

# Sports

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## Sports Opinion



**Gregg Madsen**

### Distance duo will dominate, Dirksen says

Jay Dirksen has never coached a pair of runners like Jonah Kiptarus and Cleophas Boor.

The two Cornhuskers from Kapsabet, Kenya, have just finished the best cross country season in Nebraska history, and they are poised to carry their success into the indoor and outdoor track seasons.

"They're the two best long-distance runners we've ever had at Nebraska," Dirksen said. "There's no question about that."

Just by looking at Kiptarus and Boor, it's easy to tell that they are both tremendously gifted athletes.

Well, maybe it's not that easy.

Kiptarus stands 5 feet 4 inches tall and Boor is only 5-6. Their presence is less than intimidating—that is, unless you plan on running against them.

In one season, the two transfers from Barton County (Kan.) Community College have become a force to be reckoned with. With the exception of the NCAA Championships, Kiptarus and Boor finished 1-2 in every race they entered this season. Kiptarus was second at the championships, and Boor was third.

The only other race of the season that Kiptarus didn't win was the Pre-NCAA Meet on Oct. 19, when Boor finished first.

"A lot of teams have two good runners that run high," Dirksen said, "but (Kiptarus and Boor) only had one guy beat them this year."

That's quite an accomplishment, especially when you consider the difficult schedule Nebraska faced this season and the elite, 173-man field that Kiptarus and Boor ran away from at the NCAA Championships.

That one runner who defeated the duo was Godfrey Siamusiye of Arkansas, who pulled away from the NU runners to win his second consecutive national title. But Siamusiye has used all of his eligibility and won't run again at the collegiate level.

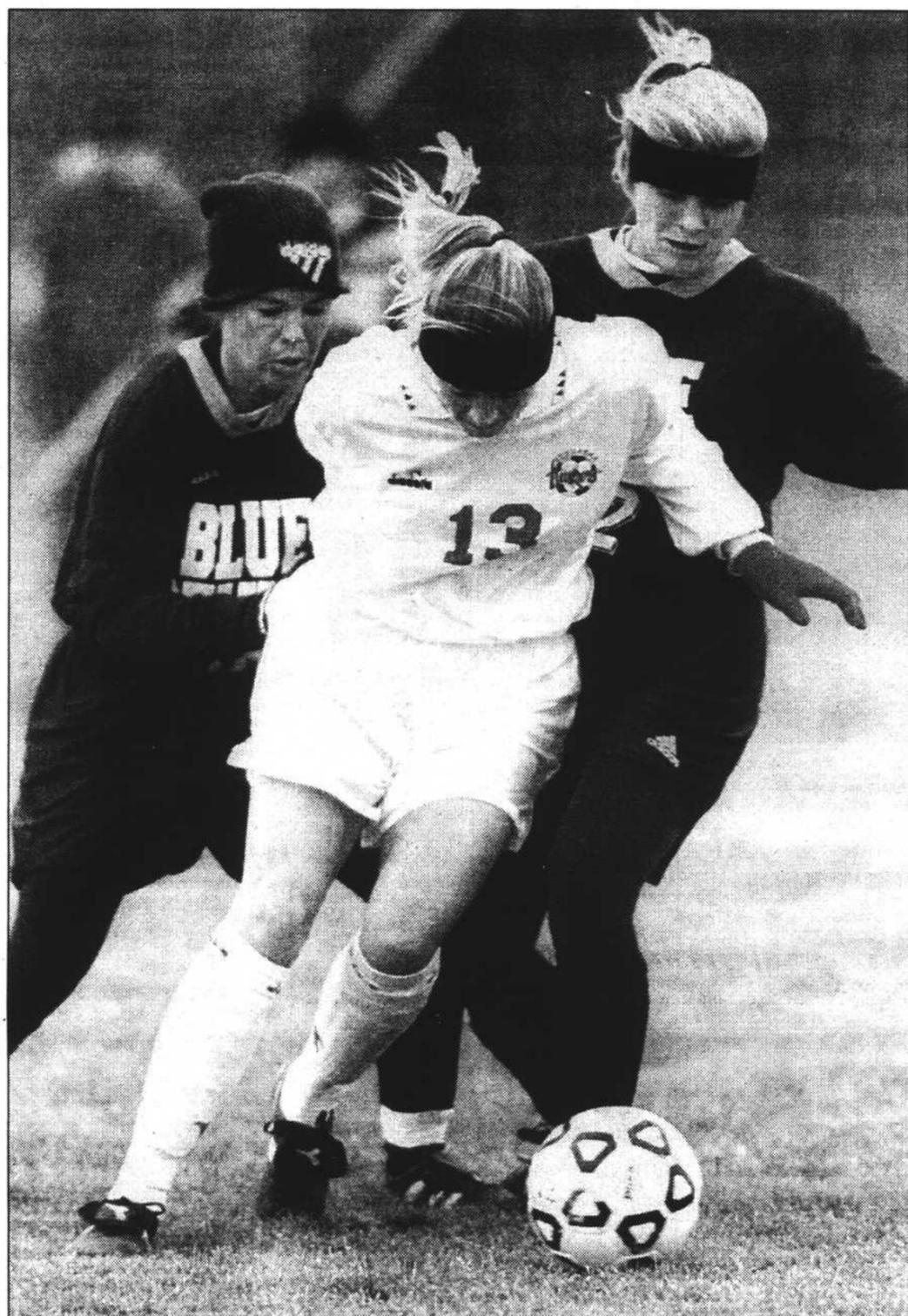
That leaves Kiptarus and Boor optimistic for the rest of the track season. The majority of the distance runners in the indoor and outdoor seasons have already been beaten by Kiptarus and Boor this year.

"None of them are better than our two guys," Dirksen said. "They may be in the same category, but not better."

Dirksen said Kiptarus will probably run the 3,000 meter during the indoor season and Boor will be in the 5,000-meter race. Whatever the distance, Boor and Kiptarus will continue their dominance throughout the indoor and outdoor seasons.

They already have a running start.

**Madsen is a junior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan staff reporter.**



MATT MILLER/DN

**NU FRESHMAN** Lindsay Eddleman beats Duke's Samantha Baggett (left) and Kristy Whelchel to the ball in the Huskers' 3-0 win during the second round of the NCAA Tournament. NU beat Duke twice during its 23-1 season, which ended last Sunday.

## Husker soccer team lives dream season in third year

**BY VINCE D'ADAMO**  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's storybook soccer season ended with a 1-0 defeat to Portland last Sunday, but the Cornhuskers say the 1996 season was one of which they will always be proud.



**Ratliff**

The Huskers began the program's third season poised to reach the NCAA Tournament. In August, NU was ranked 25th in the nation, but it ended with a No.-5 ranking, a sparkling 23-1 record and a berth in the NCAA Tournament quarterfinals.

The Nebraska players began the

year unseasoned, but gained valuable experience and will begin next season ranked among the nation's top teams.

"I'm very pleased with how we developed as a team," said NU Coach John Walker, one of six finalists for the national coach-of-the-year award. "We came from nowhere. It was just brutally disappointing that we came so close."

Junior midfielder Kari Uppinghouse enjoyed a spectacular season, scoring a team-record 48 points on 19 goals — including seven game-winners.

In addition, the Huskers received standout play from their freshmen class. Striker Lindsay Eddleman scored 42 points on 17 goals. Isabelle Morneau added 39 points on 16 goals, and Jenny Benson contributed 35 points on 11 goals.

The Huskers outscored their opposition 92-15.

Goalkeeper Becky Hornbacher

posted 14 shutouts. NU also made its mark with solid defensive play from Kim Ratliff, Tanya Franck, Heather Brown and Becky Hogan, among others.

After dusting Iowa State and Oklahoma to begin the season, the Huskers faced their first true test on Sept. 8, playing on the road against No. 6 Duke. The Huskers left Durham, N.C., with a come-from-behind 3-1 win, a victory many NU players felt jump-started their season-long run.

"Being able to beat them on their home field just set the tone for the whole season," said Ratliff, a defender from Omaha and the program's first-ever senior. "We looked at ourselves as a pretty good team, but nobody knew how good."

That win vaulted Nebraska 13 spots in the rankings. The Huskers never looked back, passing their next big test on Sept. 29, a 1-0 vic-

Please see **SOCCER** on 11

## Texas hits its stride

**Mackovic says**  
Longhorns will need to execute to near perfection.

**BY SAM MCKEWIN**  
Staff Reporter

Unlike his starting quarterback, Texas Football Coach John Mackovic isn't making any bold predictions on Saturday's Big 12 championship game against Nebraska in St. Louis.



**Mackovic**

Instead, Mackovic has taken the high road in the days leading up to the fifth all-time meeting between Nebraska and Texas, a game that will send one team to the Bowl Alliance as the Big 12 champion.

"We have a lot of respect for Nebraska's program and their football team," Mackovic said. "It's going to be a great game between two great teams."

Mackovic brings to St. Louis a 7-4 team that has won four games in a row since a 28-24 loss to Colorado on Oct. 26.

To gain the South Division's spot in the championship game, Texas needed all four of those wins, including a 38-32 victory over Texas Tech in Lubbock.

Nebraska faced a similar situation in the North Division, ending conference play with an 8-0 record after its 17-12 win over Colorado last Friday in Lincoln.

Texas is coming off its best performance of the year, a 51-15 stomping of Texas A&M last Friday in Austin. The Longhorns amassed 594 yards against the Aggies and allowed A&M only 227 yards.

"Texas A&M was a game where we

Please see **TEXAS** on 10

## On the rise

Texas' offense has averaged 500 yards and 40 points per game in its last seven outings.

Opponent	Rush yds.	Pass yds.	Score
Missouri	247	150	40-10
New Mexico St.	203	276	41-7
Notre Dame	134	178	24-27
Virginia	111	243	13-37
Oklahoma St.	344	280	71-14
Oklahoma	117	227	27-30
Colorado	139	224	24-28
Baylor	213	297	28-23
Texas Tech	336	239	38-32
Kansas	290	200	38-17
Texas A&M	235	359	61-15