

Sports Opinion



Mike Kluck

NU should not be singled out for its problem

Nebraska — the school that first brought you video screens at a college stadium, a university-sponsored stock car and a blow-up doll for a mascot — now may be breaking ground in areas of more importance.

With the arrival this week of Beverly Ledbetter, who is in Lincoln to examine the climate for women athletes at Nebraska, the university is on the brink of gaining national attention again.

Sexual harassment has been a problem for women, not just at the university level, but at a societal level for many years.

The findings by Ledbetter — who is the vice president and general counsel at Brown University in Providence, R.I. — and her recommendations could prove to have far-reaching effects.

Ledbetter will talk to male and female athletes during a pair of two-day visits to UNL. She will then examine her material to determine if there are problems on campus for the female athletes — and if so, the best ways to address the problems.

The first question can be answered already. Yes, sexual harassment does occur among the athletes at Nebraska.

Kate Galligan, administrative assistant for the Cornhusker women's basketball team and a former NU player of four years, said although it's tough to use the term harassment, she has felt uncomfortable.

"It's more of looks and things like that," Galligan said. "It's mainly a perception that I felt and other female student athletes have felt, especially around the Hewitt Center. It's being looked up and down and whispered about around male athletes."

But is Nebraska the only Division I school in the country at which the climate is not ideal for its female athletes?

If that is true ...

Then Boston College is the only university with gambling athletes.

Then North Texas is the only school to have problems with theft among its athletes. Last Saturday, officials from North Texas found an assortment of stolen items from a hotel on the team bus.

Then UCLA is the only school at which a coach deceived the NCAA. On Wednesday, Bruin Basketball Coach Jim Harrick was fired because for a minor recruiting violation.

All of these are current problems facing universities. And just because Nebraska has chosen to address its problem, it should be emphasized that UNL isn't the only school facing an uphill battle.

Kluck is a graduate student in journalism and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.

Huskers balance attack



SCOTT BRUHN/DN

BRENDAN HOLBEIN advances a fumbled punt in Nebraska's 24-10 win over Texas Tech last month. Holbein and the rest of the Husker receivers have played a large part in NU's passing success in the past two weeks.

NU carries a six-game streak into battle with 3-5 Missouri.



BY TREVOR PARKS
Senior Reporter

It's hard to believe, but Nebraska's passing game is looking just as intimidating recently as the Cornhusker rushing attack.

NU has used an improved passing game the last two weeks to balance that's known for moving the ball methodically on the ground.

Last Saturday at Oklahoma, 179 **Frost** of NU's 387 total yards (46 percent) came through the air. At the end of the third quarter, the Huskers had 102 passing yards and 104 rushing yards.

In a 63-7 win over Kansas on Oct. 26, almost half of Nebraska's 595 total yards came throwing the football. The Huskers threw for a season-high 273 yards in that contest.

These games came after a 55-yard passing performance against Texas Tech. Following the 24-10 win over the Red Raiders, the Nebraska passing game was rated 104th in the NCAA out of 110 teams. The Huskers now

Please see **MU** on 11

Freshman leads NU with 17 in exhibition

BY MIKE KLUCK
Senior Reporter

Cookie Belcher had never worn a Nebraska basketball uniform before NU's season-opening exhibition game

Thursday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"The first time I stepped on the court I got real nervous," Belcher said. "I was nervous all day, but when I started warming up, I felt a little better about myself. Once the game started, all those butterflies went away and I knew I had to play."

Belcher led the Huskers with 17 points, including 13 in the second half, as Nebraska overcame a 31-30 half-time deficit to defeat Pella Windows 82-71 at the Devaney Center before a crowd of 6,121.

His performance earned the praise of former Husker and Pella Windows forward Beau Reid, who played at Nebraska from 1988 through 1991. "I liked his game," Reid said of the 6-foot, 230-pound true freshman from Mexico, Mo. "He's going to be a good player. He plays strong for a freshman. Most freshmen don't figure that out for a couple of years."

In the second half, Belcher scored

"Most freshmen don't figure that out for a couple of years."

BEAU REID
former NU forward

Pella Windows 71

the opening basket, which gave Nebraska the lead for good. He then went on to score nine of the Huskers first 17 points, and his 3-pointer with 14 minutes, 52 seconds remaining gave Nebraska its first double-digit lead.

Belcher wasn't the only new player to make an impression on Reid. Three Nebraska scholarship players played for the first time — Belcher and sophomores Troy Piatkowski and Alvin Mitchell.

Reid, who played with Eric Piatkowski for one season at Nebraska, said Troy Piatkowski plays like his older brother, now a member of the Los Angeles Clippers. The younger Piatkowski scored one point and grabbed three rebounds in 27 minutes.

"I remember when Eric was here

Please see **WIN** on 11

Huskers cruise into St. Louis

BY VINCE D'ADAMO
Staff Reporter

The fifth-ranked Nebraska soccer team will attempt to carry its regular-season perfection into the postseason this weekend in St. Louis.

Saturday at 11 a.m., the Cornhuskers take on the winner of today's Texas Tech-Missouri game in the Big 12 Conference Tournament semifinals at the Anheuser-Busch Conference and Sports Center.

Tech and Missouri were scheduled to play Thursday, but because of standing water on the field in St. Louis, the tournament's first-round games have been moved to the Soccer Complex at the University of Missouri in Columbia.

If Nebraska clears its first hurdle, it will play Texas A&M, Baylor or Texas in the championship game, Sunday at 1 p.m. Nebraska (19-0 overall and 9-0 in the Big 12) has beaten every team in the tournament.

"It helps because everyone has seen everyone," Husker Coach John Walker said. "There have been a lot of tough games."

Despite a scoring average of 4.3 goals per game, Nebraska's offense has occasionally struggled. But the defense has been consistent. The

Soccer

Big 12 Tournament
St. Louis
semifinal, Saturday, 11 a.m.

Huskers have allowed just 11 goals this season and recorded 12 shut-outs.

"It's most crucial because it keeps you in games," Walker said. "It's been creating offense all year. But some days, you'll have trouble getting jump started."

The Huskers have received stellar play off the bench all season. Heading into the conference tournament, Walker said, the starters feel well rested.

"If we had to rely on the starters playing 90 minutes," Walker said. "We'd have a lot of tired players and injuries. They're ready to go and enthusiastic."

Junior midfielder Kari Uppinghouse, the league's co-player of the year, said NU's supporting cast has done wonders.

"It's been a huge benefit," Uppinghouse said. "It's good knowing there won't be a letdown."

Please see **SOCCER** on 11