

Huskers fall to Creighton in OT

By Todd Walkenhorst

Staff Reporter

OMAHA — In Nebraska's inaugural season of women's soccer, there has been only one team that has been able to stop the Cornhuskers.

The No. 20 Creighton Bluejays. The 4-2 Huskers fell to the Bluejays 1-0 in overtime before a crowd of 337 at Tranquility Park. The only score of the game came 7:37 in the first overtime period by senior midfielder Melissa Estrada.

Creighton coach Cathy Klein said that the Huskers have definitely improved since the two teams' last meeting.

"They've improved tons," Klein said. "I think they are even more prepared now."

Klein said that Tuesday's match was pretty even.

"I think the score is an indication of how much better they have gotten," she said.

Husker coach John Walker said that one might think losing 1-0 in overtime would not be too disappointing for a first-year team, but that's not how he saw the loss.

"We're here on that day to play that team," he said, "and whoever plays better is going to win."

Walker said that poor coverage resulted in the game-winning goal.

"We made a mistake, and we got badly punished for it," Walker said, "and rightly so, it was a bad mistake."

Klein said that her team was prepared for a very physical game with Nebraska.

"We've been preparing for three days for a physical match," she said. "We've been calling it a war."

"It was a reality check for us. We've got to be able to compete, and this is the first time we've been asked to do this."

Since this was a rematch, the Huskers were not able to surprise the Bluejays like they did in their first meeting.

"There were no surprises at all," said Klein. "Their intensity was great."

Even though it was a loss, the match could help the Huskers down the road,



Gerik Parmele/DN

Creighton midfielder Melissa Estrada and Nebraska midfielder Tanya Franck battle for the ball in the Bluejays' 1-0 overtime victory. Estrada scored the game-winning goal.

Walker said.

"It's good to play a top 20 team," he said. "It was a tough game."

Klein said that people think first-year programs can not compete with

national powers, but they are wrong.

"They [Nebraska] could play Ohio State; they could play George Washington; they could play Virginia and really, really give them a tough time."

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Osborne

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football team. I don't think we want to stay the same, because everyone else that we're playing is getting better, so you better be getting better, too."

NOTE:

Osborne said Barron Miles still was ques-

tionable after injuring his knee against Pacific last week.

However, Miles' ribs are giving the defensive back more trouble than his knee is, Osborne said.

Tight end Eric Alford will miss Saturday's game because of disciplinary problems, Osborne said.

Alford has four receptions this season, three for touchdowns.

Berringer

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the Huskers' passing game.

"We're going to try to improve our passing efficiency," he said. "We've been trying to do that all season. The more we improve it, the more we're going to throw the ball. I think the coaches would like to see us throw the ball a few more times."

Husker coach Tom Osborne said he didn't expect Nebraska to drop off just because Berringer was starting.

"We have full confidence in Brook," Osborne said. "Brook is a very good player, and he's been in our system long enough that he knows what he's doing. I have full confidence that Brook can go out and play well. He has a good supporting cast."

The 6-foot-4, 210-pound junior from

Goodland, Kan., said he already sensed that support from his teammates.

"I really felt like everybody was behind me yesterday when we found out," Berringer said. "Everybody was really positive, and I feel like the team is behind me. That adds all the confidence in the world."

Part of his teammates' confidence in his ability may stem back to last week's 70-21 win over Pacific, when Berringer completed eight of 15 passes for 120 yards and three touchdowns.

Berringer said the extensive playing time against the Tigers would benefit him this week against the Cowboys.

"That will help me quite a bit, because the game experience is valuable," he said. "The more experience and reps in a game that a guy can get, it will help. I think coming off Saturday's game will help."

Frazier

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Press-Gazette, McIntyre is taking his blood-thinning medicine for three months, but the 11th-year pro doesn't mind considering the seriousness of his injury.

"When it comes down to it, especially with a life-threatening thing like this, you have to be thankful it didn't push on into something worse," McIntyre told the Press-Gazette on Sept. 16.

But Osborne stopped short of comparing Frazier's recovery time to similar situations,

because every case was different.

"I heard on TV last night that some guy from Green Bay was out for six weeks with a blood clot," Osborne said. "But then I know they (Frazier's doctors) have had some conversations with some (physicians) in the NFL who have had players with blood clots that have been on blood thinners Monday through Wednesday."

"Then they take them off Thursday, Friday and Saturday and play them Sunday. We're not going to do anything that is not recommended medically. I'm not even speculating at this point what course of action will be taken."



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