

Sports Opinion



Trevor Parks

Eddleman, NU refuse to quit, continue to roll

Lindsay Eddleman's performance in the Nebraska soccer team's 3-2 overtime win over Minnesota epitomized the success of the Cornhuskers this season.

Eddleman, a freshman from Lakewood, Colo., has the spunk and stick-to-it-iveness that has taken the Huskers from a .500 squad to the only undefeated, untied team remaining in the NCAA Tournament.

Last Sunday, Eddleman helped Nebraska win the Big 12 championship with her goal in the 118th minute of the final game. Before that game-winner, three of her goals have given NU a win.

Sunday, her body laid in a heap after colliding with Minnesota goalkeeper Teresa O'Hearn in the second half. It looked like Eddleman's stellar freshman season may have ended as quickly as the Gophers' season did later the same afternoon.

Hobbling off the field with a bruised right knee, things didn't look good. But she eventually came back in the first overtime.

From there, her gazelle legs didn't move as smoothly as normal, but her presence was felt time and time again.

"I'd get the ball, turn, run, get ahead of somebody, attempt a shot and it wouldn't go in," Eddleman said. "Over and over that was the case, so it was really frustrating."

"I knew eventually the ball would go in. I had no doubts."

Eventually the ball did go in, but it was about 15 minutes after Eddleman thought she had her fifth game-winning goal of the year.

With 1 minute, 33 seconds remaining in the first sudden-death overtime, Eddleman appeared to end the three-hour marathon with a header into the net.

But the goal was disallowed because the ball crossed out of bounds on Jenny Benson's corner kick.

A look of relief hit Eddleman's face. It quickly turned to a look of frustration when the goal was disallowed.

So she kept playing and playing and playing like everyone else.

That is part of Eddleman's character, and that is part of this team's character. Nothing seems to phase it.

Hurricanes. Ice storms. One hundred forty-eight minute games. This team played a more experienced squad Sunday, and Nebraska's youthfulness was too much for the Gophers.

Eddleman referred to Huskers' motto: "Don't quit, no matter what the situation. Even if we were down 3-1 with five minutes left in the game, we would never stop trying."

Eddleman and her teammates didn't stop trying Sunday, and they haven't stopped all season.

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MATT MILLER/DN

KARI UPPINGHOUSE (right) battles Minnesota's Jennifer McElmury for position Sunday in Nebraska's 3-2 win.

NU advances to Sweet 16 with 3-2 win

Uppinghouse scores game-winner with less than 2 minutes to play.

Minnesota	2	OT
Nebraska	3	

of 1,544, proved to be the tale of two games.

With just 2:23 elapsed in the first half, Uppinghouse, the co-Big 12 player of the year, put the Huskers ahead 1-0. Eleven minutes later, Jennifer McElmury — Minnesota's leading scorer and the Big Ten player of the year — evened the score at 1-1.

Six minutes later, Nebraska's Jenny Benson put the Huskers in front 2-1, but the Gophers answered with a Corinne Bolder goal at the 25:35 mark.

Neither team scored for the remainder of regulation or during the 30 minutes of the first overtime. Uppinghouse's goal came only 1:13 before a potential shootout.

"I thought it had pretty good position," Uppinghouse said. "It was a relief. It was a hard fought game, and everyone gave everything they had."

Fifteen minutes earlier, the Huskers thought they had won the game on a Lindsay Eddleman goal. However, it was waved off because Benson's corner kick crossed out of bounds before Eddleman headed it into the net.

"We just had to keep fighting," Eddleman said. "If anything, it made me mad. It boosted my intensity."

Walker said the Huskers overcame a great deal of adversity — including minor injuries to both Eddleman and Uppinghouse — in clearing their first-ever NCAA Tournament hurdle.

"It was an excellent game," Walker said, "certainly the most exciting in my brief career here. I was disappointed with how we played in the first half, in part because Minnesota played well." Goalkeeper Becky Hornbacher un-

By VINCE D'ADAMO
Staff Reporter

Nobody can blame Nebraska Soccer Coach John Walker for saying he wasn't fooled by Minnesota's 13-6 record heading into Sunday's first-round NCAA Tournament game.

Walker's fears were proven true Sunday afternoon at the Abbott Sports Complex. But the fifth-



Eddleman

ranked Cornhuskers squeezed out a 3-2 win in the second half of sudden-death overtime, advancing to the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Kari Uppinghouse scored the game-winner 148 minutes, 43 seconds into the action, grazing the far post after beating Gopher goalkeeper Teresa O'Hearn.

"I couldn't have picked a better winning goal," Walker said. "I'm glad it came on a quality goal. Kari put on a good hip move."

Nebraska (22-0) will play host to Duke (10-9-3) Sunday at 1 p.m. in Lincoln. The Blue Devils defeated Virginia 1-0 Saturday in Durham, N.C. Nebraska and Duke met earlier this season, a 3-1 Husker win in Durham on Sept. 8.

Sunday's first-round contest, played before a school-record crowd

Please see WIN on 11

NU storms by Cats in four games

By ANTONE OSEKA
Senior Editor

Nebraska	15	15	7	15
Kansas St.	12	12	15	12

Nebraska	15	15	15
Kansas	8	10	11

MANHATTAN, Kan. — After two games of volleyball at Ahearn Fieldhouse Friday night, it looked like

a Nebraska sweep was inevitable. Kansas State had other ideas.

Fifth-ranked Nebraska won the first two games 15-12, 15-12 and appeared to be in good shape to sweep the 20th-ranked Wildcats. But KSU stormed back and took the third game from the Huskers 15-7.

In the pivotal fourth game, the Cats had Nebraska on the ropes 10-4, and had the match headed toward a rally-scoring fifth game. But Nebraska dug deep and pulled out a 15-12 game four win to secure the match before a school-record crowd of 4,958.

"It sucks to lose," Kansas State Coach Jim Moore said after Nebraska beat KSU for the 54th-straight time. "They won. They're better right now."

Nebraska didn't always look better than the Wildcats, who out-hit NU .251 to .233 — the first time the Huskers

have hit a lower percentage than their opponent in an NU win this year.

On Saturday night, the Huskers also swept Kansas 15-8, 15-10, 15-11 in Lawrence, Kan., to improve to 23-3 overall and 15-1 in the Big 12. That win, the 600th of Coach Terry Pettit's 20 years at Nebraska, dropped the Jayhawks to 9-20 and 3-12.

Kansas State, which lost to Colorado in four games Saturday night in Manhattan, is now 22-7 and 10-6.

In the win over KSU, junior outside hitter Lisa Reitsma led Nebraska with 22 kills on 57 attempts, hitting only .175 for the match. Sophomore middle blocker Megan Korver added 16 kills on 25 attempts, hitting .560. Korver and Reitsma each had nine block assists.

"I just wanted to come out here and do my job, that's what coach wanted me to do," said Reitsma, a returning first-team All-American, "be the terminator as he calls it."

Reitsma was the terminator indeed, watching KSU stall at 11 after leading

Please see KSU on 11

High school standout headed to Nebraska

Behrends chooses to walk at Nebraska despite other offers.

By SHANNON HEFFELFINGER
Staff Reporter

Terry Pettit waited almost five months to land one of the most prized recruits ever to play volleyball in Nebraska.

Saturday night after pounding a state-record 43 kills and leading Chappell High School to its second-consecutive Class D-1 state championship, Kim Behrends publicly announced her long-awaited decision.

The 6-foot middle blocker said she will compete for the Cornhuskers next fall — as a walk-on.

"Nebraska is close to home and it's an excellent program," Behrends said Saturday. "I like Lincoln, and

they were my top choice from the beginning."

Behrends, who drew interest from more than 100 Division-I schools, surprised many with her decision to play for Nebraska without a scholarship. Pettit offered her a scholarship July 5.

So the Huskers, who have only two players completing their eligibility this season, proceeded to pursue other potential recruits.

Earlier this fall, NU secured verbal commitments from three high school seniors — Angie Oxley of Ogallala, Nancy Meendering of Hull, Iowa, and Jill McWilliams of Des Moines — leaving Behrends out in the cold.

"I just wasn't ready to commit when Coach Pettit wanted me to," Behrends said. "I knew what Nebraska had to offer me, and I needed to compare it to other schools before I made a decision."

In addition to making room for

Please see BEHRENDIS on 11