

# Sports

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1997

PAGE 9

## Sports Opinion



### Jay Saunders

## 'Real' football deserves chance at fan following

The University of Nebraska is only averaging 825 real football fans per game this season.

Ninety minutes of near-continuous action, yellow cards, goalkeepers and offsides. Most Americans may call this soccer. I like to call it the real football.

First of all, if you want to get technical, what you in the sea of red call soccer is the original football. In the mid-19th century in England, a game called football was invented. That game, usually called soccer, is now a worldwide phenomenon. In fact, soccer is the most widely watched sport in the entire world.

Soccer has only truly caught on here in the United States since the early 1990s. The World Cup, a world championship unmatched in sports, was played in America in 1994. That spawned a successful professional men's league, and got some in this country excited about soccer. It's not just men's soccer that has had success in the United States; the women's national team won the Olympic gold medal in Atlanta.

But NBC didn't even bother to show the gold medal game. This is not because soccer is unpopular, but because most Americans are ignorant when it comes to this worldwide sport. So many Americans criticize this sport. But are those criticisms really called for? Of course not.

Criticism No. 1: "There is not enough scoring in soccer."

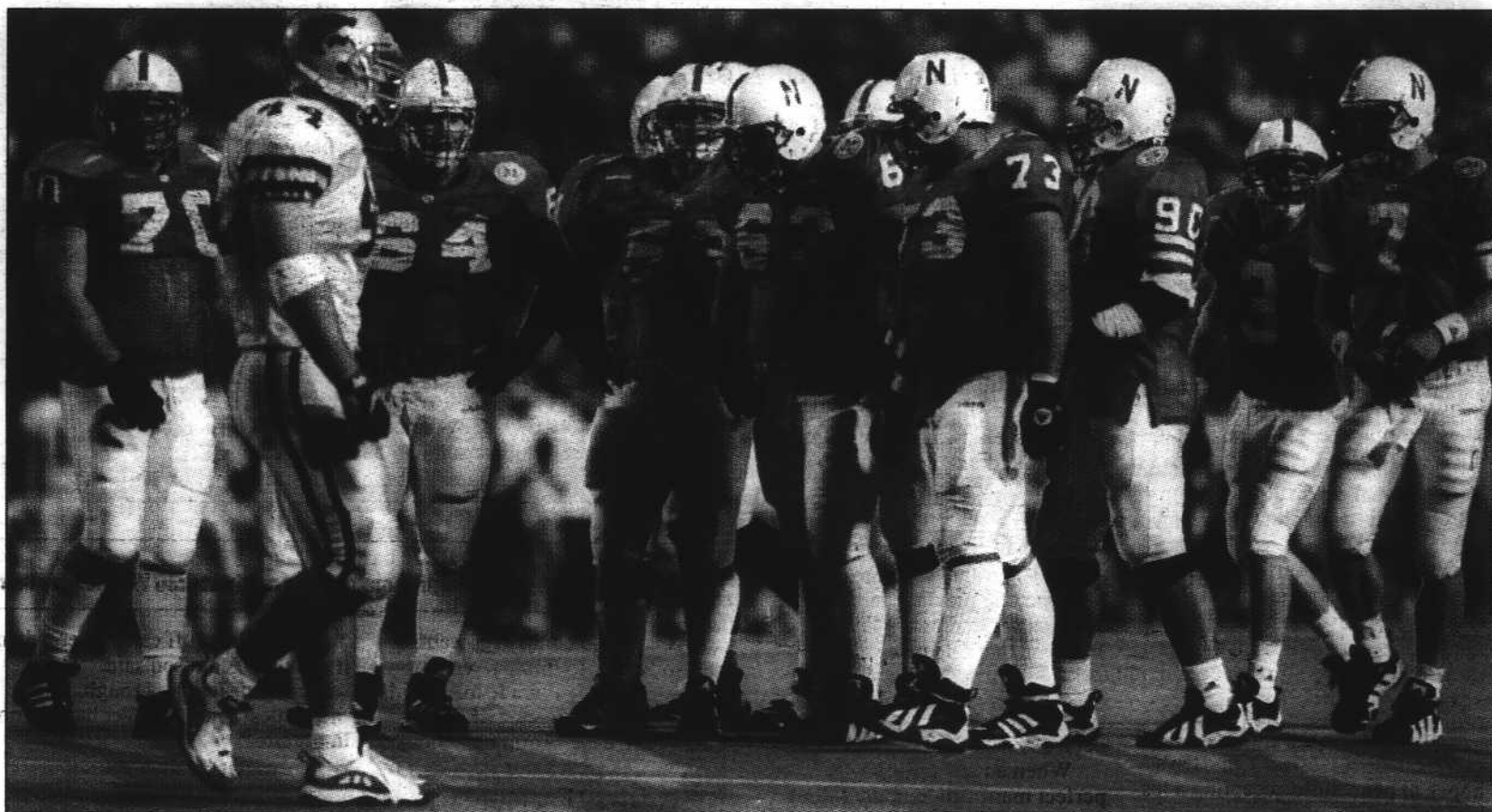
Wrong. Americans' obsession with high-scoring sports is blinding them to the fact that soccer has just as much scoring as other sports. Take American football, for example. A goal (a.k.a. touchdown) in football is worth six points, as opposed to one point in soccer. Now, look back to the Nebraska soccer game against Arkansas this season. The Huskers scored eight goals. That would be 48 points in American football. There are a lot of 1-0 and 2-1 games in soccer, but how many 14-7 football games have you sat through?

Criticism No. 2: "Soccer has no action."

Soccer players are some of the best athletes in the world. Soccer is a very physical game. It is certainly more action-packed than baseball, and there are some games where there is more physical play and fighting than in hockey.

Husker fans, put your stereotypes aside and give the worldwide phenomenon of real football a chance.

Saunders is a sophomore broadcasting major and a Daily Nebraskan assignment reporter.



THE NEBRASKA OFFENSE has dominated its opponents this season, averaging a nation-best 525.75 yards per game. The Huskers face Baylor at 6 p.m. Saturday at Floyd Casey Stadium in Waco, Texas.

# Bears' woes don't swell NU

BY DAVID WILSON  
Senior Reporter

Things aren't getting any easier for Baylor.

Third-ranked Nebraska (4-0 overall and 1-0 in the Big 12 Conference) will be the third ranked opponent the Bears (1-3 and 0-1) have faced in the first five weeks of their season. The Cornhuskers travel to Waco, Texas, to face Baylor at 6 p.m. Saturday.

BU coach Dave Roberts said the Bears were playing like one of the worst teams in America after a 35-14 loss to Texas Tech last weekend, but his comment didn't give Nebraska a huge boost of confidence. The Huskers can't afford to overlook Baylor, NU senior defensive tackle Jason Peter said.

"Maybe it's just a little plan the coaches have down there to try to have us go into the game real loose, thinking that we're automatically going to win," Peter said. "Hopefully, maybe he's trying to get a spark going down there and maybe get them playing a little better - trying to get them a little mad. I'd certainly be a little



Football

mad if my coach told us that we were the worst team in America."

The Bears rank ninth in the Big 12 in total offense, averaging 325.5 yards per game. BU quarterback Jeff Watson averages 183 yards of total offense per game but has only scored three touchdowns this season - all through the air. As a team, Baylor is averaging 17 points per game.

In their two meetings in the 1990s, the Bears' offense has not scored against the Huskers. Nebraska downed Baylor 49-0 last season and 13-0 in 1990 - both in Lincoln. The Huskers have never played at Floyd Casey Stadium.

Nebraska's defense is itching for another shutout against Baylor, Peter said. The Blackshirts have not held an opponent scoreless since last season's matchup with the Bears.

"As a defensive unit, we've yet to pitch a shutout," Peter said. "So that's one of the things that we'd like to do."

Baylor's defense could also play a big factor in Saturday's game.

Last week, the Bears held Texas Tech to 62 yards on the ground. But in the season, BU has allowed opponents an average of 222.5 yards rushing per game.

Nebraska, on the other hand, leads the nation in rushing - averaging 399.8 yards per game - but quarterback Scott Frost said the Huskers had to prepare a little more for the Baylor defense.

"Defensively, they're doing a lot of things," Frost said. "They've had some trouble stopping a few people, but I think they have pretty decent athletes."

"They run everything from a 4-4 to a 5-3 to an Eagle defense to a 4-3. So it isn't like a Washington where we can prepare for one defense or two defenses. We have to pretty much be ready to run the ball and throw the ball against most every defense that someone can throw at you."

The Husker defense, Peter said, has to be ready too.

"Baylor has had some problems lately," Peter said. "But on any given week they can turn that around. We're just going to have to make sure it doesn't happen against us."

## Huskers heavily favored

BY ANDREW STRNAD  
Staff Reporter

It's a classic mismatch. Nebraska has its sights on the Orange Bowl and a possible national championship, while Baylor is undergoing an arduous rebuilding process with a new head coach.

The No. 3 Huskers (4-0 overall, 1-0 in the Big 12 Conference) are heavily favored to beat the Bears (1-3, 0-1) in a 6 p.m. start at

Please see BAYLOR on 10

## OU coach confident of team's chances vs. NU

BY SHANNON HEFFELFINGER  
Assignment Reporter

By looking carefully, Oklahoma volleyball coach Miles Pabst thinks he has discovered a few small cracks in fifth-ranked Nebraska's armor.

Pabst hopes the Sooners (8-7 overall, 2-2 in the Big 12 Conference) rip those cracks open at 7 p.m. when the Cornhuskers visit the OU Fieldhouse.

Nebraska (13-3, 4-1) travels to Norman expecting to recover quickly from a five-game loss to No. 22 Colorado suffered Wednesday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. The loss



Volleyball

ended a 23-year conference home winning streak.

"Nebraska is very good and very strong, but there are areas on that team that we can exploit," Pabst said. "They have excellent setting and they're a big team. But for some reason, and I can't quite put my finger on it, they're not as dominating as they were last year. They showed weaknesses in those five-game losses earlier in the season, and I never thought Colorado

Please see SOONERS on 11

## Conferences clash at Abbott

BY JAY SAUNDERS  
Assignment Reporter

A pair of non-conference foes invade the Abbott Sports Complex this weekend.

No. 10 Nebraska (10-2) steps out of the Big 12 Conference tonight to face San Diego (3-8-1) at 7, in the first meeting between the two teams. The Huskers also face Kentucky (5-6-1) of the Southeastern Conference for the first time in school history Sunday at 1 p.m.

Nebraska has had success this season against the SEC, beating both Arkansas and Vanderbilt.

The Huskers also have had a great deal of success at home so far this season, especially during the recent eight-game homestand. The Huskers have notched six straight wins since the beginning of the homestand.

All six of those games have been



Soccer at Abbott Sports Center

shutouts, which ties a Nebraska record. NU goalkeepers have not allowed a goal in the last 577:29 of play. If the Huskers don't allow a goal in the first 19 minutes against San Diego, they will break a Nebraska record that has stood since 1995.

Senior goalkeeper Rebecca Hornbacher is fifth in the nation and leads the conference with 0.39 goals-against average.

"I am happy about not giving up goals and not giving up set plays," Nebraska coach John Walker said. "We are a much harder and tighter team defensively."

Walker said he stresses that everyone is responsible for playing defense. He said the Huskers' defensive strate-

Please see SOCCER on 10