

Big 12 soccer,

Game day Notebook

The pair of wins this weekend against Baylor and Texas Tech were the third and fourth consecutive shutouts for the Nebraska goalkeepers. Senior Rebecca Hornbacher played the whole game in NU's 2-0 victory over Baylor on Friday and then teamed with freshmen Jackie Erdkamp and Karina LeBlanc in wins over Tech, Iowa State and Arkansas.

NU has not allowed a goal in the last 397 minutes of play, dating back to the 1-0 loss at Texas A&M on Sept. 14. Last season, Nebraska goalies held opponents scoreless for 569 consecutive minutes, including five straight shutouts.

Isabelle Morneau scored the quickest goal in Nebraska history against Baylor. Morneau scored 47 seconds into the game.

That broke the record that was set last week by Kari Uppinghouse. Uppinghouse's goal was at the 1:43 mark against Arkansas.

"From the other team's standpoint, their confidence deflates a little as soon as they go down a goal," Walker said.

Texas Tech had to deal with more than just the Huskers Sunday. Tech coach Felix Oskam said last week that his team would have to adjust to the big size of the field at Abbott Sports Complex.

The field, which is 120 yards long by 80 yards wide, is bigger than the Red Raiders' home field in Lubbock, Texas. Last season, Nebraska was held to two goals in Lubbock.

"With the speed Nebraska has, we can't cover it all," Oskam said. "Last year, Nebraska just ran out of space."

Nebraska's well-heralded freshman class continued to contribute this weekend. Julie Greco scored her second goal of the season against Texas Tech, which is only the fourth game she has played this year since coming off of a knee injury.

NU's seven goals this weekend were scored by seven different players. Besides Julie Greco and Isabelle Morneau, the Huskers got goals from Tanya Franck, Jenny Benson, Lindsay Eddleman, Kari Uppinghouse and Kim Engesser. Engesser's goal was her 10th of the season in 10 games. Her 10 goals and one assist give her 21 points on the season, which leads the Big 12.

Notebook compiled by Assignment Reporter Jay Saunders and Staff Reporter Nate Odgaard

Soccer team gains speed

By JAY SAUNDERS
Assignment Reporter

A 5-0 victory against Texas Tech Sunday may not have been what the Nebraska soccer team wanted to see.

NU coach John Walker said he was not happy with the No. 10 Cornhuskers' (8-2 overall, 4-2 in the Big 12 Conference) effort in the win against the Red Raiders in front of 652 fans at the Abbott Sports Complex.

"I don't think we played particularly well," Walker said. "Obviously you like to score a lot of goals, but we have to continue to improve."

On Friday the Huskers defeated Baylor 2-0.

Against the Red Raiders, the Huskers jumped on the board early when Jenny Benson stole the ball from a Texas Tech player, raced past Red Raider goalkeeper Lizzie Pruitt and punched it in.

The goal was the only scoring Nebraska needed as the Huskers recorded their fifth shutout of the season.

The Red Raiders were able to get just two shots on goal against Nebraska goalkeeper Rebecca Hornbacher, who injured her thumb during pre-game warm-ups. The first shot did not come until the 35-minute mark of the game.

NU hasn't allowed a goal in 397 minutes, behind the school record of 569 minutes and five consecutive shutouts.

"It is good to know the team is on the right track again," Hornbacher said. "The pressure we had from the top of the field to the back helped us win the game."

While NU goalies didn't face a lot of shots against the Red Raiders, the Husker offense was keeping Tech's defense busy. Nebraska attempted 17 shots on goal, with five of them getting past Pruitt.

Again one of the leaders for the Huskers was junior Kim Engesser, who scored her conference-leading 10th goal of the season at the 25-

minute mark. She also picked up her first assist of the season when Kari Uppinghouse scored Nebraska's fourth goal of the game.

The Huskers did not talk about the ease of their 21st straight win at home after the game, instead freshman Julie Greco said something was not right for NU. Greco scored NU's fifth goal of the game at the 78:50 mark.

"We came out very strong but something shut down," Greco said. "The score doesn't show how we feel we played."

Walker said NU neither tackled well nor won a lot of balls in the air, which was something the Huskers did well in a 2-0 win over Baylor on Friday night.

Isabelle Morneau and Tanya Franck both scored goals for NU against Baylor in a physical contest.

The Huskers and Bears combined for 27 fouls and three yellow cards.

Despite the physical play, the Huskers were able to shut out Baylor's scoring duo of Courtney Saunders and Molly Cameron, who finished the game with only one shot on goal.

"(Baylor) was talking about how confident they were," Benson said. "We wanted to come out and prove no one is going to shut us down."

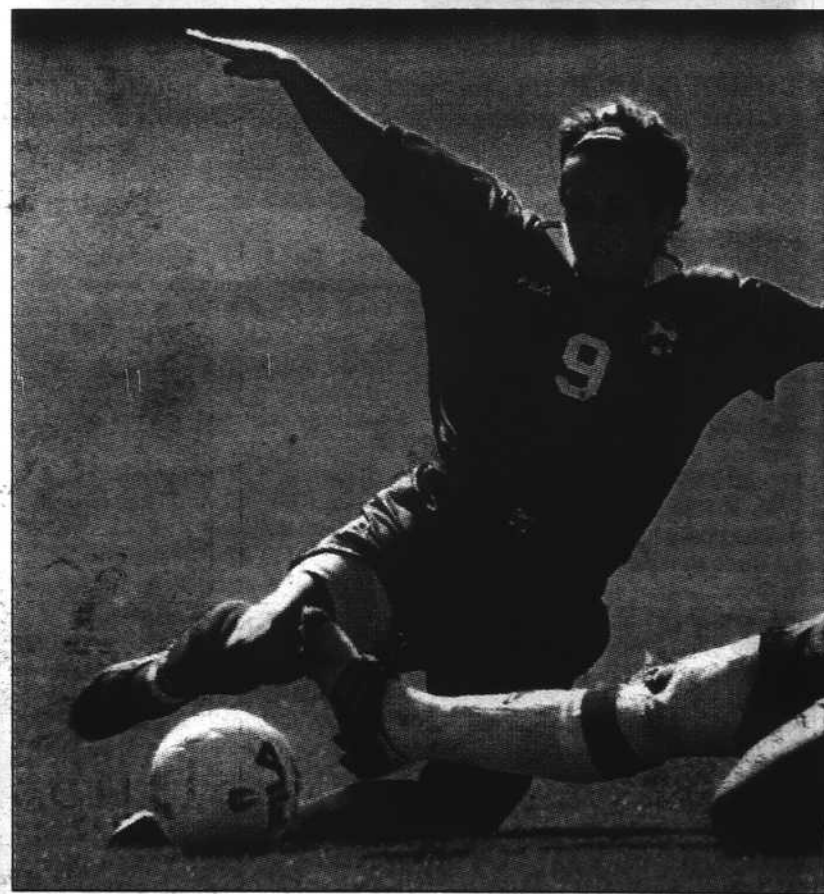
But Walker said the things Nebraska did well against Baylor were not present against Texas Tech.

"There are a lot of blue-collar things we didn't do particularly well," Walker said after Sunday's game.

"We have to think about where we want to be at the end of the season and emulate that every time out. Today we were a bit casual in some areas."

NU is now halfway through an eight-game homestand that continues Friday and Sunday with games against Big 12 opponents Missouri and Kansas.

"It is good to know the team is on the right track again," Hornbacher said. "The pressure we had from the top of the field to the back helped us win the game."



Clockwise from top:
MATT MILLER/DN
SEVERAL MEMBERS of the NU soccer team jump off the bench after a near-victory Friday night. The Huskers won 2-0.
SANDY SUMMERS/DN
MIDFIELDER KARI UPPINGHOUSE protects the ball from Texas Tech's defender, on Sunday.
MATT MILLER/DN
NU FRESHMAN Sarah Deacon gets fired up with her teammates during player introduction.
MATT MILLER/DN
ISABELLE MORNEAU of Nebraska and Texas Tech's Jamie Woods slide to the ball.
MATT MILLER/DN
THE DISCIN' DOPE Frisbee Dog and his owner show off the dog's talent during the game.

