

Reeves says 'Yes' to Huskers

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

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As lifeguard Tiani Reeves worked at the city pool Tuesday, the fact that she committed to play volleyball for the Nebraska Huskers seemed a bit unbelievable.

"It's been such a roller coaster," said the 6-foot-1 Gothenburg High School senior. "I've always thought how cool it would be to be one of them and now I am."

Reeves, who's also been recruited for college track and other volleyball programs, called Husker coach John Cook Monday night to tell him she wanted to be part of the team.

She said the plan is to walk on and redshirt the first year and have four years of eligibility left. Reeves will receive a scholarship her last two years.

A first-team super-state middle and outside hitter, Reeves has played volleyball for the Swedes and the Nebraska ONE 17-and-under club team.

While playing club ball in Omaha last February, she said Cook came to watch her.

"I was warming up to play and saw him," Reeves said. "I didn't try anymore than usual because I had to play within myself and do the things I was already doing."

She later was invited to tour the Husker volleyball facility.

Because she started playing club ball later than most recruits, Reeves said she has some

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catching up to do, especially since she'll be training with top players from around the country.

"I feel I'm in over my head a bit but I have potential and the coaches are going to have to suck that potential into game readiness," she explained.

Reeves said she'll also have to be patient and spend many hours in the gym.

"There will probably be tears and it will pay off in the end," she said.

The track standout said making the decision whether to play volleyball or compete in track on the college level was a difficult one.

A gold medal winner all three of her high school years, Reeves won both the Class B long jump and triple jump this year and finished second in the 200-meter dash.

"But I've been doing track forever and volleyball is a new adventure," she said. "I like being around a lot of people and having teammates to feed off of.

"Track is more of an individual sport."

She added that her father and Swede track coach Steve Reeves was supportive of her decision.

Reeves described herself as a track girl and said that volleyball, for a long time, was never in the forefront of her mind.

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Still, the sport intrigued her especially when she watched her first Husker volleyball game while in junior high.

"I texted Jimmy Clark (an assistant Swede volleyball coach) and told him 'I can do this,' " Reeves said. "I can jump that high."

Now Reeves has the chance to be on the court in the Devaney Center, surrounded by 8,000 screaming fans.

"It can't get any more exciting than that."

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