

# Record year offsets slow finish

By **ANDREW STRNAD**  
Staff Reporter

**INDIANAPOLIS** — Despite the Cornhuskers' disappointing finish at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships, both the Nebraska men's and women's teams had successful seasons in 1997.



Pepin

gural Big 12 Conference title over national runner-up Texas.

"Finishing ninth isn't how we wanted to end the season, but winning the first Big 12 title is definitely something that we're happy about," NU Coach Gary Pepin said.

The Husker women finished in the top 10 for the 16th time in the last 18 years. NU won national crowns from 1982 through 1984.

"Anytime you have a team that can perform at a level like that, with that

consistency, then you know you have reason to keep your head high," Pepin said.

The women set three school records during the year, including a collegiate record in the shot put.

Shot putter Tressa Thompson's throw of 60-7 feet, 3/4 inches blew the old mark away by 16 inches at the Nebraska-Iowa Athletic Conference meet on Feb. 14.

Thompson's greatest accomplishment came Saturday at the NCAA's at the RCA Dome, when her throw of 59 feet gave her a national championship.

"Obviously I would have liked to have thrown over 60 feet again, but I came here to win, and that's what happened," Thompson said.

Also setting school records for the NU women this year was Heather Burns in the 60-meter hurdles and the women's distance medley relay team.

The Husker men's team's 18th-place finish was a far cry from last year's second-place finish, but Pepin said a lot of good things came from the indoor season.

"We won the Big 12 men's title and set four school records," Pepin said. "People also forget that we don't have Jonah (Kiptarus) this year."

Kiptarus helped lead the Huskers' distance medley relay team to a national title as well as finishing second in the mile run at last year's NCAA's. Kiptarus also finished second at the 1996 NCAA Cross Country Championships.

Kiptarus decided to return to his native Kenya for personal reasons and skipped this year's track season.

The four records impressed Pepin. Junior Scott Warren broke his own school record in the 35-pound weight throw at the NCAA's with a toss of 66-8 3/4.

"Scott is a good athlete," Pepin said. "He's probably disappointed with his fifth-place finish, but he's going to get other opportunities to show people what he's got."

Senior Tom Fish set a school record in the 200-meter dash with a time of 21.06 seconds.

Fish finished sixth in the 200 meters at the NCAA's, earning All-America status as well as the highest finish ever by a Husker in the event.

"Tom likes to run outdoors, so finishing in the ballpark here is good," Pepin said.

Nebraska begins the outdoor season this weekend at the College Station Relays in College Station, Texas.

# End disappoints Huskers

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Kona Classic in Hawaii to ice a win over then-No. 9 Iowa 73-67.

As the season progressed Rogers moved into the starting lineup and led the Huskers in rebounds on eight different occasions. In just the second game of the season, Rogers led the Huskers scoring 17 points and grabbing seven boards against Southern Utah.

With the help of the freshmen, Nebraska started with a school record nine straight wins and a national ranking before losing 65-59 to Colorado. After the loss, the Huskers won seven consecutive games to improve to 16-1 on Jan. 30. They were a strong contender for the NCAA Tournament.

Husker forward Anna DeForge was a constant in NU's lineup all season. The first-team All-Big 12 selection and Big 12 Tournament member led the Huskers averaging 17.5 points per game. She also fin-

ished second in rebounds with 162 — five behind McClain.

Earlier in the season, DeForge also passed the 1,000-point mark and now ranks ninth on the Huskers' career scoring chart.

Then February and March hit when NU saw itself playing five games on the road and finished the season on a 2-7 slide. Nebraska defeated Missouri in the Big 12 Tournament before losing to Texas in the second round.

Despite the dismal end of the season, the Huskers still finished with the fourth-best record in Beck's 11 seasons at Nebraska.

"Not to take anything away from last year's team," Beck said, "but this year's team is a much better team."

Last season Nebraska finished with the same 19-9 mark but earned a trip to the tournament.

"We obviously had an opportunity in our hands and we didn't get the job done," Beck said.

# Soccer team ready for spring

Huskers use time to build momentum for fall season.

By **VINCE D'ADAMO**  
Staff Reporter

If the Nebraska soccer team encounters any problems during the 1997 season, don't bet on complacency being one of them.

In just three-and-a-half years, the Cornhusker soccer program has become a fixture on the national scene.

NU Coach John Walker said he has not needed to convince his players that a lethargic attitude following last year's 23-1 season is a sure route to failure.

"They want to win as much as I," Walker said. "They understand that the spring season is a time that you can make great strides. They're very competitive and goal-oriented."

NU has begun the spring season with two 0-0 ties. Nebraska tied Duke and Virginia in two games at Durham, N.C., March 2. The Huskers play at national runner-up Santa Clara this weekend.

The Huskers are primarily using those matches this spring to see where they stack up against the best teams

in the nation. In addition, NU is working to improve its speed, agility, strength and tactical issues.

"We're working on a lot of one- and two-touch soccer," striker Lindsay Eddleman said. "We're working a lot on moving the ball quickly. There's always room for improvement."

The spring schedule also includes games against North Carolina and Notre Dame — Final Four participants along with Santa Clara. NU also plays host to the U.S. Under-20 National Team on April 26. All three contests should measure the Huskers' progress.

Walker has conducted a spring practice session that would make a college student cringe. The Husker practice schedule has consisted of a workout at 6 a.m. followed by another practice session later in the afternoon.

"We play more soccer than we go to school," Eddleman said, "but that's definitely going to pay off. It's making us stronger."

Walker said nobody jumps for joy about the early workouts, but the players realize it's part of becoming a better team.

"A lot of people talk about wanting to be champions," Walker said. "But very few are ready to put in the Spartan-like work to become a champion."

"It's harder in the spring when you don't have that big game around the corner. When it's a cold day in January and they have to come in for a 6 a.m. workout, that's when you see the heart of a champion and who the pretenders are."

Last year's success will also translate into greater expectations, and Walker said the spring will help the Huskers so they don't disappoint in the fall.

"Last year, the question was whether we were good enough to beat a top 20 team," Walker said. "We answered that. Now the question is are we good enough to compete with the top five teams in the country?"

Note:

Portland's Kim Engesser has said she will transfer to Nebraska to play soccer for the Huskers, Walker said.

Engesser, a sophomore forward for the Pilots, played 17 games and started two, including Portland's 1-0 win over the Huskers in the NCAA Tournament.

During her freshman year, she started 21 games as the Pilots made the NCAA Finals before losing to Notre Dame.

# NU plays host to Drake Huskers

## finish sixth at invite

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska men's golf team finished sixth at the Fripp Island Intercollegiate tournament over the weekend.

NU finished 15 strokes behind Toledo, which won the tournament by shooting a three-round total of 884. The Cornhuskers shot a total of 899.

Josh Madden led Nebraska carding a 222, good for a 14th-place finish. Steve Friesen, who shot a 228 finished 37th. Trent Morrison and Mikkel Haug each shot a 228, finishing in a tie for 38th, and Scott Gutschewski finished 54th with a score of 232.

Jennifer Thoste lost for the first time this season. NU's No. 2 doubles team of Annie Yang and Lisa Hart won 8-2 to remain unbeaten this year.

Drake is traditionally a power in the Missouri Valley Conference, and Coach Jeff Vaage brought in a Bulldog squad to Lincoln that upset the Huskers last year 4-3.

"Drake has a strong program every year," Jacobson said. "We need to be ready to play."

Nebraska will use the Drake match to help prepare for this weekend's Fullerton Tournament. The tournament features Nebraska, Fairfield, Indiana and Cal State-Fullerton.

Nebraska is ranked 67th in the Women's Tennis Magazine Top 75 poll. The match against Drake will also be important for the regional rankings, Jacobson said.

"We're hoping we can fight back and get into the top 50," he said.

By **PETER MARHOEFER**  
Staff Reporter


The Nebraska women's tennis team starts a big week by playing host to Drake today.



Jacobson

"It will be interesting to see how the team bounces back," NU Coach Scott Jacobson said.

Against the Cowgirls, the No. 1 doubles tandem of Sandra Noetzel and



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