

Sports Opinion



David Wilson Anti-Frost fans won't warm up

Picture this: Nebraska trails Washington by five with two minutes remaining in the game. Quarterback Scott Frost puts together an 80-yard drive capped by a perfect option run for a touchdown. The Cornhuskers upset the second-ranked Huskies and Frost is the hero.

But guess what? Frost haters will still hate Frost. And no matter how well Frost performs, Saturday or any other fall football Saturday this season, NU coach Tom Osborne will stand by his man. But Osborne hasn't been proven wrong yet.

Against Central Florida, Frost completed 9 of 14 passes - and had two passes dropped - for 120 yards. In possibly his best game at Nebraska, Frost's play at quarterback was rated by coaches as a 1.97 on a 2.0 scale.

"I cannot remember a quarterback here who went 60 snaps and graded any higher than that," Osborne said.

Still, Frost was booed by a good chunk of the student section.

"I was proud of the fact that Scott - despite the obvious displeasure - did not cave in," Osborne said. "He seemed to play better."

No matter how loud the boos are, Osborne can't justify starting backup quarterbacks Frankie London or Bobby Newcombe. Frost is the only one with legitimate game experience.

But hopefully, if Frost does falter, Osborne will not be too stubborn to relieve the veteran.

Obviously most fans' hatred for Frost goes beyond statistics, but that doesn't seem to bother him. Frost says he plays better when he's madd.

"Maybe if they keep booing me," Frost said, "I'll keep playing better and better."

Unfortunately, no matter how well he performs on the field, Frost will never regain the affection of some fans that he lost off the field.

But the feeling is mutual. "If you have any kind of good fans," Frost said, "they're not going to do that no matter what happens on the field."

The big game this weekend will not make or break Frost. In the eyes of Frost haters, he can do no right. In the eyes of Osborne, he can't do that bad.

"I'm not going to let it bother me too much," Frost said. "When people do things like that to me, it gets me going and I actually play better. So whatever it takes to motivate the players."

So hate Frost for whatever reason you want, but things won't change.

Wilson is a junior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan senior sports reporter.

ISU suffers NU revenge

By JAY SAUNDERS
Assignment Reporter

After suffering its first two regular season losses in 23 games last weekend, the Nebraska soccer team said it needed to prove it could play at a high level.

The team proved that Thursday night with a 7-0 win over Iowa State in front of a crowd of 721 at the Abbott Sports Complex.

The No. 11 Huskers (5-2 overall, 2-2 in the Big 12) attacked ISU goalkeeper Haley Mercer early and often.

NU finished the match with 11 shots on goal compared to one for the Cyclones (2-5, 0-4). NU senior goalie Rebecca Hornbacher did not have a busy night while recording her second shutout of the year.

Nebraska coach John Walker said the intensity and pressure that was missing in a 1-0 loss to Texas last weekend was there against the Cyclones.

"Up front the girls did a lot of work," Walker said. "In the middle of the field (Kari) Uppinghouse and Kristen (Gay) won almost everything in the air."

The Huskers spent most of the first half on Iowa State's side of the field.

The scoring opened up in the 10th minute with a Kim Engesser goal. Uppinghouse ran down the center of the field, and passed the ball to Engesser on the left side. The University of Portland transfer capitalized on a one-on-one scoring opportunity with Mercer.

Engesser added another goal in the 19th minute on a shot that went in the upper-left corner of the goal from 25 yards out.

Junior Becky Hogan scored her first goal of the season since recovering from a leg injury that sidelined her until last weekend's action.

Hogan knocked in a rebound off of a Sharolta Nonen shot at the 20-minute mark.



JENNY BENSON and the rest of the Huskers soared above Barb Lavergne (bottom) and the Iowa State Cyclones at the Abbott Center Thursday night.

Hogan, who played sparingly against Texas and Texas A&M, said she was excited to score her first goal of the season.

"It feels really good," Hogan said. "For me the hardest thing to do is to watch soccer and not play. (Scoring) is something I really wanted to do."

Then with 13 minutes to go in the first half, Jenny Benson fended off three defenders and scored from

seven yards out. With her second two-goal game of the season already in hand, Engesser was not done yet. In the 60th minute, she opened up the second

Please see SOCCER on 11

NU anticipates rivalry game

By SHANNON HEFFELFINGER
Assignment Reporter

The match that has weighed heavily on the thoughts of the Nebraska volleyball team is finally here.

Four weeks of non-conference competition have produced three five-game matches, a loss to No. 2 Florida, and victories over three ranked teams. The Cornhuskers have seldom lacked reasons for excitement or motivation this season.

But the biggest reason for the two happens Friday night at 5 in Madison, Wis.

The Huskers compete in the first-ever Big Ten-Big 12 Challenge this weekend. Traditional powerhouses from both conferences will participate. Nebraska and No. 10 Texas represent the Big 12 and twelfth-ranked Wisconsin and No. 1 Penn State stand up for the Big Ten.

NU does not play Texas, but faces Wisconsin on Saturday at 7 p.m.

But it's the kickoff match against Penn State the team has been anticipating throughout the early part of the season.

"Any more, we have a great rivalry," Korver said. "We've been thinking about it, and after the Ohio State game last weekend, it was on everybody's mind."

"Penn State just hates to come to the (NU) Coliseum. Playing them in Wisconsin, we'll have to play the best

match we've played so far this year." Nebraska expects a tough match with Penn State (9-0), a team with which it owns a lengthy history.

The two teams played a thrilling five-game match last season at the NU Coliseum with NU rallying from an 11-5 deficit in the fifth game to win the match, and knock the Nittany Lions from the NCAA Tournament.

In 1994, Penn State defeated NU in four games in the Midwest Regional Tournament Finals to knock the Huskers from the NCAA Tournament and end Nebraska's undefeated season.

The two teams have met in post-season play seven times with the Huskers holding a 6-1 advantage.

The 1997 version of the nine-year rivalry features many of the same players who competed in last year's battle, a match in which the Huskers held the home-court advantage.

Similar to the teams' last meeting, Penn State's strength lies in the front court. Three different players average over three kills a game including senior Terri Zemaitis, who leads PSU with 4.35 kills per game.

Zemaitis, a player NU coach Terry Pettit recruited, also tops the Big Ten in blocking with 1.7 per game.

"Terry Zemaitis is one of my favorite players," Pettit said. "She plays in a manner that allows people to be comfortable around her. I think

Soccer
Sunday at 1 p.m. vs. Arkansas

Volleyball
Big Ten - Big 12 Challenge
Madison, Wis.

Sept. 19	Nebraska	vs.	Penn St.	5 p.m.
	Wisconsin	vs.	Texas	7 p.m.
Sept. 20	Penn St.	vs.	Texas	5 p.m.
	Wisconsin	vs.	Nebraska	7 p.m.

anytime you see a player like that on another team, you have to admire her.

"I think in many ways she provides the chemistry that allows Penn State to play as well as they've been playing."

The responsibility of defending the senior All-American falls upon Husker middle blockers Megan Korver and Tonia Tauke. Lisa Reitsma leads NU with 1.59 blocks per game but Korver and Tauke are close behind with 1.22 and 1.18.

"It's going to be a long, challenging weekend for the middles," Tauke said. "But I think if we can disrupt their passing, it will be easier to see where the ball is going to go and where to put up the block."

Pettit said the significance of the early-season match remains lower than if it were played in November or December.

But the match holds more importance than just post-season implications, Tauke said.

"If we beat Penn State, it would be a huge win because they're so feisty about our win last year," Tauke said. "It's early, but if we get this win, our confidence for the Big 12 season will be very high."

Canadian tailback verbally commits

■ Nebraska football support and "sea of red" impressed the recruit when he visited Lincoln last weekend.

By DAVID WILSON
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska football team received its fourth verbal commitment from Dahrnan Diedrick, a tailback from Scarborough, Ontario.

Diedrick made his decision after visiting Lincoln last weekend and watching the Cornhuskers defeat Central Florida 38-24. The 6-foot-1, 210-pounder said he was caught up by the aura of Nebraska football.

"The thing that amazed me was the fans," Diedrick said. "They say it becomes the third largest city in Nebraska when they play. When I was there I was like, 'Whoa.' There was so much red. That had a really big influence on my decision."

As a senior at Cedarbrae Collegiate High School, Diedrick opened his senior season Thursday afternoon rushing 15 times for 250 yards and two touchdowns. Despite being the top player recruited out of Canada, Diedrick wasn't sure he was going to play football this fall.

In addition to playing football, rugby and track in high school, Diedrick has played on an all-star football team each summer since he was 12 and said he doesn't need any more highlight tapes. Last summer, Diedrick had 145 carries for 1386 yards and 14 touchdowns.

Speed has helped Diedrick, who said he had been clocked running a 4.48 electronic 40-yard dash. But times, he said, don't mean much.

"Just running fast on a track doesn't mean you're Superman," Diedrick said. "I've played against guys that run a 4.3 and I blow right by them."

While attending a combine last May, Diedrick met NU running backs coach Frank Solich and has been in contact with Nebraska ever since. The persistence and the friendliness of the Husker coaching staff also influenced Diedrick's decision.

Assuming he records a qualifying SAT score this fall, Diedrick will graduate and attend Nebraska in January. High school athletes can not sign letters of intent until February, when Diedrick will become the first Canadian football player to be given a football scholarship at Nebraska. Though he didn't take any other official visits, Diedrick also considered eight other schools.

"I feel like it's opening up doors for that school and the Big 12," Diedrick said. "If I go down and play well, they'll have to say, 'Hey, there has to be more than one good player in Canada.'"