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Sports Opinion



Chris Heine

NU changes columnist's view on team

A crystal-ball column written Saturday about 1:30 p.m.:

Nebraska secured a 4-0 record Saturday against Washington; however, in the long run, a loss might have better served a Husker team deep with young talent.

In college football, it is better to lose early than it is to lose late.

With a loss today, Frank Solich's club would've had the chance to look in the mirror, get mad, and then get even.

They could've *maybe* pulled off one of those rare one-loss national championships with enough soul-searching. *Maybe*.

To the chagrin of the Husker seniors, the future isn't now for the men in scarlet and cream.

In a far, far away place called reality, NU is the favorite to be pre-season No. 1 in 1999.

Nebraska's freshman class already is earning its scholarships with the defensive play of Keyou Craver, Jason Lohr and Jeremy Slechta.

By this time next year, these young pups will be junkyard dogs.

They'll join Kyle Vanden Bosch with Mike and Ralph Brown to once again dose the Blackshirts with Charlie McBride's south-side-of-Chicago ferocity.

What about this year, you ask? Let's continue to discuss the defense.

Where's the exceptional leadership we've heard about all summer? Nebraska's defense at times has looked like a mess of loose ends just asking for a little gel.

Chemistry isn't cheap, folks. And those of you who think three patsies, a week off and a Pac-10 team will be enough preparation to win the resurgent Big 12 need to take off your Fiesta Bowl sunglasses.

Kansas State has the most talented, experienced team this side of Ohio State. And one of these days Colorado is going to decide not to take it anymore, and actually fight the Big Red bully.

Not to mention Oklahoma State, Texas A&M and Missouri.

So far, Nebraska's usually brutal offense has resembled Auburn or Clemson and their throw-first and option-second attacks.

Those two programs don't reload — they rebuild. It looks like they have some unfamiliar company in Nebraska this year.

Saturday about 7 p.m.:

DeAngelo Evans. A surprisingly deep (who's Russ Hochstein?) and strong offensive line. A fast, aggressive defense playing as a unit. Bobby Newcombe in the open field. 55 to 7!

Nebraska is in the process of making another legitimate run at yet another national championship.

You can learn a lot in one game.

Heine is a senior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan staff writer.

NU pounds Tigers, Cyclones

BY ANDREW STRNAD
Staff writer

Swift and methodical. That was the recipe for victory this weekend for the Nebraska volleyball team.

The No. 3 Cornhuskers found little challenge from Missouri or Iowa State taking all six games in a combined two hours and fifteen minutes.

Saturday night the Huskers pushed their record to 11-0 with a 15-7, 15-3, 15-4 win over Missouri in front of 3,689 fans at the NU Coliseum.

Like Friday night, when senior middle blocker Megan Korver had 10 kills on 10 attacks, Korver domi-

Volleyball	
Nebraska	15 15 15
Missouri	7 3 4
Kills:	NU 43 (Korver 11)
	MU 34 (Maune 8)

nated Saturday as well, with 11 kills and just one error.

"Korver had a great weekend. If she's not Big 12 player of the week, Aaron ought to be fired." NU Coach Terry Pettit said, referring to volleyball information director Aaron Babcock. "She only had one error the entire weekend."

For the weekend, the 6-foot-1 Panama native had 21 kills and hit .714.

Korver, who left to attend a wedding after the match, wasn't the only

Husker on fire. The team hit .402 for the match after hitting .438 the night before.

The wealth was spread evenly with seven players having at least three kills.

"We played a lot of people. I suspect, as time goes on, we'll play fewer and fewer people, but I want to give everyone a fair shot," Pettit said.

Defensively NU held the Tigers (8-6) to a meager .080 hitting percentage, and the Cyclones (2-12) to .024.

While statistically the Huskers have shown to be dominant, Pettit said it's a little too soon to call Nebraska a great defensive team.

"Missouri's well coached and well organized, but physically it's

hard to judge that they were a good defensive team," Pettit said. "I think if you play Texas, Colorado, some of the stronger teams in our conference and do the same, then you can take a little bit more from that."

Senior outside hitter Jaime Krondak also downplayed the team's strong defensive numbers, which included 13 team blocks.

"Defense is not exactly our strong point right now. Don't quite know what the problem is, but that's what were primarily working on right now," Krondak said.

The Huskers will get their chance to improve on their defense on the road the next two weekends.

NU will play at Kansas on Friday, followed by Oklahoma on Saturday.

Soccer team scores 18 goals in two wins

BY DARREN IVY
Staff writer

Not even 10 Southwest Missouri State defenders inside the penalty box could stop Nebraska women's soccer team Sunday at the Abbott Sports Complex.

The No. 21 Cornhuskers (6-2) rolled to a 7-0 victory to complete a perfect weekend. NU defeated Loyola-Chicago 11-0 Friday night.

Despite the lopsided wins, the Huskers thought they accomplished what they had to this weekend, freshman striker Kelly Rheem said.

"I felt we improved in a lot of areas," Rheem said. "We needed to do that."

Against SW Missouri State, NU struggled to a 2-0 halftime lead.

Freshman midfielder Meghan Anderson set up the first goal by drawing a penalty in the box.

That enabled senior Kim Engesser to knock in a penalty shot in the eighth consecutive game she's scored a goal. That streak is a NU school record.

Husker Coach John Walker said the packed-in Bear defense frustrat-



NU MIDFIELDER AMY WALSH wins the ball over two Southwest Missouri State University defenders Sunday at the Abbott Sports Complex. The Huskers won 7-0.

MATT MILLER/DN

'ESPN GameDay' crew impressed with crowd

BY LISA VONNAHME
AND BRANDON SCHULTE
Staff writers

"Welcome to the Jungle" by Guns N' Roses played in the background while a makeup man blotted sweat off Kirk Herbstreit's forehead.

The crowd chanted "Go Big Red" as Herbstreit, Lee Corso and Chris Fowler, members of the "ESPN College Football GameDay" crew, prepared for a live show Saturday at 10 a.m. from east of Memorial Stadium.

Fowler, a Colorado graduate, addressed the crowd: "To the socially challenged who slept here last night, you guys are sickos."

But overall, the trio agreed the Nebraska fans and the atmosphere they create on football Saturdays are the best in the nation.

"There's no place better than Nebraska," said Corso, a former Indiana coach who was defeated by the Cornhuskers twice. "Of all the places I've visited and coached, I think the Nebraska fans are the most knowl-

edgeable and have the best sportsmanship of any place."

Herbstreit, a former Ohio State quarterback, was impressed with his first visit to Lincoln and compared the Husker fans to those of the Southeastern Conference. But Herbstreit noted one major difference.

"The people from Nebraska are very friendly," Herbstreit said. "You get down South and the people get kind of wild. It's probably the alcohol."

ESPN's "GameDay" is known for attracting large crowds of people who cheer loudly hoping to get a spot on TV. The Nebraska fans were no different, creating so much noise that it was difficult to hear the threesome during the show. It's that fanfare that reminds Herbstreit of his playing days at Ohio State.

"The louder, the better," Herbstreit said. "The distractions make me focus more on my job. It's exactly like playing football."

All three had predicted an NU victory before No. 2 Nebraska thrashed then-No. 8 Washington 55-7. All were impressed by the Huskers' intensity.



MIKE WARREN/DN

"ESPN'S COLLEGE FOOTBALL GAMEDAY" Commentator Chris Fowler (left) and analyst Kirk Herbstreit laugh as analyst Lee Corso puts on a cornhead hat after saying he was picking Nebraska to beat Washington.

"You could kind of see the win coming from the minute (the "GameDay" crew) hit the ground," said Fowler, an Associated Press poll voter. "I didn't get the feeling from talking to Washington's players and coaches that they really knew what they were in for."

The crew from Bristol, Conn., began setting up the stage Thursday in preparation for the Saturday show. A few die-hard fans anticipating

"GameDay" camped out Friday night to guarantee a spot in the background of the show.

A few of those "sickos," as Fowler called them, were University of Nebraska-Lincoln junior Brian Langbehn and University of Nebraska at Omaha junior Tony Smiley.

"We camped out because the show is fun and it shows the spirit of college football," Langbehn said. "Everyone gets crazy for the show."

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