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This is the booklet you read about in the Life Section of
 the Lincoln Journal on April 2, 1996.

NU coach awarded top honor

From Staff Reports

Nebraska Soccer Coach John Walker was named the Central Region coach of the year on Tuesday.

The third-year Cornhusker coach, who has a 47-13 record at NU, directed the Huskers to a 23-1 record this fall, a No. 5 ranking and a berth in the quarterfinals of the NCAA Tournament. NU lost 1-0 to Portland on Sunday, ending the season one game short of the Final Four.

Walker was also named the Big 12 coach of the year this season. By earning the Central-Region award, Walker becomes one of six finalists for national coach of the year.

Other finalists include Len Tsantiris of Connecticut, Patrick Farmer of Penn State, Chris Turner of Wake Forest, Marcia McDermott of Northwestern and Tony da Luz of San Diego. The national coach-of-the-year award will be presented in January.

Notre Dame stays home

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) — Notre Dame won't go to just any bowl. This year, that means they probably won't be going anywhere.

After being dropped Monday from the short list of at-large possibilities for the Sugar, Fiesta and Orange bowls, Notre Dame's only other option is an at-large bid in a lesser bowl. And the way Notre Dame officials see it, that's no choice at all.

"Our decision making will focus on whether that opportunity is a significant one for our program," Irish Athletic Director Mike Wadsworth said. "Going to a bowl just for the sake of going to a bowl isn't going to do that."

Notre Dame has turned down invitations from the Copper Bowl and the Independence Bowl. The Aloha Bowl might still have an at-large bid, but it's unlikely Notre Dame would want to play unranked California.

That means Lou Holtz, who announced Nov. 19 he was stepping down at the end of the season, has probably coached his last game for Notre Dame unless something dramatic changes in the bowl alliance.

Notre Dame was expected to make its 10th straight bowl appearance under Holtz, and Fiesta Bowl officials had already said they would take the Irish if they qualified for the alliance. But Notre Dame's overtime loss to Southern California Saturday changed all that.

The Irish dropped to No. 18, meaning they didn't qualify for the alliance. They also lost out on the \$8 million that goes along with an alliance bowl.

Of Notre Dame's 21 bowl games, 11 have been against top-ranked or unbeaten teams.

So that leaves Notre Dame at home, ending a run of nine straight Jan. 1 bowl appearances under Holtz. While Notre Dame knew there were no guarantees when it joined the alliance, Wadsworth said he thinks some changes need to be made.

"I think it would be in the long-term interests of college football," he said. "Unless there is greater flexibility so that teams of greater interest (can be considered), you're going to wind up seeing some bowls disappearing."

Huskers escape scare to win by three points

WIN from page 7

Moore had a tip-in of his own, pulling NU within one, but Lloyd Williams sank a pull-up jumper over Lue to give Texas-San Antonio a 76-73 advantage.

Moore hit two free throws with 1:16 remaining, bringing Nebraska within one, and the 6-foot-11 senior was fouled again on a rebound attempt 23 seconds later. Moore made two more free throws to put Nebraska in front for good, 77-76, with 53 seconds left.

Texas-San Antonio had a chance to go back in front, but Lue deflected a pass to Bernard Garner. Garner—who had 13 points—passed the ball upcourt to Lue, and he was fouled with 20.5 seconds left.

Lue missed the front end of a one-and-one, giving the Roadrunners one final chance. Moore fouled Ricky Reed on a drive to the basket, but Reed missed the front end of his one-and-one.

Andy Markowski rebounded the ball and was fouled immediately with 6.1 seconds remaining. But he missed, and Cookie Belcher, who grabbed the rebound, also could not convert from

“
 Tonight's a night
 that we very easily
 could have lost the
 basketball game. I
 think they
 outplayed Nebraska
 in a lot of areas.”

DANNY NEE
 NU basketball coach

the line.
 This time, Venson Hamilton—who had 12 points and 11 rebounds in 16 minutes—grabbed the rebound and made a pair of free throws with two seconds left.
 “We didn't execute well, but we didn't panic,” Nee said. “We dodged a bullet tonight with these guys.”

Maser battles injuries, inspires team with play

MASER from page 7

posting a .266 hitting percentage while earning Big Eight co-newcomer-of-the-year honors. Unfortunately for Maser, bad luck struck again when she re-injured her knee during the Big Eight Tournament.

Maser never fully regained mobility in her left knee.

This season, NU Coach Terry Pettit said, Maser's role on the court decreased because of her inability to jump and move laterally at times. But Maser said she knows her limitations.

“I've just accepted my role,” Maser said. “(Freshman) Tonia (Tauke) is a great blocker, and our middles are doing an incredible job.”

“I just want to enjoy what I'm doing instead of trying to be perfect, and the stats will come.”

Playing with that attitude paid off for Maser against Texas and Texas A&M—in two of NU's biggest matches this season. Against the Longhorns last Friday, Maser recorded five kills with a team-high .417 hitting percentage.

The following night, Maser pounded a season-high eight kills and

hit .429 in a four-game Husker victory over the Aggies, sealing a top seed in the East Region of the NCAA Tournament.

Nebraska will play Saturday night at 7:30 against either Arkansas or Rhode Island at the NU Coliseum.

Pettit said Maser's play caught Texas and Texas A&M off guard.

“Stacie can attack from the right or the left,” Pettit said. “We can also put her in the middle and use a quick attack. The only other person on our team that can do that is (Lisa) Reitsma.”

Watching Maser overcome her physical limitations with mental toughness has motivated her Husker teammates, Pettit said.

“It's really a great thing to see,” Pettit said. “Athletes tend to take their identity, their self esteem and the way they feel about themselves from the way they play.”

Maser has not allowed her injuries to interfere with her approach to each match, she said.

“I don't want to ever take anything for granted,” Maser said. “I just want to have fun. I don't have to prove anything to anybody.”

True freshman Evans may start against UT

I-BACKS from page 7

DeAngelo Evans may get his first start.

“The I-back thing is a little concerning right now,” Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne said Tuesday. “We hope to play Evans at I-back, and Jay Sims seems to be fairly healthy. Obviously, Ahman Green is not going to play, and Benning is questionable.”

However, even Evans, who was an All-Big 12 honorable-mention selection from the league's coaches last week, isn't at 100 percent.

The 5-foot-9, 210-pound true freshman—who ran for 123 yards against CU—has been suffering from a groin pull for 3½ weeks.

“It has not been an injury that has kept him from playing,” said Frank Solich, Nebraska's running backs coach. “It is something that seems to be affecting him in terms of his quickness and cutting ability. It's been an ongoing injury for some time now.”

Evans said he is putting up with his groin injury, which is about 85 percent healed. The former blue-chip running back from Wichita Collegiate High School has rushed for 646 yards this season and averaged 5.6 yards per at-

tempt. He leads the team in touchdowns with 11.

“I'm confident, and I'm not going to back down from this challenge,” Evans said. “The pressure is not on me. We're going to do this as a team. We came here as a team, and we're going to try to win the Big 12 championship as a team.”

Because of the injuries, Osborne said, junior walk-on Chad Eicher may also make the 66-man travel roster to St. Louis.

“From there, we go to Frank Solich,” Osborne said to laughter at his weekly press conference. “I suppose Eicher would be the next guy in line, and from there Josh Cobb. Of course, all of our fullbacks can play some I-back.”

Fullbacks Brian Schuster and Joel Makovicka have worked out at both I-back and fullback this week in practice.

“Schuster knows the offense right now,” Solich said. “He is a pretty talented guy. As long as he knocks guys down from the fullback spot, I will be happy.”