

# Hornbacher, defenders shut down Husker foes

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backfield, Walker said, it goes all the way to the Husker attackers.

"That is the key right there," Walker said. "Our players understand it is not acceptable to allow a shot on goal or a corner kick or commit a foul in our end," Walker said. "When the offense gets great pressure up front, that is when we play our best soccer."

All three members of the Nebraska backfield are converted midfielders. Last year was the first time Nonen and Vacek played defense. The switch from the mid-field to the backfield, however, still allows the defenders to be involved in the Husker offense. Nebraska's formation allows the defenders to move up the field and be creative when they have the ball.

Franck leads all defenders with seven points. The senior from Toronto has three goals and an assist

this season. Two of those goals came in the season opener against DePaul. Vacek has four assists, and Nonen, a sophomore, has assisted three Husker goals.

"When you want to get into the attack, very few forwards will go with you," Franck said. "If you want to go, you just go."

NU's defense will face a huge test this weekend in Durham, N.C., against No. 4 Duke.

Vacek said the Huskers won't treat Duke differently than any other opponent.

"Our team has the mentality that we want to be dominant defensively," Hornbacher said. "It is an attitude thing. If they come in here, they won't get anything and we will translate that into success on their end of the field."

# Warren, Wiltz shine at nose tackle

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fly around and make plays. On the pass rush, you're usually double teamed, so you have to just try and spilt it."

McBride said having two players at nose tackle has helped ease the wear and tear of one of football's most physically demanding roles.

"It's good that you can bring in another guy when one of them starts to get tired," McBride said. "The biggest thing that we've always had here at Nebraska is ability to alternate a couple of good defensive linemen around."

Neither player said he was sure what position he would play after arriving at Nebraska — or if he would play for the Huskers at all.

Warren played at Kickapoo High in Springfield, Mo., and had Kansas and Illinois ahead of Nebraska on his recruiting list. However, after visiting

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**CHARLIE MCBRIDE**  
NU defensive coordinator

Lincoln, Warren said he preferred the NU program.

"It didn't feel right at Illinois and Kansas," Warren said. "At Nebraska, everything seemed to fall into place."

Wiltz, from St. Augustine High in New Orleans, had to choose between Louisiana State and the Huskers. In the end, he said NU's tradition and academic program won out.

Warren and Wiltz both said they have had a good coach on the field in senior All-America defensive tackle Jason Peter.

"Jason has showed us the right way to practice and how to give 110 percent on every play," Warren said. "He's one of the best defensive linemen in the nation."

By the end of the year, Warren and Wiltz still may not be as recognizable as Peter on the line, but they will play a major factor in NU's run for a national title.

"These guys are getting better every day," McBride said. "Teams are not going to want to pick on them."

## Dominating Defense

In the last eight games the NU soccer team has outscored its opponents 40-0.

	Opponents		Nebraska	
	Shot on Goal	Goals	Shot on goal	Goals
Iowa St.	1	0	13	7
Arkansas	1	0	17	8
Baylor	3	0	9	2
Texas Tech	2	0	15	5
Missouri	1	0	9	4
Kansas	2	0	10	6
San Diego	1	0	15	5
Kentucky	3	0	8	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>40</b>

# Injuries leave NU in a bind

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out whether or not she's going to be at full strength. I've made adjustments based on the idea that Jaime won't be back. But hopefully, she will."

Several Nebraska players agreed that the loss of Krondak and Saunders hurts the Huskers' game plan, but outside hitter Mandy Monson said it represents a loss the 13-4 Huskers should have been able to overcome.

"Jaime is one of our best passers and a leader," Monson said. "But we have to figure out a way to win without her. I think (the losses) were just a lack of focus."

"All the teams in the Big 12 are very good. We can't just think, 'Oh, we'll go out and lace up our shoes and then we'll win.'"

Nebraska hopes to refocus this weekend when it travels to No. 11 Texas on Friday and No. 12 Texas A&M on Saturday. NU has not lost more than two straight conference

matches in the program's 23-year history and owns a seven-match win streak against the Aggies. The Huskers also have won five consecutive matches against the Longhorns.

"This weekend is important to us," Pettit said, "but ultimately the last month of the season is most important to us. We just need to do everything we can to guarantee that by Dec. 5, when the NCAA Tournament rolls around, that nobody is going to want to play us."

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