

Coach finds challenge in building program from scratch

By Trevor Parks
Staff Reporter

Things have been very hectic recently for Nebraska women's soccer coach John Walker.

Walker has been busy working on everything from organizing a practice schedule and ordering equipment to trying to find the right furniture for his office.

But he doesn't mind being so busy one bit.

Walker who has the monumental task of starting the Cornhusker women's soccer program from scratch said

he has been busy getting things ready for this season.

"There are some good things about starting a program," Walker said. "I can build things as I think they should be built ... there's no history good or bad, so it is a real positive challenge."

Walker will get a chance to create his own history when the Huskers begin training camp in preparation for their season opener against in-state rival Creighton on Sept. 6.

For the past seven years, Walker was the head coach of the men's soccer team at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. In 1993 he was

named national coach of the year. Walker left his job at Queen's in April to take the chance at coaching and creating Nebraska's 22nd NCAA-sanctioned sport.

Recruiting players to help start the soccer program get on its feet was a little easier than Walker thought.

"You can look at a new program in two ways," Walker said. "A negative way would be it might take a few years to build and that could be tough. In a positive way a player might say, 'here's an opportunity to start a program at a school with a strong athletic tradition.'"

Walker said he tried to recruit players from within the state — the Cornhuskers' first recruit was Brenda Siczkowski of Omaha Duchesne — and from out of the state, as well as players from his former home country, Canada, to create a good mixture.

As for starting a program at this time, now was a great time, Walker said, since American interest in the sport has increased because of the World Cup.

"There should be some carry over from the World Cup," he said. "You couldn't start a program at a better time."



Walker

NU signs recruits despite departures

By Mitch Sherman
Staff Reporter

When John Sanders and the Nebraska baseball team report to practice next January, there will be more new faces than usual in camp.

In fact, Sanders will be the only returning member of the Cornhusker coaching staff.

Assistant coaches Paul Meyers and Tim Seaton unexpectedly resigned earlier this month, leaving Sanders in a rush to find two new assistants.

Meyers, who had been with the Nebraska program for nine years, served as the Husker recruiting coordinator and hitting instructor.

He was an All-American outfield-

er while playing under Sanders in 1986, before being drafted in the fourth round by the Los Angeles Dodgers.

"First of all, Paul is a good friend and an outstanding coach," Sanders said. "Paul is somebody who we are going to miss. He's a real true Husker."

Sanders, who has coached Nebraska for 17 seasons, said he would try to turn the changes into a positive experience for the team.

Seaton, who played shortstop, third base and second base for the Huskers in 1991-92, had been with the program since the fall of 1992.

"It's obviously a little letdown to lose both of the coaches, but I am confident we can find two capable coaches to fill the positions," Sanders

said. Sanders said he had set an Aug. 3 deadline for candidates to contact him about the coaching vacancies.

"So far, there has been a lot of interest shown," Sanders said.

Meyers and Seaton, who are both from Omaha, have remained on the Husker staff throughout the summer in order to help Sanders with recruiting.

Sanders said Seaton would leave on Aug. 1, and Meyers would stay in Lincoln until Aug. 15.

Even as the two assistant coaches' tenures at Nebraska were winding down, they have helped to create a legacy for the future.

The Huskers have added 14 new players to a team which finished the 1994 season at 32-28.

Among the list of new Huskers are four native Nebraskans and six junior-college transfers. Five of the 14 recruits were drafted in the major league amateur draft in June.

Sanders said he was pleased with the quality of the recruits signed this summer.

"We feel it's a good class," he said. "It should be nationally ranked, just like our last two."

Nebraska's recruiting class was ranked 19th by Collegiate Baseball in 1991 and 21st last year.

Four of the Huskers' recruits come from Riverside (Calif.) Community College. Current Huskers David Crain and Scott Wulfing also attended Riverside.

"It's a positive group of young men," Sanders said. "Potentially, there's a lot there."

1995 NEBRASKA BASEBALL RECRUITS

PLAYER	POSITION	SCHOOL
Sergio Betancourt	RHP	Riverside (Calif.) CC
James "Gus" Castro	RHP	Riverside (Calif.) CC
Steve Cook	RHP	Blair High
Clifton Durham	SS	St. Louis Parkway North High
Jason Fry	RHP/OF	Grand Island High
Justin Gomes	RHP	Riverside (Calif.) CC
Eugene Jenkins	OF	Triton (Ill.) CC
Matt Meyer	OF	Yakima Valley (Wash.) CC
Mel Motley	OF	Riverside (Calif.) CC
Scott Schultz	RHP	Elkhorn High
Cole Schramm	SS	Omaha Northwest High
Todd Sears	1B	Ankeny (Iowa) High
Dan Vardijan	RHP	Glenview (Ill.) South High
Brian Zubor	LHP	Fenwick (Ill.) High

Amy Schmidt / DN

Husker Muhammad considers redshirting

By Derek Samson
Staff Reporter

Some expected players will be missing from the Husker sidelines this year, one of which could be starting wingback Abdul Muhammad.

Muhammad, a senior this fall, would not comment any further than to say he was considering redshirting this year.

Coach Tom Osborne said he had not yet talked to Muhammad about the decision.

"I know he's been talking about it and right now we just need to sit down and talk to him about it," Osborne said. "It is something that may not be decided until the first game. We're trying to look at what the best situation is for the team. With Abdul being a

returning starter, redshirting him before his senior year would be unusual."

Muhammad was the Huskers' leading receiver in 1993 with 25 catches for 383 yards, but suffered a lacerated liver and cracked ribs in the Orange Bowl.

Four other Huskers — Joel Gesky, Shane Wells, Jon Pedersen and T.J. Scribner — will not return this fall.

Gesky, a senior offensive tackle, was recovering from a shoulder injury and called it quits after graduating.

Pedersen, a senior center from Grand Island, and sophomore tight end Scribner also were hampered by injuries which led them to not return.

Wells, a sophomore kicker from Odessa, Texas, is leaving Nebraska

and plans to play at another NCAA Division I school.

"Each one was a different situation," Osborne said. "Joel Gesky had trouble with that shoulder injury and when he graduated he decided it was time to move on. Scribner and Pedersen had trouble with injuries, and with Shane Wells it was a parting of ways. He just decided he needed to go to another school."

Osborne said it was too early to say if any of the four would have seen much playing time.

"The amount of action they would have seen is hard to say," he said. "I don't know how much they would have recovered from their injuries. The one thing that would've kept them from seeing playing time would have been the injuries."

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