

# NU soccer affirms prowess

By JAY SAUNDERS  
Assignment Reporter

After suffering two regular season losses for the first time in two years, the Nebraska soccer players had to prove to themselves they could still play championship soccer.

A 7-0 win against Iowa State followed by an 8-0 victory over Arkansas last weekend proved the Cornhuskers could still play good soccer.

The Huskers will try to continue what they started last weekend when NU plays host to Baylor tonight at 7 and Texas Tech Sunday at noon. Both games will be played at the Abbott Sports Complex.

"Everything is positive (playing at home)," junior Becky Hogan said. "With the combination of the fans and familiarity, you can be in your own pattern."

That pattern will be tested against Baylor (7-1 overall, 3-1 in the Big 12 Conference), which is currently



Walker

Soccer at Abbott Sports Center  
Friday 7 p.m. DePaul  
Sunday 12 p.m. USC

ahead of the No. 10 Huskers (6-2, 2-2) in the Big 12 standings.

Nebraska coach John Walker calls this game the "toughest home date of the year."

Baylor has one of the nation's top scoring duos in Courtney Saunders and Molly Cameron.

The two have already combined to score 12 goals this season as the Bears have outshot their opponents 209-63.

Walker said NU goalkeeper Rebecca Hornbacher and the Husker defense, which has not allowed a goal in two games, will have its hands full against the Bears' potent attack.

"They score goals at an alarming rate," Walker said.

"They aren't just winning games but are outshooting teams unbelievably."

Scoring goals has not been a problem for the Huskers, who have outscored their opponents 28-5 this season.

Junior Kim Engesser, who has scored nine goals this season including five last weekend, and Kari Uppinghouse have provided an offensive spark for the Huskers.

The key to a Nebraska victory may be attacking and scoring early in the game. Opponents have only scored one goal in the first half this season against the Huskers, while NU has scored 11 first-half goals.

Last weekend against Arkansas, Uppinghouse scored a goal at the 1:53 mark, the quickest goal in Husker history.

Both Walker and Hogan said it will be important for NU to strike early and often against Baylor and Texas Tech.

"(Pressure) will always be a key to our success," Walker said. "There is no doubt we will attack from the opening whistle."

Texas Tech also has a winning record in the Big 12.

The Red Raiders, who led with striker Kristy Frantz, are 4-5 overall and 4-3 in the conference.

Last season in Lubbock, Texas, the Raiders played the Huskers close but NU scored two second-half goals to secure the win.

Walker said the Tech game is vital because it comes at an important time in the season.

"We are in the meat of our schedule," Walker said. "This is a crucial time to see where our season is going."

# Quarterbacks coach Gill: Newcombe plays wingback

NEWCOMBE from page 7

Newcombe will play wingback unless injuries to Frost or London force him back under center. After this season, Newcombe will be given the decision on whether or not he will play quarterback or wingback in the spring. Next year, the Huskers will return London, Christo and red-shirt freshman Eric Crouch for the quarterback position.

Gill said he has not ruled out the possibility of Newcombe playing quarterback again next year.

"We're not going to say never ever," Gill said. "We'll re-evaluate what's best for Bobby at the end of the year."

As for Newcombe, his focus is on this season.

"I'm not going to make a decision about next year now," he said. "My main focus is to contribute to the team as much as possible."

# KSU coach finds team challenging

KSU from page 7

younger kids mature a little more quickly," McLaughlin said. "We're making progress in many areas, and with three new starters, I feel like we're right on schedule."

"We're trying to develop a balance, and we're starting to score more. We're really beginning to respond to each other."

The emergence of sophomore outside hitter Dawn Cady has added to the Wildcats' early-season success. Cady leads KSU with 4.47 kills per game, and is in the top five of the conference. Cady provides the team with a more balanced attack as it prepares for the Nebraska match, McLaughlin said, but the team has not reached its overall offensive potential.

"I've asked this team to buy into a process," McLaughlin said. "And if we do the right things every day in practice, the wins are going to come."

"We won't be at the best we can be this weekend. Hopefully, that point will come in November."

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# NU rugby teams score from season's beginning

RUGBY from page 7

Huskers so far this season. The graduate student scored five tries (the equivalent to touchdowns in football) in the opening game.

But the Huskers' success the rest of the season depends on team depth, Ringgenberg said.

Because Nebraska has just enough players to form a team (15), the squad has not determined whether to play in the regional tournament in November, which is an opportunity to qualify for the national Sweet 16 Tournament.

"If we went to regionals, we'd have to have 20 dedicated girls and lots of funds," Ringgenberg said. "You have to be ready because there are some good teams we'll be competing against."

Most of the money for travel and other expenses are paid by the players themselves, Ringgenberg said.

NU coach Chris Ford, who took over coaching the team in the spring, is greatly responsible for the team's improvement, Husker sophomore Sharon Liles said.

"He's devoted a lot of time and effort in helping our women's team succeed," she said.

The men's team has also done its part in supporting the women's team, Ringgenberg said. Among other things, the men often attend the women's games and offer to travel with the women's team.

"The guys have done wonders for our team," Ringgenberg said. "They've gone out on a limb. They

always cheer us on and coach us. They are a great bunch of guys."

The men's club team has picked up where they left off a year ago.

The Huskers are 3-0 with wins over Central Missouri St. (34-12), Omaha Men's Club (60-5) and the University of Nebraska at Omaha (24-5).

Nebraska is coming off its best year, finishing 12-1. The Huskers' only loss came in the western regional tournament, where they placed fifth.

Despite last year's success, Nebraska still lacks the respect from competitors, co-captain Josh Rehtmeyer said.

But Nebraska will have an opportunity to make a name for itself Oct. 4 in Kansas City, Mo., at the Heart of America Tournament, which includes 40 teams. Truman State, Rice, LSU and Air Force are some of the top teams in the region that will be present.

The Huskers are smaller and younger than a year ago but they have the heart to be as competitive as their 12-1 squad, co-captain Eric Zimmerman said.

"There's potential," he said. "We're really tough and focused."

The men's and women's teams play home-day games at Whittier Junior High School at 22nd and Vine streets. Their night games are at the Mabel Lee Hall Field.

Both teams are still accepting new members, and no experience is necessary.

# Dirksen expects solidarity from cross country team

By SAM MCKEWON  
Staff Reporter

It will be a measurement Saturday when the Nebraska men's and women's cross country teams run against strong competition at the Roy Griak Invitational in Minneapolis.

Eight ranked teams, including No. 21 Nebraska, will be competing in the women's race. Included in the tournament will be Wisconsin, Northern Arizona, Providence, Oregon, Colorado State, Coastal Carolina, Iowa State and Boston College.

While the men's race will be smaller than the women's, the 15th-ranked Huskers will face better teams than those faced at the Woody Greeno Invitational in Lincoln last weekend.

NU coach Jay Dirksen said he is looking forward to seeing how well his teams have progressed.

"We'll find out how realistic our rankings are right now," Dirksen said.

Dirksen said he feels good about the women's chances.

The Huskers are led by freshman Amy Wiseman, who was this week's Big 12 Cross Country Runner of the Week for her third-place finish in the Woody Greeno Invitational.

But Dirksen said the team has looked solid in practice.

One runner Dirksen expects to perform well is sophomore Amie Finkner, who did not run a good race in the Woody Greeno. But Finkner has had one of her best weeks of practice this week, Dirksen said.

"Amie really came out and ran well this week," Dirksen said. "One day she came out and kicked everybody's butts. We need her to run well this weekend."

In the men's race, Dirksen said the main goal is not to win, but to improve. Dirksen said he would expect freshman Jeroen Broekzitter and senior Cleophas Boor to place in the top 25 and get strong supporting races from the three, four and five spots.

"This is the closest group of guys that I've been around in all my years of coaching," he said. "The women are always that way, but the guys have stuck together as a team instead of going their own separate ways, like some teams have gone in the past. It's helped them."

Dirksen said the meet will help both teams gain the experience for bigger meets this season.

"We're still at that point where we're getting better and learning how to improve," Dirksen said. "This meet will help us."

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