



SCOTT BRUHN/DN

LAUREN CYRAN, a junior Duke defender, hugs a teammate Sunday after Nebraska beat the Blue Devils 3-0 in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Husker runners prepared

Dirksen expects Nebraska's men to be near the top.

By GREGG MADSEN
Staff Reporter

When the Nebraska men's and women's cross country teams compete today in the NCAA Championships in Tucson, Ariz., they will be running on familiar ground.

The Cornhuskers ran on the Dell Ulrich Municipal Golf Course at the Oct. 19 Pre-NCAA Invite, when the Nebraska men finished sixth out of 32 teams, and the women were 11th out of 30.



Kiptarus

"I think that is going to be very helpful for us because that course is very deceiving," Nebraska Coach Jay Dirksen said. "It definitely helps that we've seen it."

The 10,000-meter men's race will begin at noon and the women's 8,000-meter race will start at 11 a.m.

On the men's side, Dirksen said juniors Jonah Kiptarus and Cleophus Boor both should be at the front of the pack for the eighth-ranked Huskers.

"When you look at the quality of runners that they are," Dirksen said, "I don't think that's an impossibility for either of them to be in the top three."

Kiptarus became NU's first-ever district champion on Nov. 16 at District 5 Meet in Peoria, Ill.

"I'd say that over the years, we've never had two athletes at Nebraska that are near this caliber," Dirksen said. "They're really approaching uncharted waters for us."

Kiptarus and Boor have finished 1-2 in every race they have entered this year.

"Sometimes you can't tell how you're going to perform," Kiptarus said, "but I know that I'm in good shape, and I'm ready to see what I can

Please see TUCSON on 8

Nebraska blasts Duke

Unbeaten Huskers will travel to Portland for the third round.

By VINCE D'ADAMO
Staff Reporter

Heading into Sunday's rematch with Duke, the goal among the members of the Nebraska soccer team was to prove that their 3-1 Sept. 8 win over the then-fifth-ranked Blue Devils was no accident.

In front of 1,038 fans at the Abbott Sports Complex on Sunday, the Cornhuskers (23-0) sent the Blue Devils (10-10-3) back to Durham, N.C., with a 3-0 shutout in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

The Huskers advanced to take on third-ranked Portland Sunday at 1 p.m.

in Portland, Ore. The Pilots (18-0-2) beat Vanderbilt 3-1 Saturday.

NU and Duke battled 20-degree temperatures and brisk north wind Sunday. In the first half, the Huskers played with the wind at their backs.

"It was important because you never know if the wind is going to stick around," NU Coach John Walker said. "We talked all week and told ourselves we can't let the weather be a factor."

With 6 minutes, 37 seconds elapsed in the first half, a Becky Hogan goal put the Huskers in front 1-0.

Freshman striker Lindsay Eddleman said it was important to get ahead early.

"After our first goal," Eddleman said, "our intensity really went up."

At the 12:55 mark in the first half, an apparent goal by Jenny Benson following an Erica De Vitis shot was waved off because of an offside call

on Benson.

The Huskers clung to their slender 1-0 lead at the intermission. With just over 6½ minutes gone by in the second half, Benson's goal off a free kick — which was deflected by Duke defender Kim Daws — widened the Husker lead to 2-0.

Walker said the 2-0 lead gave his squad a psychological edge.

"I think the first and last few minutes (of the half) are really crucial," Walker said. "Psychologically, we go from protecting a 1-0 lead to being in front 2-0."

With 5:39 remaining, Eddleman's goal, on an assist from Sandy Smith, iced Nebraska's 3-0 whitewash.

In last Sunday's 3-2 sudden-death win over Minnesota, the Huskers uncharacteristically yielded two first-half goals.

All-Big 12 Conference goalkeeper



Becky Hornbacher said Nebraska's defensive play against Duke came as no surprise.

"What happened last week," Hornbacher said, "I tried not to let that get to me. But the shutout gives me a lot of confidence."

De Vitis said it's hard for other teams not to take notice of the unbeaten Huskers.

"After beating Duke," De Vitis said, "people are going to notice. I think we're as good as any team."

Walker said the early-season win over Duke gave his team the confidence that it has carried all season.

"This team is much more mature in big games," Walker said. "But their approach is not any different. Not once have we talked about our record."

NU falls two points short in upset bid

Lue misfires on would-be winner after forcing overtime with a 3-pointer.

By MIKE FINGER
The Daily Texan

AUSTIN, Texas — Nebraska's Tyrone Lue had already hit one dramatic shot Saturday afternoon against Texas.

So when Lue attempted a second buzzer beater with the Cornhusker basketball team trailing by two points in overtime, the Erwin Center crowd of 12,821 held its collective breath.

Unfortunately for NU, Texas' Reggie Freeman didn't hold his.

A valiant Nebraska comeback was foiled by Freeman's last-second deflection of Lue's 3-point attempt, and the 17th-ranked Longhorns

avoided a major upset by holding on for a season-opening 83-81 overtime victory.

Despite the loss — which snapped the nation's longest winning streak at five games — NU Coach Danny Nee was encouraged by his young team's performance.

"I'm proud of our players and the way we came back," Nee said. "Texas is a quality basketball team, and they just keep coming at you with so many different looks and different people."

The Huskers (0-1) rallied from a 16-point second-half deficit to trail by only three with 15 seconds remaining.

Nebraska got the ball on a Texas turnover and after Alvin Mitchell missed a 3-pointer, Lue rebounded the ball and nailed an acrobatic fade-away from the corner to tie the game at 73, forcing overtime.

"I had a feeling it was going in," said Lue, who finished with a team-high 18 points. "I

knew I was going to hit the shot."

NU's momentum carried into the extra period when a jumper by Mitchell — who was playing in his first game for Nebraska — with 1:30 left gave the Huskers an 81-79 lead, NU's first advantage since leading 6-4 in the first half.

Texas center Dennis Jordan scored the next four points, putting UT in front 83-81 with 3.3 seconds left.

That set the stage for Lue to attempt another clutch shot. The 6-foot sophomore point guard brought the ball upcourt and fired a 30-foot shot, missing as time expired.

"It had good height on it after I tipped it, so I spun and looked," said Freeman, who led all players with 21 points despite hitting just 4 of 20 shots. "If I hadn't touched it, it probably would have gone in."

The Huskers were able to keep the game close with an impressive showing from their frontcourt.



Center Mikki Moore dominated the contest in the paint, scoring 14 points, grabbing 13 rebounds and blocking a career-best seven shots. Venson Hamilton had his first career double-double with 14 points and 11 rebounds.

Forward Larry Florence had 10 points, and Bernard Garner added 11, both before fouling out. True freshman guard Cookie Belcher, who scored nine points, also fouled out, leaving NU with only five scholarship players at the end of the overtime period.

The good post play limited Texas to a 33-percent shooting effort for the game. Nebraska shot 41 percent from the field.

"When you shoot 33 percent and control the game from start to finish, you've got to feel good about what you're doing on defense," Texas Coach Tom Penders said.