

## Seeding disappoints soccer team

### Huskers play Michigan Saturday

BY JAY SAUNDERS  
Assignment Reporter

A loss to Texas A&M in the Big 12 Soccer Conference Tournament left Nebraska with many questions about how its post season would play out in the NCAA Division I Soccer Championships.

The Cornhuskers received their answer on Tuesday but were not happy with the news.

Nebraska (17-3 overall) will play host to a first round game on Sunday at 1 p.m. against Big 10 Tournament champion Michigan (18-3-1) at the Abbott Sports Complex. The winner of the Nebraska-Michigan game will play the winner of the Cincinnati-Notre Dame game.

Many of the NU coaches and players said they thought before the selection that the Huskers would get one of the top eight seeds in the tournament, which would mean they would play host to the first two games.

No. 7 Nebraska and Big 12 Champion and No. 3 Texas A&M were the only two teams selected

from the Big 12 Conference, and neither of the two were seeded in the NCAA Tournament.

"It was surprising in the terms of A&M not being seeded," Nebraska Coach John Walker said. "I thought we had a decent chance. It sends a message on who (the selection committee) thinks the best conference is."

The Atlantic Coast Conference had the most teams selected to the tournament with six including four of those teams - North Carolina, Duke, Maryland and Virginia - all earned seeds in the tournament. Nebraska beat Duke in Durham, N.C., 5-0 on Oct. 20.

"They don't respect the Big 12," Nebraska goalkeeper Rebecca Hornbacher said.

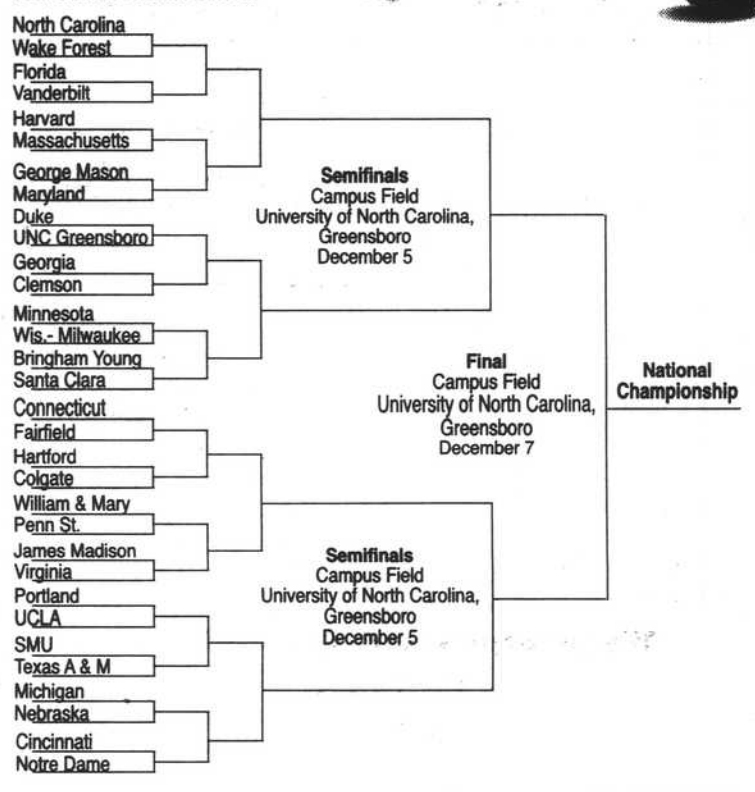
Wake Forest, which was sixth in the ACC and seventh in the Southeast Region, received a bid into the tournament as the 32<sup>nd</sup> and final team. The Demon Deacons play No. 1 North Carolina in the first round.

Nebraska senior co-captain Kari Uppinghouse said she was disappointed in the way the selection

Please see **SOCCER** on 8

### Soccer Championship

1997 Division I Women's NCAA



JON FRANK/DN

### Sports Opinion



Antone Oseka

## Thank heaven for MU victory

Irish eyes were watching. Sitting with a drink in hand, and his red leather fedora and blazer on, his Irish eyes couldn't believe what was going on down there in Columbia, Mo. The program he had built with years of sweat and stress was struggling to beat a familiar opponent.

He had to help them, and they needed the help.

Others of his kind had been to that same place before, like when Colorado needed five downs to beat Missouri in 1990. It was rumored Sal Aunese showed up to help his former teammates to the national title. After that, it was accepted for the old man to get one visit to lend a helping hand.

So, he went to the north end zone of Missouri's Faurot Field. He had the same mission the younger visitor did seven years before: help his former team overcome a tough Missouri opponent in hopes of winning a national title.

Aunese really broke in the place, giving CU a critical fifth down to complete the pass that would end Missouri's hopes of an upset and launch Colorado to their only national football title.

With Nebraska threatening on the 12-yard line and time running out, the old man did all he could for his old team. He threw Shevin Wiggins' leg up, then tipped the ball so it'd float end over end. Finally, he helped the freshman receiver under the ball for the catch. He'd given them the touch-down.

The rest would be up to them. He slowly moved to the sideline and watched the overtime.

After the incredible overtime and the victory, coaches and players agreed there was some divine intervention on the field that night. Several times the freshman Matt Davison would thank the Lord for putting him in the right place at the right time.

"I'm just blessed the Lord gave me a chance to do this," Davison said.

Receivers Coach Ron Brown would comment only divine intervention could have saved the Huskers from defeat.

The old man sits back down, shifts his worn red hat and smiles, knowing perhaps the intervention wasn't as powerful as they might think.

But, with Nebraska still in contention to win their third national title in four years, his Irish eyes are smiling once again.

Oseka is a senior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.

Volleyball Score		
Nebraska	15	15
Iowa St.	7	8

## NU becomes defensive, gets victory

BY SHANNON HEFFELFINGER  
Assignment Reporter

Nebraska Volleyball Coach Terry Pettit has always emphasized strong defensive play to his team.

With a dominating defensive performance Tuesday night, the Cornhuskers showed they've been paying attention.

"Passing and defense are what volleyball is all about," Pettit said. "Those things are always the issue, and if you do them well, you'll compete every match."

The 11<sup>th</sup>-ranked Huskers accomplished both those objectives in a 15-7, 15-7, 15-8 victory over Texas Tech Tuesday night in front of 2,273 fans at the NU Coliseum. Nebraska (19-6 overall and 10-4 in the Big 12 Conference) recorded 54 digs to the Red Raiders' 51 and dominated the smaller Tech team. The Huskers posted 18 blocks while holding the Red Raiders to a .098 hitting percentage, their second worst hitting percentage of the season.

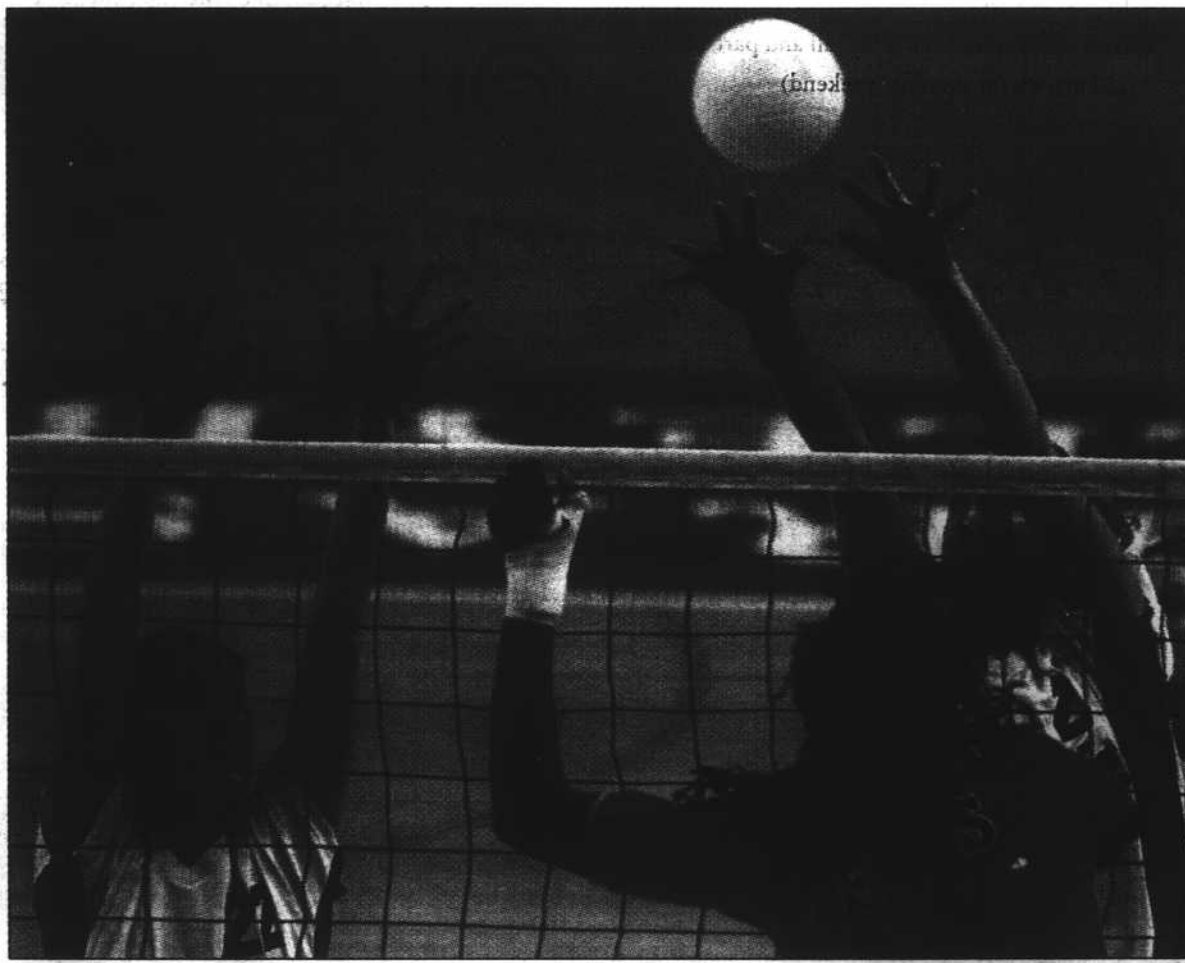
"They were just huge," Tech outside hitter Christine Martin said, "and we're not exactly the biggest team to go up against."

Tech Coach Jeff Nelson agreed that losing the battle at the net hurt the Red Raiders. Tech (20-8, 7-7) totaled just four blocks. Nelson, a former NU assistant, said Tech's ultimate problems lay at the service line.

"We have to serve tough," Nelson said. "And we did do that, but we served it right to them. They passed them easily and we could never iso-

Please see **TECH** on 8

## Taller Huskers defeat Raiders



RYAN SODERLIN/DN

NEBRASKA'S TONIA TAUKE (left) and Angie Oxley block Texas Tech's Janelle Jones during the first game. The Huskers won the match in three games and finished with 18 total blocks as Tauke led the team with five.

## Nepo's serve knocks Texas Tech on heels

BY ANTONE OSEKA  
Senior Reporter

Fiona Nepo jumped all over Texas Tech Tuesday night.

Jump served, that is. In Nebraska's 15-7, 15-7, 15-8 sweep of the Red Raiders, Nepo, NU's junior setter, served the Huskers into contention or the lead in the both of the first two games.

In the first game, Nebraska traded points with Tech as the two teams

were tied at six when Nepo stepped to the back row to serve. She fired off six straight points to give NU a 12-6 lead.

"The turning point in the match came in the first game, when Fiona's jump serve put them on their heels a little bit," Nebraska Coach Terry Pettit said. "That first game was even until Fiona ran those points and that kind of opened it up."

"She did the same thing at some point in the second game, as well."

In game two, Nebraska was trail-

ing 7-4 when Nepo again came to the line. She fired off three straight serves including one ace to tie the game at seven. Nebraska never trailed after that, as Tech didn't score another point in that game.

"I was kind of surprised," Nepo said of her serving performance. "I think it was at the beginning of the second game, I thought that one was going out. And then, they called it in. I was like, 'Well, then, you know I'll

Please see **NEPO** on 8