

**Sports Opinion**



**Darren Ivy**

## Rainy days show teams' lack of heart

The Eyes of Texas weren't shining down upon Texas Sunday at the Abbott Sports Complex.

Neither was the sunshine. And the Longhorns didn't seem to know what to do on the windy, rainy, 50-degree afternoon.

Neither did No. 12 Texas A&M on Friday night when it was 40 degrees and drizzling.

It just amazes me how these players can be such babies.

Traditionally, soccer is considered to be a tough, hard-nosed sport, in which the players die for chances to play in the mud.

Just look at the cover of the Nebraska media guide, which has five players with mud on their uniforms.

On Friday, Aggie players embarrassed the sport.

Numerous times, they slowed down or totally avoided going through puddles of water. They watched as Nebraska players charged full speed through the water and won balls, not worrying if they saturated their uniforms with water or mud.

One time, an A&M player got tripped and fell in a puddle of water. She got up and looked around like she was going to cry.

After the game, A&M Coach G. Guerreri said, "The weather wasn't good, but that's all secondary because Nebraska did a good job."

He may have told the media the weather wasn't a factor, but throughout the game, A&M players were complaining to one another about the conditions, said Nebraska senior Becky Hogan. The A&M players on the bench looked pretty miserable too. They were all huddled up.

On Sunday, the temperatures were at least 10 degrees warmer and it didn't rain until the last 15 minutes, but Texas Coach Dang Pibulvech said the weather hindered his team.

What is it with these people? Do you hear Nebraska complaining?

Nebraska hasn't played or practiced in this weather this season either.

The weather wasn't the reason both teams lost to Nebraska. They were outplayed.

Nebraska hustled more. They slid into the mud. They defeated Texas on Sunday with 21 shots and 12 corner kicks to UT's nine and zero.

NU wanted it more.

If the Aggies and Longhorns felt they were outplayed because of the weather, then they probably didn't deserve to win anyway.

With the pair of wins, the Huskers now have the upper hand for the Big 12 Conference regular-season crown. The last two years, A&M and NU have battled for the title with the winner of the first meeting winning the championship.

If the Huskers continue to show heart, and the Texas schools don't, NU should be champions again.

Darren Ivy is a junior news editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan staff writer.

# Eddleman clinches win over UT

By **DARREN IVY**  
Staff writer

Lindsey Eddleman knew she better make the most of her second-half shot opportunity Sunday if the Cornhuskers were to fulfill their weekend goal.

"We knew we had to redeem ourselves," said Eddleman about the Huskers wanting to get pay back after losses to Texas A&M and Texas last year in Texas. "That's what we planned all week in practice."

The Nebraska women's soccer team defeated conference rival Texas A&M 2-0 Friday night, but a loss to Texas on Sunday would have put a damper on the weekend.

On her game-winning shot at 61 minutes, 37 seconds, Eddleman happened to be in the right spot at the right time. Junior midfielder Amy Walsh crossed the ball to freshman forward Kelly Rheem, who attempted to head the ball. But it went wildly off her head and then off a Texas defender's head right to Eddleman at the top of the penalty box.

Eddleman took the ball directly in the air about a foot off the ground and connected squarely, sending the ball whizzing past Longhorn goalkeeper Cami Varnadore for a 2-1 lead.

"I put all my concentration into that shot," Eddleman said. "I've never concentrated so hard shooting a shot. It was a volley. It's very rare to hit (a volley) like that."

Even with a one-goal lead, the No. 19 Huskers didn't have any breathing room. The game, played before 389 fans at the Abbott Sports Complex, came down to the last minute. Within that minute, the Longhorns, 3-5 overall and 1-1 in the Big 12 Conference, penetrated into the Huskers' end and got off two shots, but neither one was successful.

Nebraska Coach John Walker said the Huskers (8-2 and 3-0) could have made it easier on themselves by finishing more scoring opportunities earlier in the game.

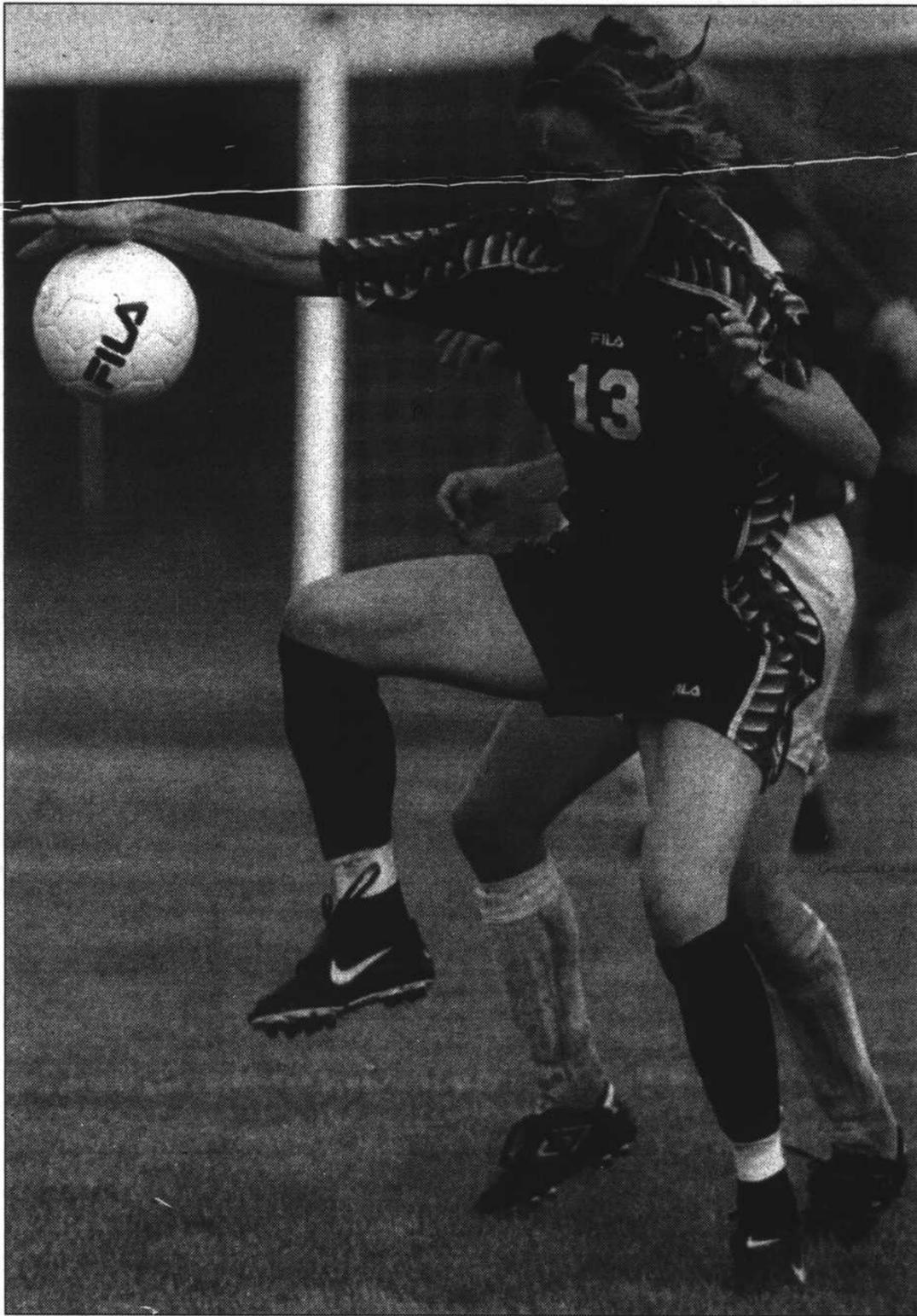
Senior Kim Engesser scored the Cornhuskers' first goal on a breakaway. It was her 14th goal of the season, and it got her back on track after having her eight-game scoring streak snapped Friday.

NU had 21 shot attempts and 12 corner kicks - numbers that Walker said usually produce four or five goals. But they never could get the "magic two-goal advantage."

"If we finish earlier, then it's not as dangerous of a situation," Walker said. "Anything can happen when you're up one goal. All it takes is one mistake."

On Friday night, the Huskers didn't make any. They dominated No. 12 A&M from the time the ball was kicked off.

The cold, damp conditions had A&M players frustrated before the game even started, NU senior Becky Hogan said.



**HUSKER FORWARD LINDSAY EDDLEMAN battles for the ball during the Huskers' Sunday afternoon game against Texas A&M.**

DAWN DIETRICH/DN

"It was rainy, and we wanted to make them even more miserable," Hogan said. "We put a huge emphasis on jumping on them early."

NU players came out playing inspired soccer, knocking down Aggie players and taking the ball away from them on numerous occasions. The first NU goal by Lauren Tatum came directly off of defensive pressure.

An Aggie defender tried to clear the ball, but Tatum got in front of her

and the ball deflected off Tatum, over the goalie's head and into the goal.

"Once we got our first goal," senior Kristin Gay said, "from there on out we said, 'this is going to be our game, and they will have to adjust to our style.'"

The Aggies never did. Time after time NU defenders cleared the ball away from Aggie players. For the game, they got only one

Soccer Score		
Nebraska (8-2 2-0)	1	1-2
Texas (3-5 1-1)	1	0-1
Shots on Goal: Nebraska 21		
Texas 7		
Corner kicks: Nebraska 12		
Texas 0		

shot on goal. Walker said this weekend was probably the toughest one the Huskers would face back-to-back this season in the Big 12.

"These are two of the top teams in the conference," Walker said. "I'm pleased with the weekend. We're off to a good start in the conference."

# Nepo breaks assist record, NU now 13-0

By **ANDREW STRNAD**  
Staff writer

Senior setter Fiona Nepo became Nebraska's all-time assist leader by recording 42 kills in a 15-7, 15-4, 15-4 victory at Oklahoma Saturday night.

Nepo passed assistant coach Nikki Stricker Best's mark of 3,786 assists and now has 3,794 assists.

However, setting the record was a secondary accomplishment for Nepo.

"It's nice, it wasn't something I was thinking about every day because

## Volleyball

Nebraska (13-0 4-0)	15	15	15
Oklahoma (5-9 0-4)	7	4	4

the team and how we do is my biggest priority right now," Nepo said.

The Cornhuskers (13-0 overall, 4-0 in the Big 12 Conference) were also aided by the play of senior middle blocker Megan Korver and sophomore outside hitter Nancy Meendering.

The two combined for 28 kills, while Korver hit .842 for the match.

The team hit .461 for the match, the fourth consecutive match that the

Huskers hit at least .400, while pushing their all-time record against OU to 46-3-1.

While the team statistically has been very strong offensively, Nepo said the Huskers aren't at the high level necessary to win a national championship quite yet.

"These aren't the strongest teams in the Big 12 so that has something to do with it," Nepo said. "We don't have any control over the schedule, but it helps a little to have these matches earlier."

The Huskers avenged last season's loss to the Sooners in Norman,

Oklahoma dropped to 5-9 overall and 0-4 in the Big 12.

On Friday night NU downed Kansas 15-8, 15-5, 15-5 in Lawrence, Kan.

Sophomore outside hitter Angie Oxley led the team with 13 kills and 14 digs. Meendering added 11 kills.

The loss dropped Kansas to 10-4 overall and 1-2 in the Big 12.

Friday night's win against the Jayhawks kept the Huskers' record against KU a perfect 63-0.

No. 3 Nebraska will next travel to the state of Texas where they will play Texas Tech and Baylor next weekend.