



# NEBRASKA VOLLEYBALL

FOUR-TIME NATIONAL CHAMPIONS:  
1995, 2000, 2006, 2015

## Nebraska Volleyball 2017 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time (CT)/Result	TV/Internet
<u>VERT Challenge (Gainesville, Fla.)</u>			
8/25	vs. Oregon	6 p.m.	
8/26	at Florida	5:30 p.m.	

### Ameritas Players Challenge (Lincoln, Neb.)

9/1	Oral Roberts/Saint Mary's/UMBC		TBA
9/1	Oral Roberts/Saint Mary's/UMBC		TBA
9/2	Oral Roberts/Saint Mary's/UMBC		TBA
9/8	UCLA	7 p.m.	
9/9	UCLA	7 p.m.	

### Omaha Showcase (Omaha, Neb.)

9/15	vs. Kansas State	4:30 p.m.	
9/16	vs. Northern Iowa	Noon	
9/16	at Omaha	7:30 p.m.	

### Big Ten Schedule

9/22	at Penn State	TBA	
9/23	at Rutgers	TBA	
9/29	Minnesota	7 p.m.	
9/30	Wisconsin	7 p.m.	
10/4	Michigan State	7 p.m.	
10/7	at Iowa	TBA	
10/11	at Wisconsin	7 p.m.	
10/14	at Purdue	TBA	
10/20	Northwestern	7 p.m.	
10/21	Illinois	7 p.m.	
10/27	at Michigan State	TBA	
10/28	at Michigan	TBA	
11/3	Purdue	7 p.m.	
11/4	Indiana	7 p.m.	
11/8	Maryland	7 p.m.	
11/12	Rutgers	TBA	
11/17	at Ohio State	TBA	
11/18	at Maryland	TBA	
11/22	at Northwestern	TBA	
11/25	Iowa	7 p.m.	

### NCAA Tournament

12/1-2	NCAA First/Second Rounds
12/8-9	NCAA Regionals
12/14	NCAA Semifinals*
12/16	NCAA Final*

**-All dates and times are Central and subject to change.**

\*NCAA Championships played at the Sprint Center in Kansas City, Mo.

^Indicates match will air on AM 590 in Omaha and 107.3 FM in Lincoln. All other matches will be on 105.9 FM in Omaha and 107.3 FM in Lincoln.

-HuskersNSide and BTN Plus streams require a monthly fee to view; BTN2GO requires a cable package that includes Big Ten Network.

**NEBRASKA HUSKERS**  
(2016: 31-3, 18-2 Big Ten)

**COLORADO STATE RAMS**  
(2016: 21-9, 15-3 MWC)



Saturday, April 22 / 3 p.m. / Kearney, Neb. / Kearney High School  
TV: None / Internet: None / Audio: Huskers.com (select HSN affiliates)

### Huskers Host Colorado State in Spring Match

The Nebraska volleyball team will play its lone 2017 spring match against Colorado State at the new Kearney High School on Saturday at 3 p.m. The match will have an audio broadcast on Huskers.com. Select Husker Sports Network affiliates (Lexington and North Platte) will carry the match on the radio. John Baylor and Matt Coatney will call the action. Doors to the match will open at 1:30 p.m. The Huskers will sign autographs for one hour following the match. Approximately 2,000 tickets to the contest sold out in less than 30 minutes.

The trip to Kearney continues Nebraska's tradition of touring the state for spring volleyball matches. The Huskers played Colorado in Ogallala last year and have also made recent visits to Grand Island, Wayne and Norfolk.

The Huskers also will hold an open practice at Kearney High School on Friday from 6-7:30 p.m. A short autograph session will follow.

Nebraska is coming off a Big Ten championship in 2016 and its second straight NCAA Semifinals appearance. The Huskers won their fourth national title in 2015 but fell short of a repeat in 2016 after a 3-0 loss to Texas in the semifinals. The Huskers left everything on the court last year, winning their first Big Ten title since 2011 and placing four student-athletes on the AVCA All-America teams.

Nebraska's spring volleyball roster comprises 12 players after the loss of four seniors to graduation, including three All-Americans. The Huskers indeed will have a significantly new look in 2017 with six new players. Allie Havers, a 6-5 middle blocker who just completed a four-year career on Nebraska's women's basketball team, has already joined the team and has one season of eligibility to play volleyball, a sport she excelled at in high school. Havers and five incoming freshmen make up the group of six newcomers in 2017.

Those six will join a solid group of 11 returners, including All-American setter and captain Kelly Hunter. The 5-11 senior is poised to lead the Huskers after a sensational junior season in which she earned second-team All-America honors and an All-Big Ten selection. Fellow senior Briana Holman, who has also received All-America recognition in her career, will provide leadership for the young Husker squad, as will seniors Annika Albrecht and Sydney Townsend. Junior outside hitter Mikaela Foecke has twice received AVCA All-America honorable mention and has been working toward becoming a six-rotation player for the Huskers.

In addition to new faces on the court next season, head coach John Cook will rely on new faces on the bench. Tyler Hildebrand and Kayla Banwarth enter their first seasons as assistant coaches on the Husker staff, filling the positions previously held by Chris Tamas (new Illinois head coach) and Dani Busboom Kelly (new Louisville head coach).

### Scouting Colorado State

- Colorado State went 21-9 last year with a 15-3 record in the Mountain West Conference, which was good for second in the MWC standings. The Rams qualified for the NCAA Tournament but fell in the first round to Kentucky, 3-1.
- The Rams placed five student-athletes on the All-MWC team last season, and all five will return in 2017. Leading the way is two-time honoree Alexandra Poletto at middle blocker. She averaged 2.48 kills and 1.27 blocks per set in 2016 while hitting .340.
- Kirstie Hillyer was an All-MWC selection and was the league's newcomer of the year. As a redshirt freshman last year, Hillyer posted 2.58 kills and 1.65 blocks per set in conference matches while hitting .339.
- All-MWC outside hitter Sanja Ćizmić led the team with 3.02 kills per set last year. All-conference setter Katie Oleksak averaged 11.26 assists per set.

### Series History

- Nebraska is 6-2 all-time against Colorado State with the last meeting in 2011, a 3-2 Colorado State win in Fort Collins.

### Coaches

- Nebraska head coach John Cook is entering his 18th season at Nebraska and 25th overall season as a head coach. Cook is 499-65 at NU and 660-138 overall.
- Tom Hilbert is entering his 21st season as head coach at Colorado State. He has a 509-122 record at CSU and is 683-194 overall in 28 years as a Division I head coach.

**Quick Facts****General Information**

Name of School	University of Nebraska
City, Zip	Lincoln, NE 68588
Founded	1869
Enrollment	25,897
Nickname	Cornhuskers, Huskers
School Colors	Scarlet and Cream
Affiliation	NCAA Division I
Conference	Big Ten
President	Dr. Hank M. Bounds
Chancellor	Ronnie Green
Director of Athletics	Shawn Eichorst
Facility (Capacity)	Bob Devaney Sports Center (7,907)
Athletic Department Phone	402-472-4224
Ticket Office Phone	(800-8-BIG-RED)

**Nebraska Volleyball History**

First Year of Volleyball	1975
Overall All-Time Record	1,276-234-12 (.842)
Conference All-Time Record	557-51 (.916)
NCAA Tournament Years	35 straight
NCAA Tournament Record	102-31
NCAA Semifinal Appearances	13 (Last, 2016)
NCAA Final Appearances	7 (Last, 2015)
National Championships	4 (2015, 2006, 2000, 1995)
Conference Titles	33 (Last, 2016)

**Team Information**

2016 Overall Record	31-3
2016 Big Ten Record, Finish	18-2, 1st
2016 NCAA Tournament	NCAA Semifinal (L, Texas 3-0)
Final AVCA Ranking	4th
AVCA All-Americans Returning/Lost	1/3
Starters Returning/Lost	4/2+ Libero
Letterwinners Returning/Lost	9/4
Redshirts Returning	2
Newcomers	6

**2017 Nebraska Volleyball Spring Roster (\*eligibility in 2017)**

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.*	Hometown (Previous School)
2	Mikaela Foecke	OH	6-3	Jr.	West Point, Iowa (Holy Trinity Catholic)
3	Kelly Hunter	S	5-11	Sr.	Papillion, Neb. (Papillion-La Vista South)
7	Sydney Townsend	DS/L	5-8	Sr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Pius X)
8	Brooke Smith	DS/L	5-10	Jr.	Weatherford, Texas (Azle)
9	Allie Havers	MB	6-5	Sr.	Mattawan, Mich. (Mattawan)
10	Hunter Atherton	S	5-11	RFr.	Prospect, Ohio (Dublin Coffman)
11	Kenzie Maloney	DS/L	5-8	Jr.	Louisville, Ky. (Assumption)
13	Briana Holman	MB	6-1	Sr.	DeSoto, Texas (LSU/Cedar Hill)
17	Annika Albrecht	OH	6-0	Sr.	North Aurora, Ill. (Home Schooled)
22	Tiani Reeves	OH	6-1	So.	Gothenburg, Neb. (Gothenburg)
26	Lauren Stivrins	MB	6-4	RFr.	Scottsdale, Ariz. (Chaparral)
27	Olivia Boender	OH	6-2	Jr.	Waverly, Neb. (Waverly)

**Coaching Staff**

Head Coach: John Cook (18th year; San Diego, 1979)  
 Assistant Coach: Kayla Banwarth (1st year; Nebraska, 2012)  
 Assistant Coach: Tyler Hildebrand (1st year; Long Beach State, 2006)  
 Volunteer Assistant: Ryan Coomes (1st year; Nebraska, 2015)  
 Director of Operations: Lindsay Peterson (12th year; Nebraska, 2003)  
 Video Coordinator: Kelly O'Connor (1st year; Dickinson State, 2015)  
 Graduate Managers: Cole Aiazzi, Joe Klein

**2017 Colorado State Volleyball Spring Roster (\*eligibility in 2017)**

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.*	Hometown (Previous School)
3	Olivia Nicholson	OH	6-0	So.	North Platte, Neb. (North Platte)
4	McKenna Thornlow	DS	5-9	Sr.	Colorado Springs, Colo. (North Texas)
6	Jasmine Hanna	OH	6-1	Sr.	Queen Creek, Ariz. (Queen Creek)
8	Amanda Young	DS	5-8	So.	Gretna, Neb. (Gretna)
9	Paulina Hougaard-Jensen	MB	6-1	So.	Copenhagen, Denmark (Falkonergaardens Gymnasium & HF)
10	Sanja Čizmić	OH	6-1	Sr.	Split, Croatia (IV. Gimnazija Marko Marulić)
13	Kirstie Hillyer	MB/Opp	6-6	So.	Bayfield, Colo. (Bayfield)
14	Alexandra Poletto	MB	6-3	Sr.	Toronto, Ontario (De La Salle)
15	Breana Runnels	OH	5-10	RFr.	Bakersfield, Calif. (Independence)
17	Mariah Green	DS	5-4	Jr.	Fort Collins, Colo. (Heritage Christian)
21	Jessica Jackson	OH/MB	5-11	So.	Denver, Colo. (Thomas Jefferson)
22	Katie Oleksak	S	5-10	So.	Phoenix, Ariz. (Sunnyslope)

**Coaching Staff**

Head Coach: Tom Hilbert (21st year; Oklahoma, 1984)  
 Assistant Coach: Luke Murray (4th year; Penn State, 2008)  
 Assistant Coach: Emily Hiza (2nd year; Iowa, 2009)  
 Director of Operations: Bri Olmstead

**2017 Nebraska Volleyball Photo Roster**

#2 Mikaela Foecke



#3 Kelly Hunter



#7 Sydney Townsend



#8 Brooke Smith



#9 Allie Havers



#10 Hunter Atherton



#11 Kenzie Maloney



#13 Briana Holman



#17 Annika Albrecht



#22 Tiani Reeves



#26 Lauren Stivrins



#27 Olivia Boender