

Soccer team braces for Longhorns, Texas A&M

By JAY SAUNDERS
Assignment Reporter

Heading into what certainly is Nebraska soccer team's most-important early-season weekend, the Cornhuskers are hoping to continue to make a statement by lighting up the scoreboard.

The 4-0 Huskers have moved into the top five in the latest NSCAA coaches' poll after last week's No. 5 team, Connecticut, lost to Hartford. The Huskies fall out of the top 15 helped Nebraska take over the No. 5 spot. NU travels to Austin, Texas, to face Texas on Friday and plays 11th-ranked Texas A&M Sunday in College Station.

NU has poured in 13 goals in four games this season, while only giving up three. Out of those 13 goals, eight have come from the striker position.

Nebraska coach John Walker

said after a rocky start, he is pleased with how the players up front are producing.

"We seem to compete with an urgency," Walker said. "If we can pressure well up front, we can win a lot of balls and start attacks from dangerous positions. That gets us going a little bit."

Walker said that urgency was missing from the first two games of the season. He said he was not pleased with the offensive performance against DePaul and Southern California. The Huskers scored four goals against the Blue Demons but struggled with several missed scoring opportunities.

NU scored two goals against USC, but failed to put the game

away in the last 20 minutes after the Women of Troy scored a goal to make the score 2-1.

A seven-goal weekend has caused Walker to change his tune.

The Huskers did not score a goal in the first half against both Colorado and Vanderbilt. Against the Buffaloes, though, NU was down 1-0 at halftime and scored five second-half goals. The Huskers also scored two goals in the second half against Vanderbilt.

Walker said the Huskers played much better soccer in the second weekend of competition, both offensively and defensively.

"This weekend was a major improvement," Walker said. "We want our players to attack without inhibition. We were able to physically impose ourselves on our opponents."

The offensive attack has been led by junior Kim Engesser. Engesser transferred this season

from Portland after limited playing time her sophomore year.

This season has been a complete turnaround for the junior from Huntington Beach, Calif., who scored only one goal last season. She has four goals in four games this season.

Engesser is not the only player putting in a scoring contribution.

Sophomores Lindsay Eddleman, Isabelle Morneau and senior Kristen Gay have each scored a goal from the striker position. And, after not scoring a goal against DePaul, senior co-captain Kari Uppinghouse has come alive, scoring goals in both the USC and Colorado games.

The Huskers are still missing the services of senior Becky Hogan, who is recovering from a cracked tibia she injured before the season started. On Monday, Hogan tested at 90 percent and could play against Texas and Texas A&M this weekend.

Walker said the team has missed the athleticism and leadership Hogan brings to the field.

"We will have to see in practice this week how she does," Walker said. "We don't want to jeopardize her entire season to play in two big games this weekend."

When Hogan does come back, Walker said he doesn't know what role she will play. NU has had several players step up in Hogan's absence, including sophomore Amy Walsh.

Walsh played for McGill University in Canada last season before joining the Huskers this season. The 5-8 midfielder has one assist while playing in a backup role.

Walker said the addition of Walsh has been important for the Huskers.

"Amy has given us a real spark off the bench," Walker said. "She does a good job raising the intensity level when she comes in."



Walker

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Lue fights through pain 'Freak' injury can't knock down NU guard

By DAVID WILSON
Senior Reporter

"They took the ice off, I started walking and I fell."

TYRONN LUE
Nebraska point guard

Ice isn't always the best cure for a sore knee.

Just ask Nebraska point guard Tyronn Lue.

The 6-foot junior was selected to play on the USA Basketball 22 & Under World Championships Team last summer, but his playing stint was cut short when an ice wrap irritated the peroneal nerve in his right knee.

"They took the ice off, I started walking and I fell," Lue said.

Lue suffered the injury July 18 during the team's training camp in Newport Beach, Calif., and he missed the final three days of practice before the team traveled to Australia to compete in the International Basketball Federation 22 & Under World Championships.

Despite the injury, Lue made the trip to Australia, but five days later a decision was made to replace him.

"I was very disappointed because the training camp we had to go through was hard," Lue said. "That was the hard part. I made it through all the hard parts except for the one day when I got hurt. Not to be able to play in the world games —

that was hard for me.

"But that's OK, as long as I'm ready to go for the season."

The feeling in his leg came back three days after the ice incident, Lue said, but he has yet to return to full strength. The icing caused the nerve to go dead and made the muscles in his calf weaken, Lue said.

Lue started playing basketball again two weeks ago, and said he works about 40 minutes each day to regain the strength in his leg. Nebraska coach Danny Nee said Lue has improved to nearly 80 percent and will be ready to play in the Cornhuskers season-opening exhibition, Nov. 5 against Pella Windows.

"It's really a freak thing," Nee said, "but he'll have a 100 percent recovery."

A similar experience happened to Anaheim Angels outfielder Rickey Henderson, Lue said, and it

took Henderson a full year to recover. Doctors say Lue will be back at 100 percent within a month, he said.

But the experience he gained this summer outweighs having to go through rehabilitation, he said.

While Lue was in California, the world championships team competed in the FILA Summer Pro League at Long Beach State University. The team finished 4-2 against NBA competition that included Jerry Stackhouse, Kobe Bryant and former Nebraska star Eric Piatkowski.

"I think it was a really valuable experience," Nee said. "He played against NBA players, and he established some good work ethics."

Nee said he expects Lue, who was selected to the 12-man 22-and-under team out of 66 candidates, to continue to improve this season.

"We think that he's maturing and growing," Nee said. "He's a leader on the court and off the court."

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FACULTY/STAFF	WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 17, 5:30 P.M.
NITE OWLS	WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 24, 8:00 P.M.
PIN POUNDERS	THURSDAY, SEPT. 25, 6:00 P.M.
THURSDAY TRIOS	THURSDAY, SEPT. 25, 8:00 P.M.

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