester checks will not be ready until the end of March. This late date is due to the fact that we must wait until after the last date for dropping classes (March 7) before specific amounts of the grants can be determined, and then there is the processing period. This means that you will have to pay your tuition for second semester before your check is ready. I'm sorry about this, but hope that knowing in advance will be helpful in planning your finances.

Here's wishing you a pleasant holiday.

Sincerely,



Margaret Penney
Coordinator of Financial Aid for
Women Athletes

MP:lgm

Fall of 1974: 1st season that Women's Athletic Scholarships were given to volleyball players at the University of Nebraska.

Senior Recipients:

Cheryl (Nolte) Henry #21	Played 4 seasons: 1971, 72, 73, 74
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Vicki (Ossenkop) Highstreet #11	Played 3 seasons: 1972, 73, 74
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Denise Stange #16	Played 3 seasons: 1972, 73, 74
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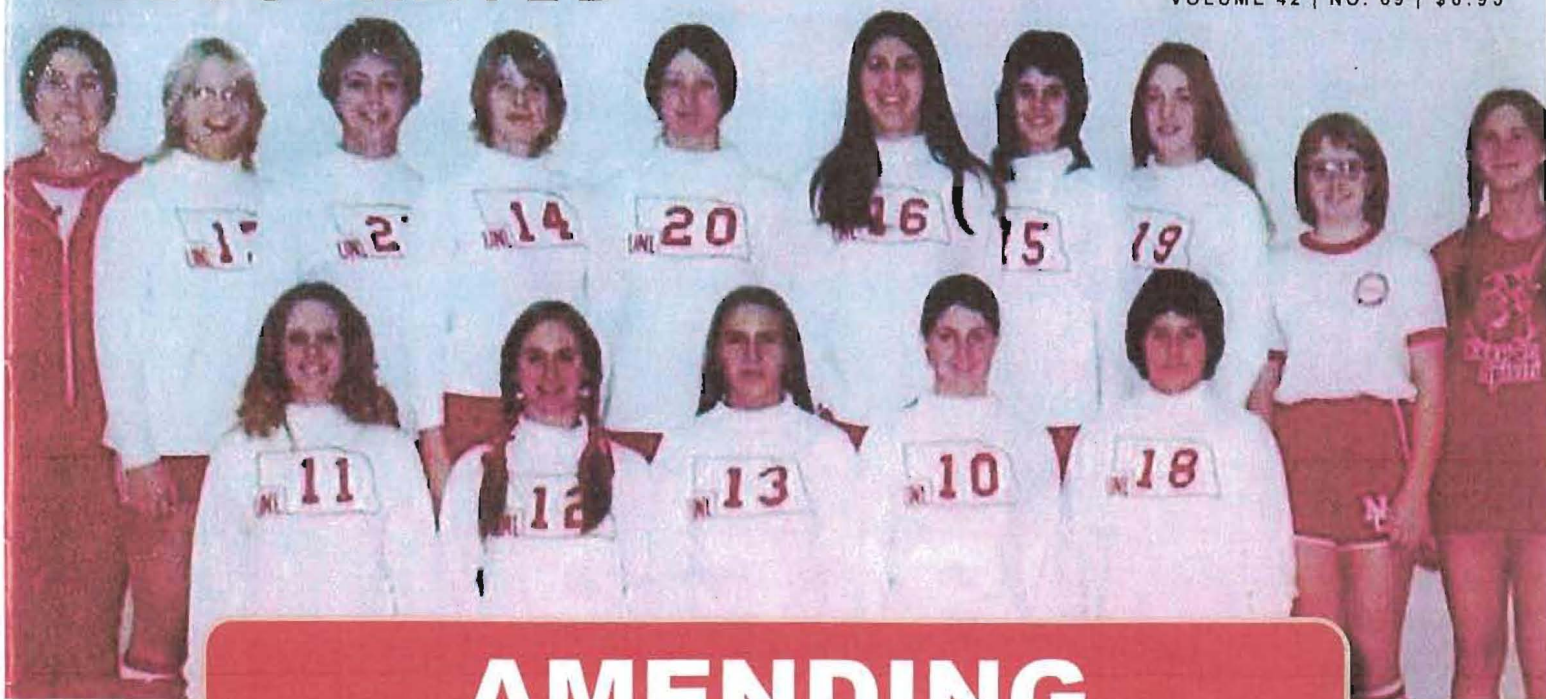
THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

HUSKERS

ILLUSTRATED

FEBRUARY 2023

VOLUME 42 | NO. 09 | \$6.95



AMENDING HUSKER HISTORY

Huskers Illustrated Unearths the NU Volleyball Team Lost in Time



09>



COURTESY PHOTO

The 1974 Husker volleyball team, Nebraska's first that played under the guidance of the athletics department with scholarship players. Front row: Vicki (Ossenkop) Highstreet, Laury (Harmon) Riley, Susie Heiser, Marcia Bartak, Ann Richardson. Back row: Coach Pat Sullivan, Janice Kruger, Cheryl (Nolte) Henry, Eldeana Edeal, Linda (Brown) Dutton, Denise Stange, Jan Zink, Ann Garrett, manager Sandy Stewart, manager Deb Van Fleet.

Rewriting History

The 1974 Volleyball Team Claims Its Spot in Husker Annals

By Lincoln Arneal

The 1974 Nebraska volleyball team exists in the pages of Cheryl (Nolte) Henry's scrapbook – filled with clippings of photos and stories of its exploits.

The team exists in the memories of first-year coach Pat Sullivan, the dozen players and the scant fans who watched them play home matches in Mabel Lee Hall.

The team also exists in a letter sent to Henry on Dec. 13, 1974, apologizing for the delay in her financial aid. It was the first time NU female student-athletes had received scholarships for participating in athletics. Nebraska had run into "snags which caused considerable delay and uncertainty" about the disbursement date.

However, the 1974 team does not exist

in the official record book of Nebraska volleyball. Despite being the first team supervised by the athletics department and awarded athletic scholarships, 1975 is the first season recognized in program history.

That means the wins and losses don't count in Sullivan's career coaching record, and the three seniors on that team – Henry, Vicki (Ossenkop) Highstreet and Denise Stange – are not recognized as letter winners in the media guide or on the wall outside the Nebraska locker room.

"We tell our kids this – we were the first, you know?" Henry said. "Then, we take them to Devaney, and our names aren't there."

The reasons provided by the NU athletics department why the 1974 team

isn't recognized are a lack of records and tradition. In 2000, the athletics department celebrated 25 years of women's sports at Nebraska, commemorating 1975 as the first season. Also, a complete list of results for the first year didn't exist, so adding them to the record book was all but impossible.

"We just kind of fell through the cracks," Highstreet said. "It's like they were trying to catch up, and they really didn't catch up."

According to Nebraska media guides, the first official season of competition for most women's sports happened during the 1975-76 academic year, including volleyball, gymnastics, tennis, softball and swimming and diving – even though all those sports competed the previous year. Women's basketball is the outlier and cites

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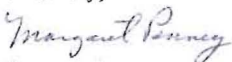
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Margaret Penney
Coordinator of Financial Aid for
Women Athletes

MP:lgm



Cheryl (Nolte) Henry's letter from the NU athletics department apologizing for the delay in her financial aid for the 1974 volleyball season.

a way that people know what's going on," Kruger said. "People know expectations, and people have fun doing what they're doing. She was the best I've ever had. And I had a really good high school coach. Pat took it to another level."

The Reunion

They came from Florida, Oregon, Massachusetts and all corners of Nebraska.

In late October, members from Nebraska's first volleyball teams gathered for a weekend to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the passing of Title IX legislation and the beginning of women's athletics at NU. Sullivan and 14 members

from the early days gathered for a weekend of honoring the past, catching up with friends and enjoying the legacy they helped create.

Initially, the gathering was more limited. When invites were sent out, it was just for members of the 1975 team. However, when Sullivan saw the list, she sent an "extended email" to Nebraska volleyball's director of operations, Lindsay Peterson, making the case to include the seniors of the 1974 team and the manager for both teams, Sandy Stewart.

"I said we have one chance to get this right," Sullivan said. "This kind of a celebration isn't going to happen again

anytime soon, and these people are already old. So make this happen."

Soon invitations went out to the 1974 seniors and a few others left off the initial list. The ceremony would now honor the first two Husker volleyball teams.

Once the weekend arrived, the festivities started on a Friday with the former players visiting a Husker practice session. They shared a few thoughts with the current team and swapped stories.

NU coach John Cook said he received several notes afterward from players back for the reunion about how they appreciated interacting with the team and getting to know them. As fun as it was for the original members to meet the modern iteration of the Huskers, he thought the student-athletes also gained a new perspective from hearing about the early days of the volleyball program.

"I thought it was really great for our players to hear their stories because we talk about having an attitude of gratitude for everything they get now because they get a lot and more than any time in college sports for women," he said. "We tell them the greater the rewards, the greater the responsibility. We're trying to instill that in them. So it was good for them to hear that."

That evening, the reunion included a banquet at Devaney Center where Cook talked to the group, and they shared memories from their playing days and caught up on each other's lives. They also toured the Husker locker room, training facilities and medical treatment room – a far cry from what they used in Mabel Lee Hall.

Even though they stayed connected a bit over the years through phone calls, emails and Facebook, Kruger said it was a different energy when everyone was in the same room.

"That was a wonderful, wonderful, wonderful treat to be able to connect there," Kruger said almost three months later. "It's almost like it was just yesterday. It's a strong connection. It was just special times with special people. When you're that young and you're going through so many changes and growth, those things are significant in your life."

On Saturday, they gathered at Susie Heiser's family tailgate before being introduced as a group at Memorial Stadium during the Nebraska-Illinois football game.

That evening at the volleyball match against Maryland, 15 members of the 1974 and 1975 teams were honored after the second set, each individually introduced. The crowd never sat down, giving them a standing ovation the entire time they were on the court.

"That gave us all goose bumps," Stewart said. "Having our picture up on the big screen at the Devaney Center and being introduced individually, we were getting the applause that we never got. That was really special."

The current edition of the Huskers honored the original teams by wearing special jerseys that mimicked the look of the first team – a red outline of the state with the number inside and a red Iron N under the panhandle.

Despite her early protests about the invite list, Sullivan said the weekend couldn't have gone much better.

"I wish we had a little bit more time just to connect, but I'm really pleased with the way the university handled their part to honor those people," she said. "It was really about them and their contributions to the early days of Nebraska athletics."

The Season

During the summer of 1974, the athletics department underwent transformative change. To comply with Title IX legislation passed two years earlier, sports began to migrate to the jurisdiction of the athletics department, and scholarships were offered for the first time. No longer would Sullivan report to the PE department. Her new boss would be Bob Devaney, the athletic director and recently retired football coach.

The change increased the women's athletics budget from \$15,000 to \$60,000, with half allocated for full-tuition waivers. According to an article in the Daily Nebraskan, 39 women received scholarships across seven sports: volleyball, women's basketball, gymnastics, softball, swimming and diving, tennis and field hockey. (Track and field competed in its first season in the spring of 1975, while field hockey was dropped after the 1976 season.)

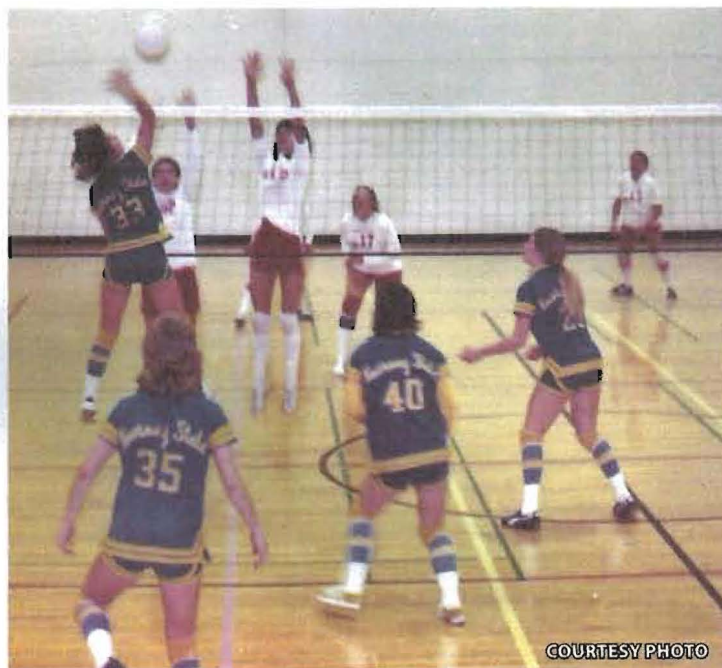
The budget also paid for food, lodging, equipment, officials and transportation. It also included funds for a search to hire an assistant athletic director just for women's athletics, which led to 25-year-old Aleen Swofford's hiring in the summer of 1975. It was a whole new world for the players, who often had to pay for food and lodging when the programs were part of the PE department.

For the first four who received scholarships – Henry, Stange, Highstreet and Heiser – there wasn't much fanfare. Social media didn't exist to share the news. There were no signing ceremonies. Scholarships weren't life-changing financial windfalls. When Kruger received a scholarship the following year, she learned about it through a casual conversation with Sullivan.

"I don't even know if people knew" who was on scholarship, Kruger said. "It wasn't something we talked about really. It wasn't a real big deal."

It wasn't a smooth process either. Henry didn't receive notification that her scholarship check was ready until Dec. 13 – the Friday before finals and three weeks after the volleyball season had ended. (In a twist, the woman in the bursar's office who sent the scholarship letter was Penney, the former PE era coach.)

While there could have been some division between



The Husker volleyball team plays Kearney State College at Mable Lee Hall in 1974.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-OMAHA

at

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

Wednesday, October 16, 1974

UN-L Roster

NAME	NUMBER	HOMETOWN
Marcia Bartak	10	Merna, NE
Linda Brown	14	Winona, MN
Eldeana Edeal	20	Lexington, NE
Nancy Hamilton	22 (red)	Lincoln, NE
Susie Heiser	12	Columbus, NE
Ann Garrett	19	Burchard, NE
Janice Kruger	17	Randolph, NE
Cheryl Nolte	21	Nehawka, NE
Vicki Ossenkop	11	Waverly, NE
Ann Richardson	18	Kearney, NE
Denise Stange	16	Yutan, NE
Paula Walberg	13	Elmwood, NE
Jan Zink	15	Sterling, NE

COACH: Pat Sullivan

MANAGERS: Sandy Stewart
Deb Van Fleet

UN-O Roster

Patty Dennis	45	Mickey Gehringer	23
Conni Holys	33	Joy Leger	55
Pat Linson	31	Judy Melius	15
Mary Jo Miklas	25	Janice Nelson	21
Cindy Rudloff	41	Lindy Rudloff	51

COACH: Connie Claussen

A program from a 1974 match between Nebraska and Nebraska-Omaha shows an NU roster dominated by Nebraskans.



NU COMMUNICATIONS (2)

Pat Sullivan, the first Nebraska volleyball coach, waves to the crowd at the Nebraska-Maryland match in October when the 1974 and 1975 Husker volleyball teams were recognized at the Devaney Center. Each player was introduced after the second set as the approximately 8,000 in attendance gave them a standing ovation.

scholarship players and those not receiving aid, Sullivan ensured it didn't get in the way of any relationships. The low-key nature of awarding the first scholarships was part of her general approach. Sullivan tried to keep what was happening on the court separate from what was happening in the outside world.

On the court, it was smooth sailing for most of the 1974 season. The Huskers went unscathed through the first few weeks, winning their opening nine matches against in-state competition. After dropping a match to Chadron State, NU faced its toughest battles of the year at a tournament in Kansas. NU beat Missouri but split sets against Drake before losing to Kansas and regional power Southwest Missouri State.

The Huskers finished the regular season 14-4-1 before the state tournament. NU suffered its second loss of the year to Nebraska-Omaha but rebounded to make the title match against Kearney State. The Lopers controlled the match and won the title, but with a runner-up finish, the Huskers qualified for the AIAW Region VI tournament. NU went 4-2 in pool play to advance to the top eight. However, it stumbled on the final day and finished in sixth place with another loss to Kansas.

While reminiscing with players during the reunion, Sullivan pulled back the curtain for the first time on what was happening behind the scenes that first season. She was constantly working on getting all she could to support her team. She talked about

how they got kicked out of the UNL Rec Center racquetball courts, even though they had keys to the building. Sometimes, small details get overlooked when you're launching an athletics department — like keeping records. However, whenever she could, Sullivan was there fighting for her players.

Support beyond the court was nonexistent. If a player needed an ankle taped, she better get in line to have a coach do it or learn how to tape it herself. If a player wanted to work out, she could use one universal weight-lifting machine, but she'd have to develop the workouts herself.

The players who had played as part of the PE department team didn't know about the transition until it was almost complete.

"It was unbeknownst to us at that time that (Sullivan) was an employee of the athletics department and fighting new Title IX battles for our team," Stange said. "As oblivious college seniors, we just continued to practice hard and improve as a team just as in the previous years because we loved the sport of volleyball."

The Legacy

The history of Nebraska volleyball begins before 1974.

As alluded to several times above, the sport was played under the supervision of the university's PE department for four years before transitioning to the athletics department and awarding scholarships. The team often played nearby schools and

participated in now-defunct AIAW regional tournaments. During the 1960s, many women's athletic competitions that existed as intramurals began evolving into club and extramural competitions.

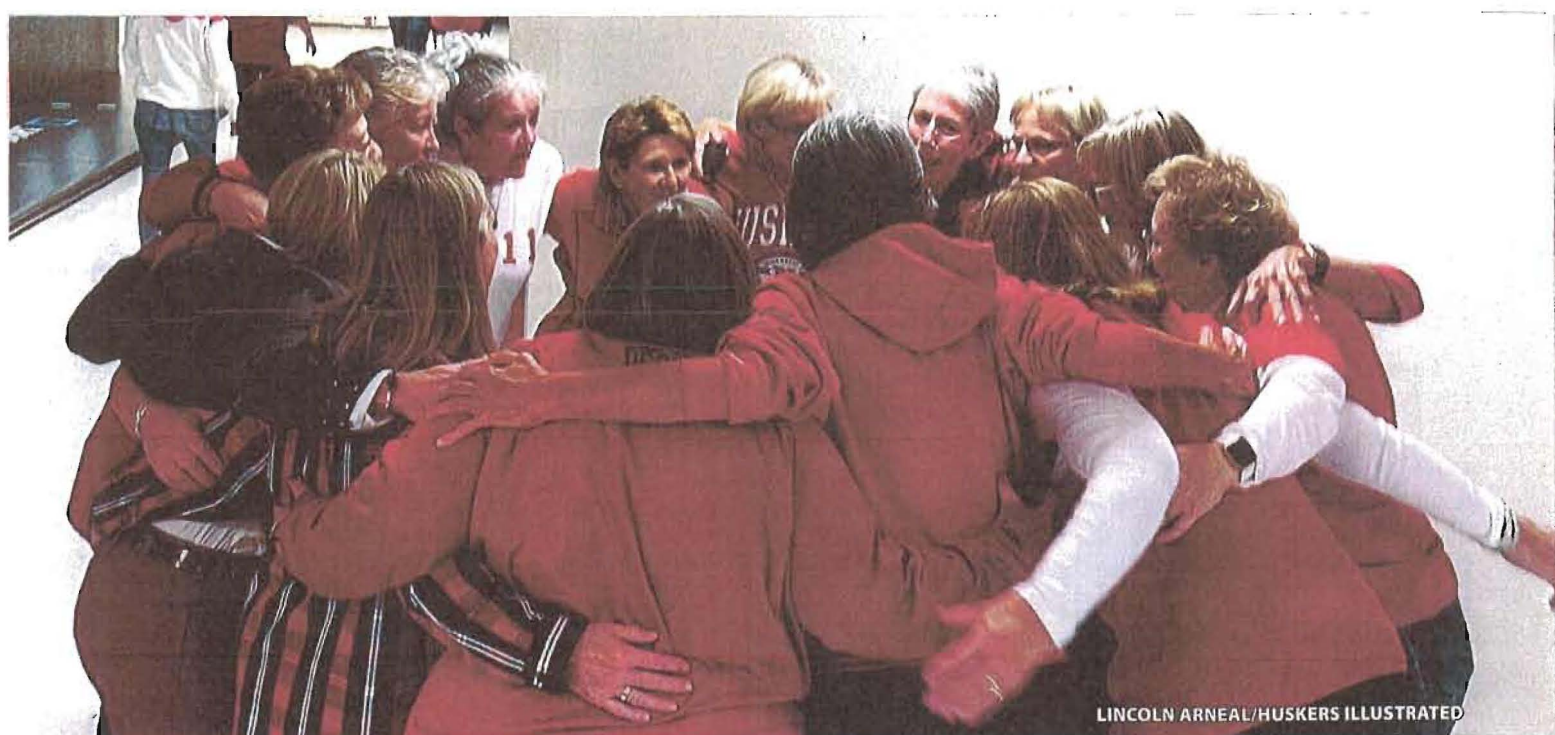
Stange is grateful for the dozens of women who played volleyball as part of the PE department before she arrived on campus. She called those players the true pioneers, playing the sport even before Title IX.

"It wasn't like there was no volleyball at UNL until '74 or '75," she said. "That's why we don't want to step on their toes either. It was just by chance of timing and our age that we were in that first group. It's nothing special we did."

Volleyball also existed on the high school level in Nebraska long before the first NU team took the court. Having a foundation of high school players allowed the Huskers to pack rosters with Nebraska natives and win most matches early on. That early success has allowed Nebraska never to have a losing season in program history.

Sullivan said the high school coaches produced strong, fundamentally sound players. So when she got them in the gym at Nebraska, she wasn't starting from scratch. Then, when she did start recruiting, she stayed local and didn't have to travel far to find high-level players, and it helped that Nebraska kids wanted to go to Nebraska.

"I don't know that I was smart enough to know what I was doing was what needed to happen," Sullivan said. "At the time, we



Members of the 1974 and 1975 Husker volleyball teams huddled just off the court after being honored. "I'm really pleased with the way the university handled their part to honor those people," Sullivan said. "It was really about them and their contributions to the early days of Nebraska athletics."

were going to move fast because pretty quickly, other people were going to catch up. So we needed to lay that groundwork. We needed to hold on to the kids from Nebraska. I needed to get better fast."

Women's athletics would continue to expand at Nebraska. With Swofford's hiring in 1975, one of her first initiatives was to start a women's sports information department – which might explain why records for 1974 teams don't exist. Women's sports employed their own athletic trainers, and Stewart assisted with fall sports. Golf was added for the 1975-76 school year. Scholarships and the budget continued to grow and women could begin lifting weights in Schulte Field House, where the football team worked out.

As time passed, the original Nebraska volleyball team moved on and spread out while continuing to impact the volleyball world all over the country.

Sullivan stepped away after the 1976 season and went into administration as an assistant athletic director. She thought it would be a long-term career move. The following year, she set up the first academic support system for women student-athletes, ran tournaments and provided support for whatever the women's programs needed.

After helping out with a regional club volleyball team, Sullivan realized she still had a passion for coaching. She left Nebraska and headed back East to become the volleyball coach at George Washington. Sullivan led the Colonials for nine seasons,

accumulating a record of 289-140. After retiring from coaching in 1987, she earned her doctorate in higher education from GW in 1989 and was inducted into the school's athletics hall of fame in 1995. She remains the winningest coach in program history.

Sullivan wasn't the only person from that first team who went on to coaching success.

Kruger coached at Nebraska-Omaha and led the Mavs to a trio of third-place finishes in the NCAA Division II tournament and won two AVCA national coach of the year awards. She later worked at Maryland for 20 years and became the all-time winningest coach in the Atlantic Coast Conference with 363 victories.

After short stints as an assistant at Houston and LSU, Stewart coached Iowa from 1982-88, winning 136 games. The Big Ten coach of the year in 1983, she is still the winningest coach in Hawkeye program history.

Many others coached at the high school level or worked as referees. Their passion for the sport shouldn't be a surprise as many early players weren't recruited and chose to play the sport independently. Plus the coaching path was natural since many were physical education majors and were going into teaching.

For now, the 1974 team's legacy isn't found in any record book at Nebraska, but they know they set the program on an early path to success. After Sullivan left, Nebraska hired Terry Pettit, who would eventually win NU's first national

volleyball championship in 1995, just more than two decades after the original Huskers played in front of family and friends with ankles they taped themselves.

Sullivan said she is proud of the groundwork those early teams laid. However, she's also passionate that all the players get credit for their contribution, especially that 1974 team. She regrets not correcting the oversight earlier.

When she returned for the 25-year celebration of women's athletics at NU, Sullivan noted the 1975 team was recognized as the first. Alarm bells went off in her head, but she didn't know how to correct the record.

"I feel like we've got a window here to make something happen," Sullivan said. "Had I not been coaching somewhere else and heavily involved in like a million other things in my career, I would have taken care of that way back in 1977. I would have made that happen then, but that wasn't high on my list. We weren't posting stuff online. There weren't media guides that everybody was looking at. We didn't have that. I just took it for granted.

"I remember when we went back for 25 years, even at that point, they were saying '75 was the first team. I just thought, 'Well, you're wrong.' But what am I going to do about it now? Yeah, I should have jumped on it. I should have, would have, could have, right? But it's not too late."

Consider the record corrected.

From: [Marquita Armstead](#)
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 3:45 PM
To: cheryl_henry@cox.net; olmstead-stange@cox.net; vickihighstreet@gmail.com; amzzespy@yahoo.com
Cc: [Mattie Fowler](#); [John XICook](#); [Lindsay Peterson](#); [Trev Alberts](#)
Subject: 1974 Volleyball Team

Good afternoon Huskers,

First and foremost, we want to thank you for helping build the foundation for one of the most successful women's collegiate athletics programs of all-time. We also extend our gratitude again to everyone for joining us at the Nebraska Volleyball Title IX Reunion celebration last fall.

After much internal discussion and consideration of the historical records of women's athletics at the University of Nebraska, as well as the historical records of letterwinners at the University of Nebraska dating back to 1890, we remain firm in our stance of the 1975-76 academic year being the first year that letters were issued to student-athletes participating in women's intercollegiate athletics at the University of Nebraska. This is not just for volleyball, but for all women's sports at the University of Nebraska, and we will not retroactively change our letterwinner records.

However, because of the historical records you have provided and knowing the impact you had on the beginnings of Nebraska Volleyball before 1975, we would like to honor the players from the 1974 team who were not able to be part of the 1975 team. Each of you will be afforded the following benefits that all University of Nebraska letterwinners receive:

- The ability to receive N Club Cards which permit former players to access the:
 - N Club Lounge in Memorial Stadium during home football games
 - General admission into all regular-season sporting events except football, volleyball and men's basketball (not valid for special events, i.e. NCAA Tournaments or Big Ten Conference Tournaments)
- The ability to purchase a letterwinner plaque
 - Can be purchased through our N Club Director Mattie Fowler Burkhardt at mfowler@huskers.com
- Invitations to N Club events such as the letterwinner tunnel walk, N Club golf outing and volleyball alumni weekends

Additionally, we will be adding a permanent display of the 1974 team photo with roster and results to the public glass display cases on the concourse at the Devaney Center.

We look forward to all future celebrations of Nebraska Volleyball with you!

Best,

<BD157737F30F4CB69773B756C927A08B.png>

Marquita Armstead | Executive
Associate AD/SWA

Nebraska Athletics, [800 Stadium Drive, Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0120](#)

From: Denise Stange <olmsted-stange@cox.net>

Sent: Sunday, April 9, 2023 7:42 PM

To: Marquita Armstead <marmstead@huskers.com>

Cc: Lindsay Peterson <lpeterson@huskers.com>; Trev Alberts <trevalberts@huskers.com>; patsullivanvt@gmail.com; Cheryl Henry <Cheryl_Henry@cox.net>; Vicki (Ossenkop) Highstreet <vickihighstreet@gmail.com>; amzzespy@yahoo.com

Subject: 1974 Volleyball Team

Non-NU Email

Marquita,

This is in response to your email of March 22, 2023, regarding the University's position on the status of the 1974 Volleyball Team. A fellow teammate forwarded it to me as my email address was incorrectly entered. Please note, my correct email address is as follows:

olmsted-stange@cox.net (there is no "a" in olmsted)

While I am very grateful for having been able to attend the Nebraska Volleyball Title IX Reunion celebration in October and for all the University did to make it such a memorable weekend for past players, it is still a fact the 1974 team was not included in the original list of invitees. It was only through the efforts of the coach of that year, Pat Sullivan, and a few other former teammates, that the three seniors of that team, Cheryl Nolte Henry, Vicki Ossenkop Highstreet and I, were included. Coach Sullivan pushed for our inclusion because she was the first Coach of the volleyball program under Title IX that fall of 1974, and could attest to the fact we three were among the recipients of athletic scholarships that season.

It greatly perplexes me why, as stated in your email, that the University remains "firm in our stance" that the 1975-1976 academic year was the first for athletic scholarships and letters to be offered to women athletes in intercollegiate athletics. Your email provides **no explanation** for such a position after "much internal discussion and consideration of the historical records". And yet, you are willing to "honor" us with "N" Cards, the ability to purchase a letter winner plaque and invitations to N Club events. Additionally, you indicated a permanent display of the 1974 team photo with roster and results will be added to a public display case at the Devaney Center. For what reason and with what verbiage if the 1974 is not recognized as part of the past of the University's Volleyball program under Title IX? So which is it – is the 1974 team legitimate and are we official letter winners or are we not? The hypocrisy of the actions of the University on this matter is beyond comprehension. Consider the following:

The entire 1974 volleyball season record has been researched, completed and reported. Lincoln Arneal's research and article for the February 2023 issue of HUSKER ILLUSTRATED leaves no doubt that a varsity collegiate volleyball program was a reality in the fall of 1974. There is not a lack of records for that season.

Coach Pat Sullivan was an employee of the University's Athletic Department in the fall of 1974, reporting to Athletic Director Bob Devaney, and has attested to the fact we were awarded athletic scholarships at that time.

Cheryl Nolte Henry has the original letter from the University stating that 1974 was the first year granting financial aid for women's athletics and that her "check" was available for pickup. I do not believe the University would have given financial aid to a participant in a non-varsity sport.

We have recently learned that the 1974 Volleyball schedule and roster will be included in the media guide and that Pat Sullivan's coaching record will be updated to include that season. How can the 1974 team be recognized on one hand and the recognition of team scholarship and letter recipients denied in other aspects?

Based on the above, what additional information would be required to correct this omission of the 1974 Nebraska Volleyball team as the first in which scholarships and letters were awarded to women athletes in volleyball under Title IX? The lack of any explanation for the rationale behind the University's stance of the 1975-76 academic year being the first that letters were issued to women athletes in intercollegiate sports is more than perplexing. You are offering us senior members of the 1974 team benefits befitting letter winners but not admitting we were letter winners. As someone else has stated, it seems as though you are saying we are letter winners, but you do not want to say it out loud or acknowledge it publicly. It feels somewhat like you are just throwing us a bone to quiet us down and put the matter to rest.

During my nearly seven years of academic studies at the University of Nebraska I was taught to be a critical thinker and question information to a point where it could either be supported with logical thinking and research or be regarded as lacking foundation. Without explanation from the University for their decision, and in the light of the facts presented supporting the validity of the 1974 volleyball team as the first to receive women's athletic scholarships in volleyball under Title IX, I find the University's decision to be lacking in foundation. Please provide the explanation for the University's firm stance on this matter.

I continue to press the University to correct and **accurately** portray the history of the beginning of the volleyball program under Title IX. This would have to include the 1974 volleyball team, with Coach Pat Sullivan, as the first volleyball team awarding scholarships and letters to women athletes under Title IX. In addition, a formal recognition by the University of the letter winners of that 1974 season is in order.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Denise Stange,

1974 Nebraska Volleyball Scholarship Recipient

On Tue, Apr 11, 2023 at 2:28 PM Marquita Armstead <marmstead@huskers.com> wrote:

Denise,

Thank you for your email. I am new to Nebraska and only became involved in this discussion as the current sport administrator of the Volleyball program so listening to all the perspectives has been a history lesson.

In our internal conversations, it was revealed that this subject has been discussed various times over the years, and the Athletic Department has maintained that 1975 was the first official year of intercollegiate athletics for women. During this most recent discussion tenured staff members disclosed that this subject was also discussed with the late Barb Hibner, and she confirmed that the 1974 participants did not earn a varsity letter. Given that others more closely aware of the timeframe were not inclined to change the records does also weigh into this decision.

Our plans as described in my previous email were an attempt to recognize those involved in the early days of our Volleyball program, and to offer similar benefits to the 1974 seniors. Additionally, to clarify, the official media guide will not be updated to include the 1974 schedule/results, and the program all-time record and series records will remain unchanged. We understand that this may be disappointing, but we feel it is an acceptable compromise and will be our final decision on the matter.

Marquita



Marquita Armstead | Executive Associate AD/SWA

W: (402) 472-5964 | marmstead@huskers.com

----- Original message -----

From: Patricia Sullivan <patsullivanvt@gmail.com>

Date: 4/11/23 8:32 PM (GMT-06:00)

To: Marquita Armstead <marmstead@huskers.com>

Cc: Cheryl Henry <cheryl_henry@cox.net>, Denise Stange <olmsted-stange@cox.net>, John Cook <jcook@huskers.com>, Lindsay Peterson <lpeterson@huskers.com>, Trev Alberts

<trevalberts@huskers.com>, amzzespy@yahoo.com, vickihighstreet@gmail.com

Subject: Re: 1974 Volleyball Team

Marquita,

I really wish we could be having this very important conversation face to face. Please let me know if that's ever an option.

The time period 1973-78 was one of real transition at Nebraska. And I appreciate your willingness to understand the history of the program. During that exact time period I served the physical education department (1973-74) as an instructor/women's swim coach. In the summer of 1974, women's athletics very quickly began to change. That summer I was hired, by the athletic department, to continue coaching swimming and to also coach volleyball. I coached volleyball in 74, 75 and 76. After the 76 season I was offered the opportunity to become the first assistant athletic director for the women's programs-a position I held for only one year before moving on to George Washington University. Terry

Petit was hired in the summer of 77 to coach volleyball. Barb Hibner was hired to replace me in the summer of 78.

I was at Nebraska during its early women's athletic transitions. You've indicated that Barb Hibner "confirmed that the 1974 participants did not earn a varsity letter". As stated on the N-Club website regarding the awarding of athletic letters: "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 all integral players. Based on playing time alone, Cheryl Nolte, Vicki Ossenkop, Denise Stange (athletic scholarship recipients) and Ann Garrett were all letter winners.

You've also said that others who were "more closely aware of the timeframe" were not inclined to change the records. I was there during that exact timeframe and very much aware of the accurate status of the '74 team as a varsity sport. The individuals mentioned played in all contests and were integral team members and leaders.

I strongly encourage you to welcome those four individuals into the N-Club by awarding their varsity letters for the volleyball season 1974.

Pat Sullivan
Nebraska Volleyball Coach
1974, 75, 76

THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

HUSKERS

ILLUSTRATED

APRIL 2023

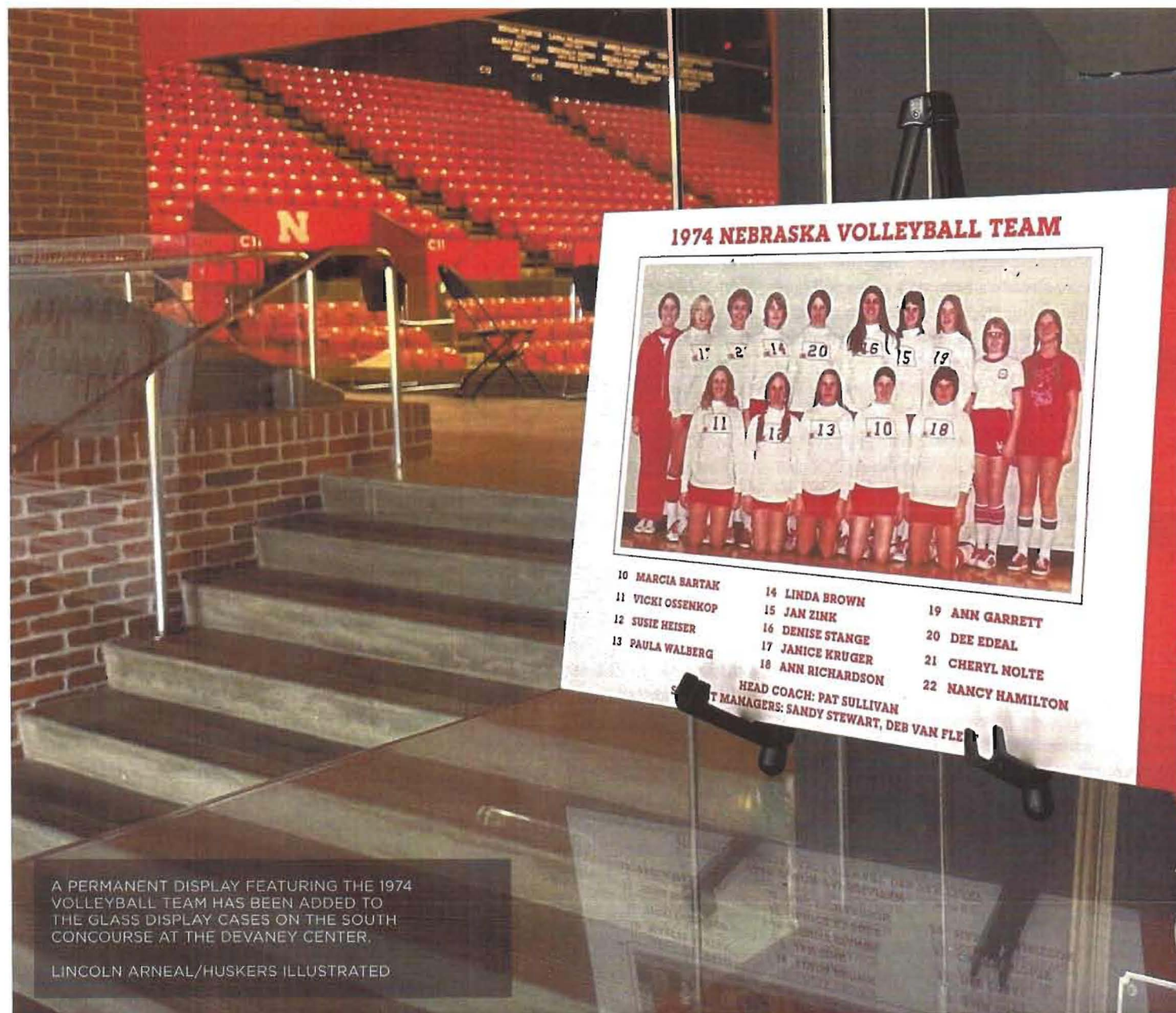
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WINNING TIME

**Matt Rhule Is Raising the Bar for
the Huskers This Spring**

Cheryl Henry
16612 Elm St.
Omaha, NE 68130-1826





A PERMANENT DISPLAY FEATURING THE 1974 VOLLEYBALL TEAM HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE GLASS DISPLAY CASES ON THE SOUTH CONCOURSE AT THE DEVANEY CENTER.

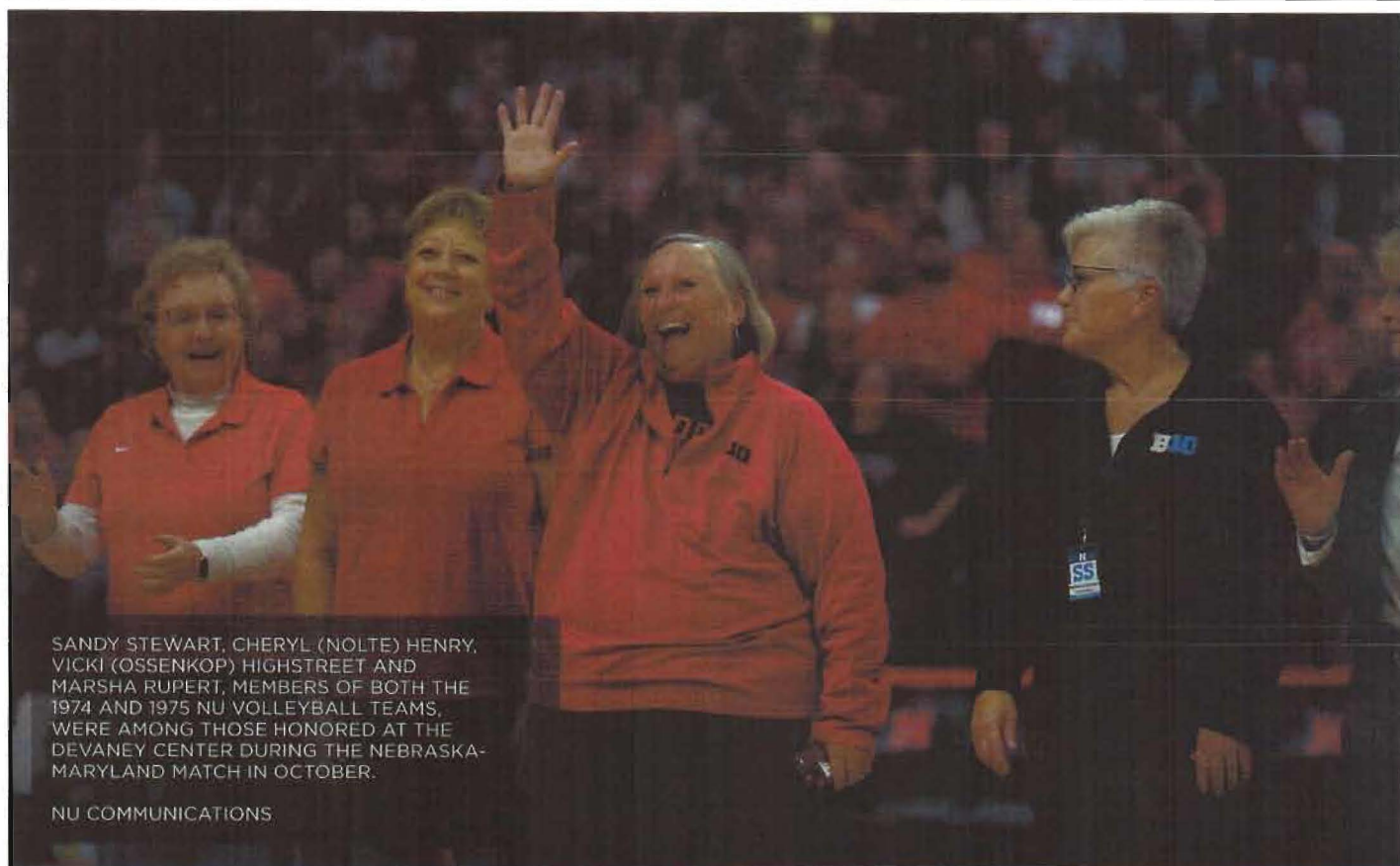
LINCOLN ARNEAL/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

When Letter-Winners Aren't Letter-Winners

Athletic Department Will Honor
1974 Volleyball Team's Impact

By Lincoln Arneal





SANDY STEWART, CHERYL (NOLTE) HENRY, VICKI (OSSENKOP) HIGHSTREET AND MARSHA RUPERT, MEMBERS OF BOTH THE 1974 AND 1975 NU VOLLEYBALL TEAMS, WERE AMONG THOSE HONORED AT THE DEVANEY CENTER DURING THE NEBRASKA-MARYLAND MATCH IN OCTOBER.

NU COMMUNICATIONS

retroactively despite the new information about the 1974 team.

"After much internal discussion and consideration of the historical records of women's athletics at the University of Nebraska, as well as the historical records of letter-winners at the University of Nebraska dating back to 1890, we remain firm in our stance of the 1975-76 academic year being the first year that letters were issued to student-athletes participating in women's intercollegiate athletics at the University of Nebraska," Armstead wrote.

Despite the lack of official recognition, Armstead said the athletic department wanted to honor their impact on the beginning of NU volleyball by offering the former student-athletes the benefits of the N Club, Nebraska Athletics' letter-winner alumni group. They will be allowed into a club area for football games, admission into Olympic sporting events, the ability to purchase a letter-winners plaque and receive invites to other N Club events.

In addition, Nebraska will add a permanent display of the 1974 team photo with roster and results to the public glass display cases on the south concourse at the Devaney Center, which also houses Olympic jerseys from former players and memorabilia from the Huskers' foreign trips.

The athletic department didn't contact any of the seniors on the 1974 team before issuing the email. Armstead declined an interview request to explain the decision, and an NU spokesperson said "the athletic department and volleyball program do not wish to do any interviews on this subject moving forward."

Members of the 1974 team followed up seeking the rationale for the decision to give them the benefits of a letter-winner, but without official recognition.

Armstead responded on April 11, writing the topic has been discussed several times internally over the years and that they would not be changing the current status of recognizing letter-winners for

women's athletics in 1975. She added that the late Barb Hibner, the long-time senior woman administrator who joined the athletic department in 1978, said the 1974 participants were not awarded letter awards.

The athletic department's explanation left some members of the 1974 team perplexed by the decision, even with complete results, historical records showing the oversight of the athletic department of women's sports and proof of awarding of scholarships.

Despite not receiving official recognition, Highstreet is ready for someone else to carry the torch, saying the fight has worn her out. For many years, she worked at the university and led the charge to include that first team in the annals. Highstreet talked to university and athletic department employees behind the scenes trying to gain recognition for the 1974 team.

"It's a legacy thing for us," she said. "We're pretty proud of the fact that we were the first letter-winner class, but nowhere does it say that besides in our heads."

N

1974 Nebraska Volleyball SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent.....	Location	Result	Score	Record
9/25	Peru State	Mabel Lee	W	15-3, 15-7	1-0
9/28	JFK College A.....	Mabel Lee	W	15-9, 10-15, 15-9	2-0
10/2/74	Creighton.....	Mabel Lee	W	15-8, 15-6	3-0
10/2/74	Concordia.....	Mabel Lee	W	15-0, 15-5	4-0
10/5/74	Midland.....	Mabel Lee	W	15-5, 15-8	5-0
10/5/74	JFK College	Mabel Lee	W	15-8, 17-15	6-0
10/9/74	Nebraska Wesleyan	Mabel Lee	W	15-2, 15-8	7-0
10/9/74	Wayne State College	Mabel Lee	W	15-0, 15-7	8-0
10/16/74	Omaha	Mabel Lee	W	15-5, 15-0	9-0
10/19/74	Chadron State	Mabel Lee	L	11-15, 12-15	9-1
10/22/74	NE Nebraska Tech CC.....	Norfolk, NE	W	15-4, 15-6	10-1
10/26/74	Missouri	Lawrence, KS	W	15-11, 15-9	11-1
.....	Drake	Lawrence, KS	T	10-15, 15-9	11-1-1
.....	#8 SW Missouri State	Lawrence, KS	L	10-15, 2-15	11-2-1
.....	Kansas	Lawrence, KS	L	8-15, 5-15	11-3-1
10/29/74	Omaha	Fremont, NE	L	12-15, 15-12, 11-14	11-4-1
.....	Midland.....	Fremont, NE	W	15-9, 15-9	12-4-1
11/1/74	Kearney State	Mabel Lee	W	12-15, 15-11, 15-10	13-4-1
11/4/74	Concordia.....	Seward, NE	W	11-15, 15-9, 15-9	14-4-1
11/8/74	Creighton.....	Wayne, NE.....	W	15-3, 12-15, 15-2	15-4-1
.....	JFK College	Wayne, NE.....	W	15-12, 15-13	16-4-1
11/9/74	Omaha	Wayne, NE.....	L	7-15, 15-7, 10-12	16-5-1
.....	NE Nebraska Tech CC.....	Wayne, NE.....	W	15-10, 15-5	17-5-1
.....	Chadron State	Wayne, NE.....	W	15-9, 15-2	18-5-1
11/10/74	Omaha	Wayne, NE.....	W	15-5, 15-9	19-5-1
.....	Chadron State	Wayne, NE.....	W	15-5, 15-6	20-5-1
.....	Kearney State	Wayne, NE.....	L	4-15, 9-15	20-6-1
11/21/74	Kansas	Mabel Lee	L	13-10, 8-15, 11-15	20-7-1
.....	Mt. Marty (SD)	Mabel Lee	W	15-5, 15-2	21-7-1
.....	North Dakota State	Mabel Lee	W	15-5, 15-5	22-7-1
11/22/74	St. Catherine (MN)	Mabel Lee	W	15-13, 15-6	23-7-1
.....	Graceland (IA)	Mabel Lee	W	15-13, 15-9	24-7-1
.....	SW Missouri State	Mabel Lee	L	10-15, 15-13, 9-15	24-8-1
11/23/74	Augsburg (MN)	Mabel Lee	L	12-15, 5-15	24-9-1
.....	Kansas State.....	Mabel Lee	W	15-1, 12-15, 15-7	25-9-1
.....	Kansas	Mabel Lee	L	10-15, 11-15	25-10-1