

Soccer team wraps up eye-opening 1st season

By Todd Walkenhorst
Staff Reporter

John Walker didn't know in August what the season had in store for his Cornhusker soccer team.

But three months later, Walker is pleased with his team's 14-4 mark. After losing its first game, the Nebraska soccer team won 14 of its last 17 games.



Walker

"I wasn't sure what to expect," Walker said, "I didn't set any goals for wins and losses for the team."

Walker said he was more concerned with trying to find out whether his new program could play at the Division I level, and it did not take long for him to find out.

"The very first game against Creighton, 15 minutes into the game," Walker said, "I knew we could play."

The Bluejays were ranked in the top 20 at the time of the contest, which the Huskers lost 3-1. The team, though, was not disappointed, considering it went into the game with nothing to lose.

"Going into the game," Walker said, "we had no idea at all what was going to happen, but we found out that we could play at the Division I level."

Walker found out that the Huskers could not only play at the Division I level but also could win at that level.

Walker said that after the Creighton game, the attitude of his

team changed, and the players expected to win.

"It was funny in three weeks' time, our expectations changed," he said. "After our loss to Stanford, we had girls coming off the field in tears."

With hope, Nebraska's successful first season will lead to better recruiting at the national level, Walker said.

"We now have some credibility regionally and national," Walker said. "Now we can go after players that major teams want. Our goal is to build to a nationally competitive level."

Because of this year's strong performance, Walker is expecting much more next season, even though the team will face a more competitive schedule.

"Next year we have three teams that were in the final eight of the NCAA tournament this year," Walker said. "We have higher expectations next year, and one of our goals is to make the NCAA tournament."

The Huskers had no juniors or seniors this year, so this team could come back intact for the next two seasons.

"We have the same players," Walker said. "It was a team with diverse contributions all the way down the roster."

Also next season, the Huskers will begin play at the new Ethel S. Abbott soccer complex. Nebraska was scheduled to use the facility this season but played just one game there because of drainage problems with the main field.

"They completely dug up and reseeded the field," Walker said. "They also started building our 3,100-square-foot soccer facility. It will definitely be ready for next season."

Soaked Huskers' play ends early

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska football team ended practice 10 minutes early Thursday due to an unseasonable thunderstorm.

The Cornhuskers concluded practice in rain, heavy wind and lightning on the grass fields just north of Memorial Stadium.

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said practice had ended in the rain before, but never this late in the season.

"I don't remember ever in November having a thunderstorm with lightning," Osborne said. "This is more like September, October."

Only linebacker Doug Colman was held out of practice. Colman is still recovering from a sprained ankle suffered against Iowa State.

Osborne said the only part of practice the Huskers missed due to the weather was kickoffs.

PICKS HICKS

Daily Nebraskan staffers (9-1 last week, 75-25 season) pick the winners of the ten major college football games this weekend, with winners in bold:

- Iowa State at Colorado
- Kansas at Missouri
- Oklahoma State at Kansas State
- Florida State at N.C.State
- Oregon at Oregon State
- Virginia at Virginia Tech
- Michigan at Ohio State
- Boston College at West Virginia
- Brigham Young at Utah

Pick the Auburn 23 vs. Alabama 24 (at Birmingham) score-

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00s For Sale

5 Bicycles For Sale

2 Cannondale road bikes, '92, 60 cm look Pedals, \$300, '90 54cm look Pedals, \$200, 477-4266/BB.

New and used bicycles, expert repair on all brands. Wheel'n & Deal'n Bike Shop, 2706 Randolph, 438-1477.

10 Books For Sale

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16 Computers For Sale

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20 Furniture For Sale

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65 Stereos TVs For Sale

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40 Misc. For Sale

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