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Sooner volleyball coach says Nebraska team is best ever

By Mitch Sherman Senior Editor

Oklahoma volleyball coach Miles Pabst has been watching Nebraska play for 18 years.

In that time, the Cornhuskers have won 83 percent of their matches and all but one Big Eight title. Nebraska has made three trips to the Final Four and two appearances in the NCAA championship match.

But Pabst said he had never seen a team like the 1995 Huskers.

"This is the best team Nebraska has ever had since I have been coaching in this conference," Pabst said Saturday night after the Huskers beat the Sooners '15-9, 15-2, 15-2, "By far. Not close, by far the best team they have ever had. Not only do they have a great player at every position, they have great leadership in Christy Johnson, and they have great depth." Nebraska coach Terry Pettit said he didn't think along those lines.

"I don't think you can say that about a team until the end of the season," Pettit said. "We had teams in 1986 and 1989 that finished second in the country. This team hasn't done that yet. I think this team has a lot of potential to get a lot better."

Pabst said the Sooners, who are 11-5 with losses to three of the top 10 teams in the nation, were nowhere near being ready to play Saturday night.

"I think they were scared," he said. "Look in their eyes. In that first game, I called timeout and I looked in their faces. It was like they were on drugs. They were scared, and they knew it. We did not want to go out there and compete against these guys."

To beat the No. 1 Huskers, Pabst said Oklahoma would have to play a perfect match. He said the Sooners' hitting percentage of -.009 Saturday night was the only time he could remember his team ever finishing a match with a negative hitting percentage.

"At this point in time," he said, "they just don't believe they can play with Nebraska. That makes a major, major difference. Nebraska is very, very old, very skilled, very big, very strong. We have got to get to the point where we believe we can play with these guys."

Earlier this season, No. 2 Florida defeated Oklahoma 15-7, 15-13, 15-4, and No. 8 Notre Dame defeated the Sooners 15-5, 15-8, 15-9. Nebraska plays both Florida and Notre Dame at the NU Coliseum in November.

"Notre Dame is a stronger team than Florida," Pabst said. "Florida is good, but Nebraska will handle Florida pretty easily. Notre Dame could give Nebraska a little hassle, but Nebraska is stronger. They should be fine."

Husker coach John Walker said he

"Without a doubt, that was the best

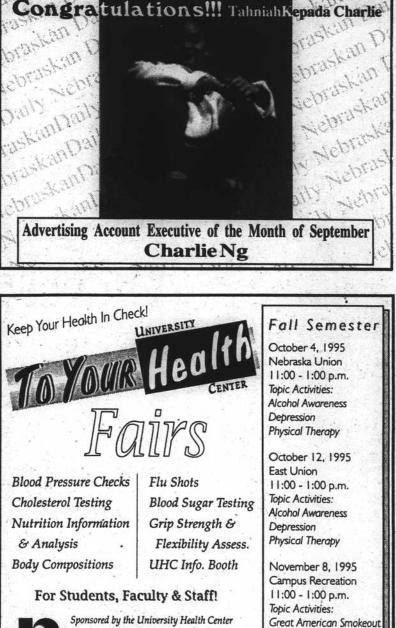
game we've played in our brief history," Walker said. "We played a com-

plete game. We played well every-

was pleased with the performance of

his team.

where.



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Soccer team victorious, improves record

From Staff Reports

A tough defensive effort turned into a scoring explosion for the Nebraska soccer team Sunday.

The Cornhuskers defeated Arkansas 3-0 at Lady 'Back Field in Fayetteville, Ark., and improved their record to 5-4, the first time the Husk-

WSU

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The senior signal-caller, who rushed for 70 yards and two scores and threw for 99 yards and one touchdown, ran four times for 47 yards on the Huskers' next possession, putting Nebraska up 14-7 on a 20-yard option keeper with 8:29 to play in the first half, to senit gate use lose and

"Offensively, we moved the ball pretty well," Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said. "But the scoring probably wasn't commensurate with the yards. The main thing is to come out of it with a win, play hard and learn some things."

Following Nebraska's second touchdown, Washington State moved backwards. Brook Berringer replaced Frazier, who was bothered by a sore right elbow, and handed off to Green.

The true freshman from Omaha Central — who despite having not started is averaging 105 yards a game

— broke free for 36 yards to the Cougar 11-yard line. Berringer lost five yards on an option and misfired on a pass to Reggie Baul. A 33-yard Kris Brown field goal gave the Huskers a ers have been over the .500 mark this season. In the second half, the Huskers struck early as three freshmen led the

team with goals. Becky Hogan, Andi Bigham and Kristen Gay all scored goals in the second half for the Huskers.

17-7 lead.

Green, who led all rushers with 176 yards on 13 attempts, added a 54-yard scamper in the final minute of the half, which set up a 22-yard field by Brown to give Nebraska a 20-7 halftime lead. On three first-half attempts, Green

gained 114 yards on the ground, more rushing yards than 11 of the Cougars' past 15 opponents.

"We came into the game knowing they had a good rushing defense," Green said. "Coach told us to put our heads down, run hard and protect the ball. We knew they were going to be flying at us."

The Cougars and Huskers traded missed field goals to open the second half, Nebraska's coming after a 54yard run by Makovicka high-lighted a 74-yard drive that stalled at the Washington State 2-yard line. A pair of runs by Damon Benning resulted in a loss of one yard, and Brown's 20-yard field goal attempt sailed wide right.

Green carried the load again on the Huskers' final possession of the third quarter, scoring from three yards out. Then Brown, a quarterback in high school, threw a pass to Schuster for a two-point conversion to give the Huskers a 28-7 lead with 27 seconds left in the third quarter.

Washington State quarterback Chad Davis quickly directed the Cougars on an eight-play, 90-yard drive. Davis, who completed 20 of 37 passes for 278 yards and two touchdowns, hit wide receiver Shawn Tims for a 33yard scoring strike to cut the lead to 28-14 with 12:14 to play.

Five minutes later, Frazier connected with tight end Mark Gilman for a 35-yard touchdown pass to put Nebraska on top by 21 points, but Washington answered with a 71-yard drive, scoring on a 30-yard pass from Davis to Tims.

Tony Truant's onside kick deflected off Jon Vedral and was recovered by Washington State at its own 34-yard line. But Doug Colman's sack of Davis on fourth-down-and-two ended any lingering Washington State upset hopes.

"I think we are going to go into this open date with a little bit better attitude about getting better than if we had won 49-7 or something like that," Osborne said. "They understand that they are not there yet."



Student

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