

Sports

Coaches credit players with victory

BY ANDREW STRNAD
Staff writer

Fresh off a shutout of Kansas, the Nebraska defense managed to play even better in a 20-13 Cornhusker victory over Missouri on Saturday.

There are many points in the game that could be called highlights for the Husker defense, but one in particular may have defined the corps as just plain stingy.

After Missouri took over at the NU 25-yard line thanks to a blocked field goal, it took the Tigers 10 plays to get their only offensive touchdown of the game with three minutes and 52 seconds left in the second quarter.

"I was real, real happy about the goal-line stand," NU senior rush end Mike Rucker said. "Even though they scored, I was real proud of the guys."



McBride

Faced with a first-and-goal at the 1-yard line, Nebraska denied MU running back Devin West on three consecutive carries up the middle.

On first down, it appeared linebacker Jay Foreman caused West to fumble, but the officials ruled it was not a fumble, and Missouri later scored on a 1-yard run by quarterback Corby Jones

on fourth down.

The touchdown would be MU's last points of the game, as the Blackshirts held Missouri to 166 total yards, the lowest allowed by NU all season.

"This is the players that won the game," NU Defensive Coordinator Charlie McBride. "It wasn't anything the coaches called, it was all the players' effort."

McBride said the defensive play of the game came early in the fourth quarter when Missouri was faced with a third and one from its own 45-yard line with the game tied at 13.

West, who ran 24 times for 72 yards - 103 yards below his average - ran right into Rucker, and the Missouri native drove West back for a 2-yard loss.

"I think the defensive coaches called a great play," Rucker said. "We came at them and didn't sit back on our heels."

The stop forced an MU punt, which led to NU's go-ahead touchdown.

McBride was most pleased with the team's progression since the its 28-21 loss to Texas A&M.

"We're on track right now," McBride said. "We improved a bit today, and I think this defense is moving in the right direction."

Junior Brian Shaw credits an increase in emotion on the field, something that wasn't completely there at the beginning of the season.

"We're much more excited to play," Shaw said. "We're celebrating together when we make a play, and the whole game is a lot of fun because of that."

NU breaks down Cowgirls' defense in four-goal win

BY JAMES NICAS
Staff writer

The Oklahoma State soccer team came into Sunday's game against Nebraska with illusions of spoiling a perfect fall day for the Cornhuskers.

When the game was over, it was the No. 10-ranked Huskers who were able to fully enjoy the sunshine at the Abbott Sports Complex.

Despite the Cowgirls' defensive strategy that often placed eight women in the penalty box, NU scored three first-half goals, which opened up OSU's defense en route to a 4-0 victory in front of a crowd of 1,149.

"It's tough when a team is that compact," NU Coach John Walker said of the Cowgirls' defense. "But when we were able to score a couple of early goals, it changed the way the game was played."

With the victory, Nebraska raised its record to 13-2-1 and 8-0 in the Big 12 Conference. Oklahoma State fell to 7-7-2, and 1-5-2 in conference.

In the opening minutes of the game, the Huskers continuously penetrated the Cowgirls' penalty box. Despite controlling possession, NU's closest scoring chance came off a Kristen Gay header that went over the goal post.

OSU's defensive strategy finally unfolded when Nebraska led off its scoring in the first half with a goal by forward Lindsay Eddleman in the 23rd minute. After a long pass from forward Kelly Rheem, Eddleman took a shot that deflected off a Cowgirl defender and over goalkeeper Chrystal Emerson's head.

Eddleman's goal set off a quick flurry for the Huskers. Gay struck four minutes later, and senior Kim Engesser finished the first half scoring in the 34th minute.

"In the first half, we played some very good one- and two-touch soccer," Walker said. "We had quality play from the wide positions, which is what you have to do when a team is that compact."

OSU's defensive tactics also were evident in the final statistics. In the game, Nebraska outshot Oklahoma State 28-3 and had a 13-to-1 edge in corner kicks.

"You have to be patient and smart and can't go down the middle because that is where the numbers are," Gay said. "It's tough to get a tempo going because they wanted a slower-paced tempo and we wanted it to be a faster-paced."

Friday evening, Nebraska dominated Oklahoma, defeating the Sooners 7-0. Senior Kim Engesser led five Husker goal scorers with her second hat trick of the season.

Gay said the team was happy with this weekend's performance. "It definitely built our confidence," Gay said. "We did what we wanted to accomplish and set out to do."

NEBRASKA SOCCER	4
Nebraska	
OSU	0
Oklahoma St.	



NU OUTSIDE HITTER NANCY MEENDERING reacts to a kill near the end of the fourth game against Kansas on Saturday night. Although pushed to the brink, the Huskers refused to go quietly into the fifth game. They won 16-14.

MATT MILLER/DN

Loud crowd lifts Huskers over KU

BY ANDREW STRNAD
Staff writer

The Nebraska volleyball team got a little help from some old friends Saturday night as the Cornhuskers avoided a deciding fifth game against Kansas.

A standing-room-only crowd of 4,288 at the NU Coliseum helped a tired Husker team recover from a 10-14 deficit in the fourth game to win the affair 15-4, 15-11, 11-15, 16-14.

"I've never heard the Coliseum

Volleyball				
Nebraska	15	15	11	16
Kansas	4	11	15	14

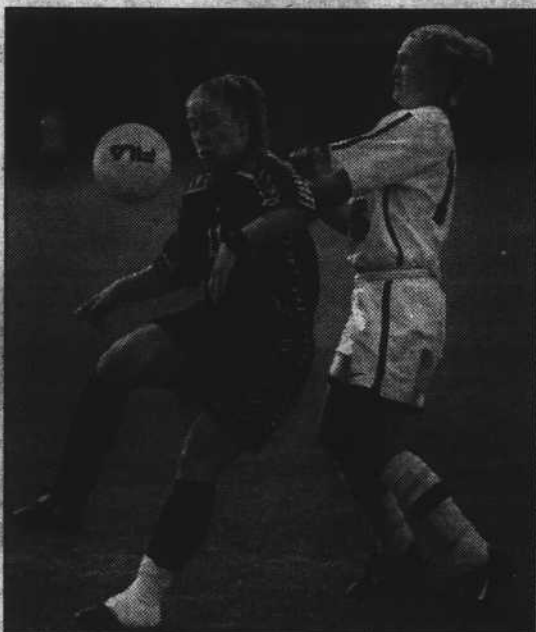
that loud since my sophomore year," NU senior outside hitter Jaime Krondak said, referring to the 1996 regional final match against Penn State.

"That's what brought us through, because we sure as hell didn't do

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"We can't be up on teams and let them back into it. That's not going to cut it down the stretch."

JAIME KRONDAK
NU senior outside hitter



NEBRASKA MIDFIELDER KRISTEN GAY, left, fends off Oklahoma State's Andi Lute during the first half Sunday afternoon at the Abbott Sports Complex. Gay scored the second goal as the Huskers defeated the Cowgirls 4-0.

SCOTT McCLURG/DN

Swim teams start season with wins

BY BRANDON SCHULTE
Staff writer

Fresh faces and All-American performers headlined the Nebraska's swimming and diving teams' first foray into the pool this season.

The Cornhuskers opened the season at the Devaney Sports Center over the weekend, participating in the Big 12 Relays and the Big 12 Invitational.

The Nebraska women, winners of five consecutive conference titles and top 10 finishers at the NCAA Championships three of the past four seasons, didn't miss a beat.

Starting right where they left off last season, the women took the relay title besting Texas, Kansas, Texas A&M, Missouri and Iowa State - the other five

schools from the conference. The Nebraska men finished third in the team competition behind Texas and Texas A&M.

"We're a force to be reckoned with," Swimming Coach Cal Bentz said. "It's not like football; there isn't a system. We'll establish times as the season goes along and really focus on nationals."

The women won seven of 12 events in the team competition while the men won three of 12 events. Stepping up to help the team were freshmen Janna Brock, Emma Johnson and Anthony Rogis.



Bentz

Individually, sophomore All-American and five-time conference gold medalist Shandra Johnson led the charge, winning the 500-yard freestyle, 200-yard individual medley, 100-yard backstroke and 200-yard backstroke.

Junior Michael Windisch won the 400 individual medley, while senior Valery Kalmikovs and junior Adam Pine won two events apiece.

In the diving relay events, the 1 meter and 3 meter, both the men and the women won an event and finished second in the other. Bentz believes the divers and the diving coaches have done a tremendous job getting prepared for the season.

"This is a very good diving conference with several All-Americans," Bentz

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