

## NU rolls past Michigan

Soccer  
Nebraska 5  
Michigan 1

BY DARREN IVY  
Staff Reporter

For the second straight year, the Nebraska soccer team sent home a Big Ten school in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

Last year, NU defeated Minnesota 3-2 in four overtimes. Sunday the Huskers (18-3) had an easier time, rolling to a 5-1 victory over Michigan (18-4-1) at the Abbott Sports Complex before a crowd of 668.

Nebraska Coach John Walker said NU's game with Minnesota and the play in the rest of the NCAA Tournament last year helped the nine returning players with Sunday's game.

"I think a factor was our experience in this type of environment in the NCAA Tournament," Walker said. "I think Michigan is a very talented team, but I think the first time in the tournament can sometimes be a tough thing to deal with psychologically."

Walker said NU needed to get ahead of Michigan early.

To get more strikers, NU eliminated its sweeper and played man-to-man defense on Michigan's three strikers.

"I thought Sharolta Nonen, Tanya Franck and Stephanie Vacek were outstanding as far as individual defending," Walker said. "That was crucial."

Big 12-leading goal scorer Kim Engesser and striker Lindsay Eddleman were crucial to the Huskers' offense.

Engesser ran her season goal total to 26 with three against the Wolverines. Eddleman, who was held out of practice all week to nurse an ankle injury she suffered in the Big 12 Tournament championship game, added two goals and one assist.

NU led 2-0 at halftime after scoring two goals against the wind.

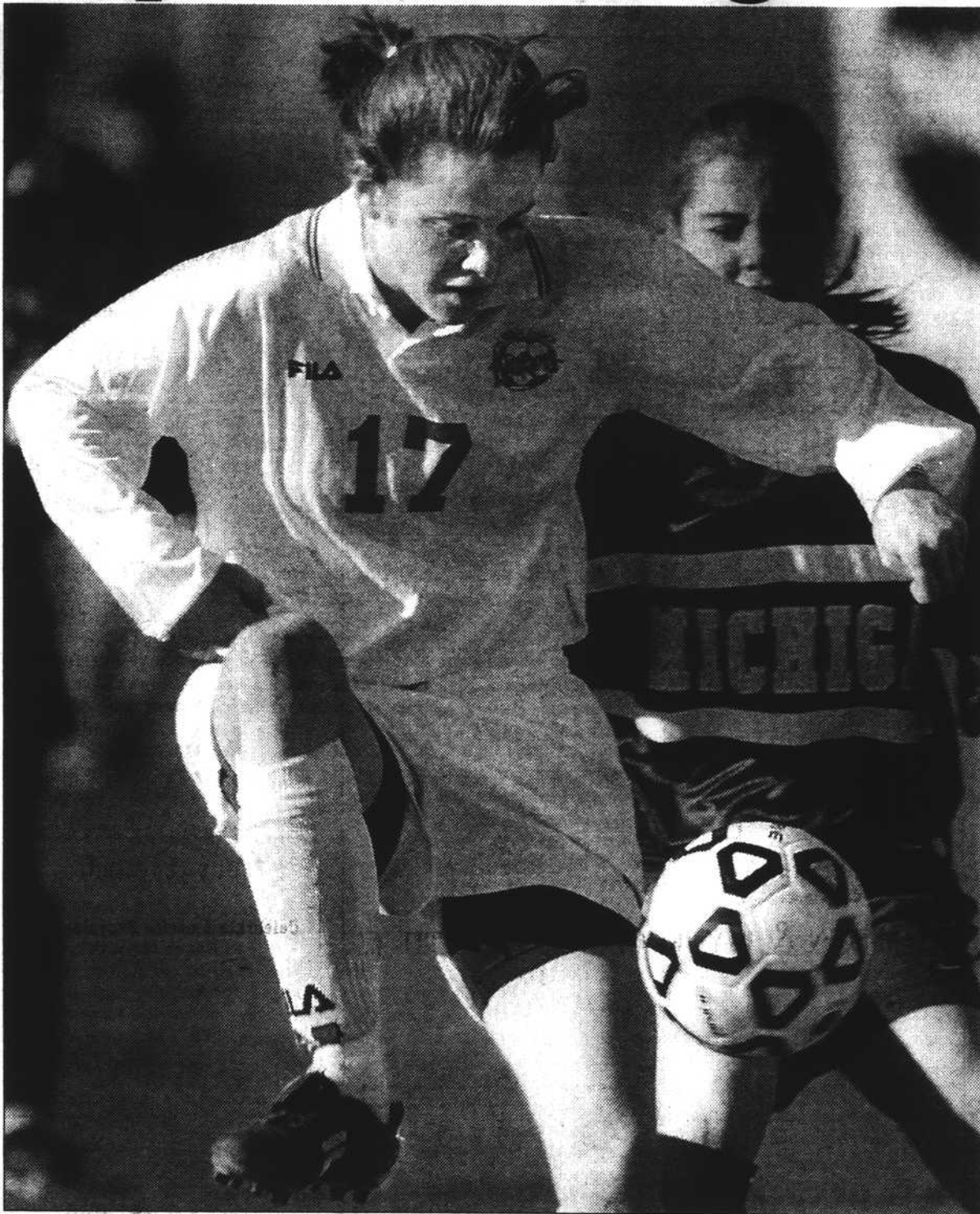
"When we scored the first one it was a great start, but the second one was the most decisive," Walker said.

Even though MU was down 2-0, Michigan Coach Debbie Belkin said she didn't think her team was out of the game.

But the beginning of second half hurt Michigan.

"We didn't start out strong and got a little bit complacent," Belkin said. "Then Nebraska's physical play took over."

NU came out strong the whole game, a big change from a week ago when the Huskers lost 3-1 to Texas A&M.



SOPHOMORE AMY WALSH shields the ball from a Michigan defender. The Huskers won their first NCAA Tournament game 5-1 Sunday at the Abbott Sports Complex and play Notre Dame next Sunday in South Bend, Ind.

"It was night-and-day difference," Walker said. "I think biggest difference was that we competed at much higher level."

Eddleman said the A&M game took a lot out of the Huskers, but they wanted to prove they were back.

"We needed to come out and put our foot down and say whatever happened in

Texas happened and start playing like we used to," Eddleman said.

NU will play No. 2 Notre Dame Sunday in South Bend, Ind. The Fighting Irish beat Cincinnati 7-1 on Saturday.

Michigan lost to Notre Dame 5-0 earlier this year, but UM players and coach said the Huskers and Irish play

different of styles of soccer.

"We play a different style than Nebraska," said Debbie Flaherty, who scored Michigan's lone goal, "and we also play a different style than Notre Dame."

Nebraska players said they will not be intimidated by Notre Dame, the defending national runner-up.

### Sports Opinion



## Mike Kluck Sanderford brings fun to Huskers

The billboard workers can take today off.

There will be no changing of the billboard on East Cornhusker Highway that welcomes visitors to Lincoln with a picture of Nebraska Women's Basketball Coach Paul Sanderford holding a basketball. Under the picture, the sign reads, "Paul Sanderford. Undefeated at Nebraska."

With Sunday's 74-66 over No. 11 Alabama, Sanderford and the Huskers remained undefeated in the coach's first season at the helm.

But why is he still undefeated, especially after Nebraska made Alabama the highest-ranked team ever to lose at the Bob Devaney Sports Center on Sunday?

Is it the coach or the players? Maybe it's a combination of both.

It's the coach who has instilled a new attitude among the players.

"Most of the reason why it's different this year is that every time we do something wrong, coach doesn't take us out," sophomore guard Nicole Kubik said. "Even if we do come out of the game, he tells us what we did wrong. When we come out of the game, we know what we did wrong, and we know how to correct it and everything."

But it is also the coach who has made sure fun is still one of the top objectives of the game, while remaining gutty, gritty and determined to win.

After Friday's win over Miami (Ohio), Sanderford said, it was fun to watch the kids play with smiles on their faces.

In Sunday's win, Sanderford said, he enjoyed being a part of the emotional excitement after the game, especially from the seniors.

That fun has turned into confidence for the players. In the third quarter, after Alabama had regained the lead 47-44, senior Jami Kubik hit a 3-pointer with 12:28 remaining in the half.

"She better take that or she's coming out," Sanderford said. "That's a senior. Seniors make those plays. I have to believe as a coach that she can make those plays or she shouldn't be on the floor."

With the victory, Sanderford will now match wits against his former assistant and face his former team as the Huskers take on Western Kentucky, Thursday night in Storrs, Conn.

"I don't really want to think about it, and I'm not going to talk about it today," Sanderford said. "I'm going to go take my wife to dinner, and at 8 o'clock tomorrow morning I'll find out who we are going to play."

Sunday night Sanderford rested, but today it's back to work as the billboard workers take the day off.

Kluck is a journalism graduate student and the Daily Nebraskan sports editor.

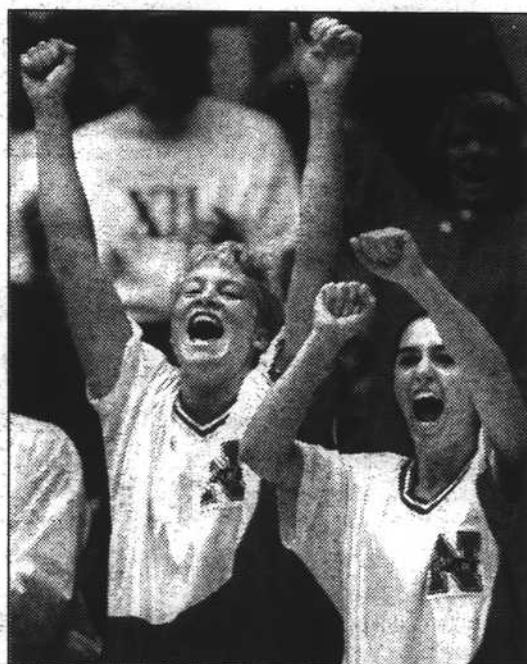
## New NU era begins with upset of Tide

BY SAM MCKEWON  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska women's basketball team needed exactly two games to establish a name for itself nationally in the Paul Sanderford era.

The Huskers upset No. 11 Alabama 74-66 Sunday night in the second round of the Preseason Women's National Invitation Tournament before 1,804 at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. NU moved to 2-0 as it defeated the highest ranked team at home in its history.

"It feels great to have a win like this," senior forward Anna DeForge said. "That was a very



BROOKE SCHWARTZ, left, and Amy Gusso celebrate as their teammates ice a 74-66 upset of No. 11 Alabama at the Bob Devaney Sports Center Sunday night.

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## NU women place second at districts

BY SAM MCKEWON  
Staff Reporter

With two of its top three runners at less than 100 percent, the Nebraska women's cross country got the unexpected help it needed in qualifying for the NCAA Championships on Saturday.

Freshman Kate Centerwall, sophomore Melinda Mohr and freshman Deb Osteen all had their highest finishes of the year in pacing NU to second place behind Missouri at the NCAA Midwest Regional Championships in Ames, Iowa. The finish was good enough to earn the Huskers a berth in the NCAA Championships, Nov. 24 in Greenville,

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