A&M coach says NU is tourney favorite

By JAY SAUNDERS Staff Reporter

The Big 12 Conference is hoping to show that it is more than two teams deep in the first-ever league soccer tournament.

No. 5 Nebraska is the favorite in the tournament, which will be played Thursday through Sunday in St. Louis.

Nebraska owns the only perfect record in the country at 19-0. But ninth-ranked Texas A&M (16-2) is hoping to end the Cornhuskers' perfection.

The Huskers will play either Texas Tech or Missouri Saturday at 11 a.m., and A&M will face Baylor or Texas Saturday at 1 p.m.

The championship game will be played Sunday at 1 p.m., and televised on Fox Sports Rocky Mountain - Channel 58 in Lincoln the first-ever live telecast of a women's collegiate soccer game.

Aggie Coach G. Guerrieri said he's excited about another possible

matchup with Nebraska. NU beat A&M 1-0 in Lincoln on Sept. 29.

"I am sure Nebraska will get into the final, Guerrieri said. "They are the team to beat in the tournament."

Playing tough teams could give the young teams of the Big 12 experience for the future.

'Teams like Nebraska, A&M, Florida and Clemson have gotten themselves into the nation's elite in the blink of an eye," Guerrieri said.

NU's Kari Uppinghouse and Texas A&M's Bryn Blalack have been named the co-conference players of the year. Nebraska's Uppinghouse, Stephanie Vacek, Lindsay Eddleman, Isabelle Morneau and Jenny Benson were selected to the All-Big 12 first team. Becky Hornbacher and Kristen Gay made the second team. Husker Coach John Walker has been the league's coach of the year.



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Tom.

"I didn't know he had a Ph.D., so I asked him why they called him Dr. Tom. I was laughing and I was thinking, 'I'm stupid.'"

Nebraska stuck with Foreman, and Foreman stuck with the Huskers, signing one month after NU lost to Florida State 18-16 in the 1994 Orange Bowl. When Foreman arrived in Lincoln, Nebraska had lost eight-straight bowl

"I looked at all that, but I thought maybe I could come in and help make a difference," Foreman said.

Since Foreman's arrival, Nebraska and although he redshirted his first sea- of the defense. It's an honor."

son, he started every game at Sam linebacker a year ago.

This season, the 6-foot-1, 230pound Foreman switched to Mike line-

Despite playing behind senior Jon Hesse, Foreman's level of play hasn't dropped. He has 33 tackles, including one for a two-yard loss.

Last Saturday in the Huskers' 73-21 victory over Oklahoma, Foreman picked up his first career interception.

But what Foreman loves best about his new position is that he gets to call NU's defensive plays as a middle line-

"It's not as prestigious as quarter-back," he said. "But when you're callhas won two national championships, ing the plays, it's like you're in control

Rozier shot in N. Jersey

CAMDEN, N.J. (AP) — Former Nebraska I-back Mike Rozier, the 1983 Heisman Trophy winner, was shot several times early Wednesday on a street corner in Camden, N.J., police said.

Rozier, 35, of Camden, was listed in satisfactory condition at Cooper Hospital-University Medical Center. He was shot twice in the stomach and once in the hand, police said.

Authorities were searching for a suspect and offered no motive for the shooting, which occurred around 12:45 a.m. in the McGuire Gardens housing development, a few blocks from where Rozier lives.

In seven NFL seasons, Rozier rushed for 4,462 yards and 30

Nee expects Lue to direct NU show

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ing 45 percent from the field.

But ultimately Lue, a 6-foot, 170pounder from Mexico, Mo., said he just wants to be the floor leader and do whatever it takes to win ballgames.

"If we need a basket, then it's my job to score," Lue said. "If we need to get an assist, I'll do what it takes to get the job done. If we need a steal, then I'll get a steal. That's how I look at it."

Nee said Lue is ready to become that offense, Nee said. the focal point of the Husker offense,

which will continue to play an up- better defensive player than Tyronn on working the ball inside.

"We want to play quick," Nee said. "We are a full-court team and Tyronn Lue is just dynamite in the full-court, fast-break game.

"But you're going to see the ball go inside way more, so guys like Mikki Moore and Bernard Garner are going to get way more shots than they've gotten before in their careers."

And Lue is the perfect player to run

"I've never coached a quicker or

tempo style despite an extra emphasis Lue at where he is today, right now, Nee said.

> Nee said he wants Lue to consistently play like he did last season in Nebraska's 81-71 loss at Kansas. In that game, Lue scored 21 points with four assists, two steals and drilled five of six 3-pointers, all while playing against Vaughn, one of the nation's top point guards.

"I want him to do that every night," Nee said, "But he's just realizing how

Improved serving assists NU

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homa. In a difficult three-game victory, Nebraska posted six aces and only three serving errors.

Junior outside hitter Lisa Reitsma said the Huskers have had to rely on their serving to overcome a poor peragainst OU.

We have been able to win even should be because of our serving," Reitsma said.

Hedbeck deserves much of the A&M for the Big 12 lead. credit for Nebraska's recent serving success, Reitsma said.

"She has really taken on a leadership role," Reitsma said. "She sets an

example by overcoming the pressure."

But Hedbeck said the main factor in NU's improvement at the line is that the entire team — which includes five sophomores and four freshman — has matured over the course of the season.

"The pressure of serving was hard for some of the younger players to formance at the net recently, including handle at first," Hedbeck said. "But a season-low .150 hitting percentage they are starting to get over that, and we are starting to come together.'

Coach Terry Pettit said serving is though our hitting has not been what it critical as Nebraska moves into final three weeks of the regular season. The Huskers are currently tied with Texas

After home matches Friday and Saturday against Missouri and Iowa State, NU will face four ranked teams

last eight matches.

"You don't win on the road if you don't out-serve your opponent on the road," Pettit said. "You have to take risks and you have to serve aggressively, and I think that's something we've really worked on.

"In fact, I would like to see us become as good a serving team as there is in the country by the end of the sea-

Previously No. 1-ranked Hawaii was beaten last weekend by Stanford in four games, dropping the Rainbow Wahine to No. 3 in the latest AVCA Coaches' Poll. Florida, which lost to Hawaii in its season-opener, took over the top spot.



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