

**Sports Opinion**



**Shannon Heffelfinger**

## Free advice to help NU beat KSU

OK. I know only two days have passed since the Nebraska football team's 42-7 spanking of Iowa State, but ... it's time to forget about it. NU center Josh Heske hit the nail on the head after the game when he said the Cornhuskers would start thinking about this week's showdown with No. 1 Kansas State on the bus ride home.

For the first time ever, Nebraska is truly an underdog in this game. And although I'm not really a football mind, here is my free advice on what the Huskers need to do to win:

1. Get Joe Walker the ball. The guy can score. He has a knack for it. Think about it. Walker, a defensive back, has scored 18 points this season. That's more than offensive threats Sheldon Jackson, Matt Davison, and Joel Makovicka. Wouldn't it be effective to have Walker line up at wingback a few times? Nebraska's offense has not been very high-powered and KSU has one of the best defenses in the country. NU needs to score however it can.

2. Shut down the Wildcats' run. KSU hasn't really needed a rushing attack this season because they haven't faced a secondary as good as NU's. If the Wildcats can't turn to the run when necessary, they're in trouble.

3. Establish the fullback. With the exception of the A&M game, Joel Makovicka has been a non-factor when the Huskers have struggled. Nebraska averaged 20 points in close games against Oklahoma State and Texas. Makovicka's rushing total from the two games? 20 yards.

4. Shock Kansas State in the first quarter. KSU hasn't been challenged early in a game this season, and they haven't played any good teams either. Colorado? The Buffaloes are now a proven fraud. Texas? The Longhorns, who have improved immensely in the last seven weeks, were not that good when they played Kansas State.

5. Reintroduce Sheldon Jackson to the offense. The senior tight end was NU's big-play receiver during the first three games. The Huskers have barely made an attempt to go long over the middle since.

6. Play for pride. NU Coach Frank Solich admitted that the Huskers "suffered for a few days" after the Texas loss. There are a few seniors who don't seem like their normally chipper selves during interviews. They've lost more games this season than they have in three years. They're angry. But that anger has to be channeled into pride, because pride can be NU's greatest motivation against a cocky, top-ranked KSU team.

So there you have it - my advice. But what do I really know? If that doesn't work or sounds dumb, remember, it was free.

Shannon Heffelfinger is a junior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan senior staff writer.

# NU captures 2nd Big 12 title

By **MATT MILLER**  
Photo chief

SAN ANTONIO, Texas - Nebraska Soccer Coach John Walker had a kiss to welcome back the Big 12 Championship trophy after defeating Missouri 4-0 at the Blossom Soccer Park in San Antonio, Texas.

"I'm very pleased with the outcome of the game," Walker said. "Today with we played with a lot of passion and desire, and we really played a complete game. Everyone made a contribution at some point and that was good to see."

Nebraska, which won the title game in 1996 and lost in the title game last season, starting pressuring a less-seasoned and noticeably fatigued Tiger team from the start.

One minute after freshman Becky Preston hit the crossbar with a header, senior midfielder Kristen Gay hit a header from 9 yards out at 6:57.

A two-goal cushion came three minutes later when junior defender Isabelle Morneau hit a rolling ball past the outstretched arms of MU goalie Jackie Adamec from 35 yards out in the 20th minute.

It was Morneau's first goal of the season and helped the pave the way for a defensive MVP award for the Big 12 Tournament. Becky Hogan, Lindsay Eddleman and Sharolta Nonen joined Morneau on the all-tournament team.

"The ball was perfect, just rolling," Morneau said. "I had a good angle. I just cracked a shot. It was all in slow motion."

After the ball sneaked under the crossbar and dropped into the net, Morneau leaped into the air.

Missouri suffered another blow when forward Nikki Thole, the second leading scorer in the Big 12, injured her knee at 42:59. Missouri managed only five shots and Thole was held shotless by NU's Nonen, Morneau and Christine Gluck.

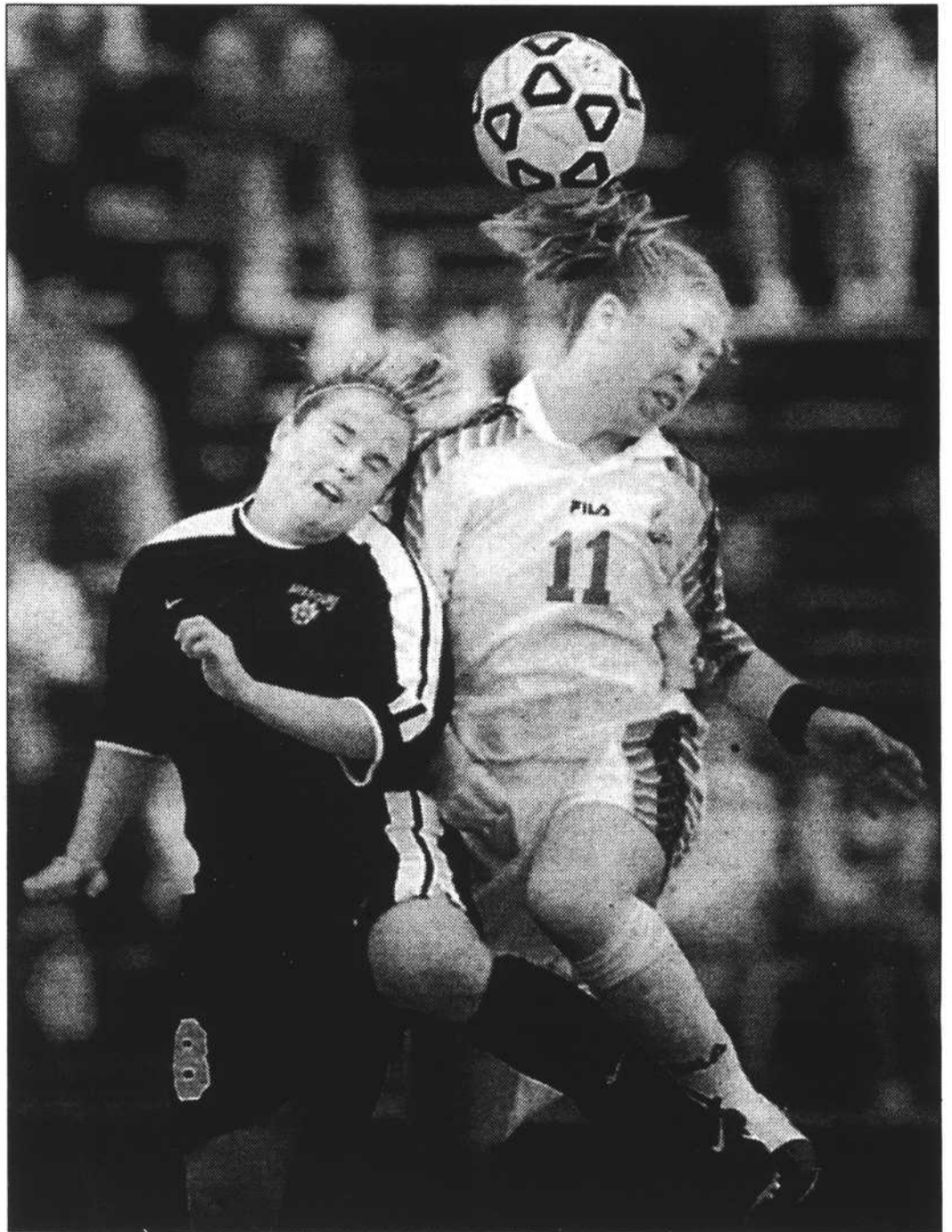
The Huskers kept continuous pressure on the Tigers, firing 22 shots on goal.

At the halftime break, Walker reminded the team it still had 45 minutes left to play for the Big 12 Championship. NU had already learned its lesson Friday night in the semifinals against Texas A&M.

The Huskers lost a two-goal lead after halftime. NU finally won 3-2 in the third overtime when Hogan, a senior, scored on a header from Meghan Anderson's corner kick.

During the A&M game, Walker constantly reminded his team to not let up. The Huskers could not find their groove until midfielder Eddleman was kicked out of the game at 103:38. Eddleman received her second yellow card for unsportsmanlike conduct.

**Nebraska gets a bye in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. Please see story on page 11.**



Nebraska midfielder Kristen Gay battles Missouri's Kate Dwyer for a header during NU's 4-0 victory over the Tigers in the Big 12 Championship. Gay scored NU's first goal of the game.

She had to sit out the championship game but will return for NU's NCAA Tournament game against the winner between Texas A&M and Alabama.

Preston started the second game of her career in place of Eddleman and had shots two shots hit the crossbar against Missouri.

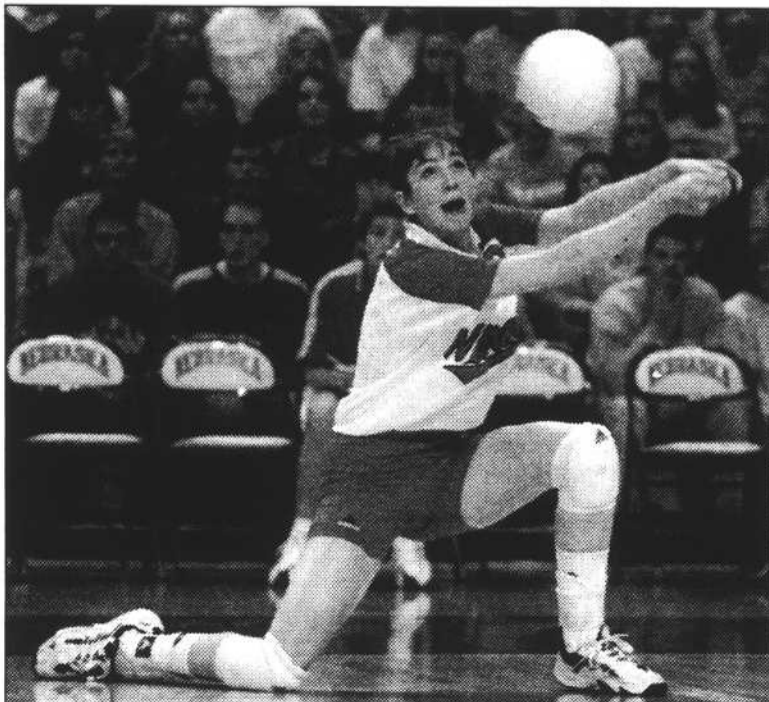
"Preston played awesome," Morneau said. "She took one on one and kept going. All the forwards did well."

Big 12 player of the year Kim Engesser scored twice in the second half with goals in the 50th and 71st minutes to close scoring for the Huskers.

"Things weren't really clicking," said Engesser, who did not have a shot Friday. "I definitely felt like I had to pick it up."

Against the Aggies, NU was outshot 25-7, the first time NU was outshot anytime this year. Goalie Karina LeBlanc had a school-record 12 saves.

# Huskers sweep 21st-ranked Wildcats



HUSKER SETTER Jill McWilliams saves a ball during the first game of Nebraska's sweep of Kansas State Friday evening at the NU Coliseum.

By **ANDREW STRNAD**  
Staff writer

Like a Broadway play when the star of the show goes down with laryngitis, the Nebraska volleyball team relied on the tools of an understudy Friday night.

And despite the absence of senior All-American setter Fiona Nepo, the show went on for the No. 3 Cornhuskers as sophomore Jill McWilliams filled in brilliantly in a 15-8, 15-10, 16-14 victory over No. 21 Kansas State.

Nepo, who had started 90 consecutive matches, surprised the 4,411 fans in attendance at the NU Coliseum by not playing due to a sprained ankle. Instead, McWilliams started for the Huskers (23-0 overall, and 14-0 in the Big 12).

The Wildcats (14-8, 8-5) were surprised to start the match without seeing Nepo on the other side of the court as Coach Jim McLaughlin scrambled to prepare Kansas State for McWilliams.

"It affected us," McLaughlin said. "It was startling at first, and the girl that was in there really did a good job."

"This team is going to grow from this because we're on our way to get a Big 12 Championship."

**CATHY NOTH**  
NU assistant coach

The girl, McWilliams, got situated very quickly as she had 44 assists on the night, many of which went to the usual suspects.

Sophomore outside hitter Nancy Meendering hit .368 with 18 kills, while senior outside hitter Jaime Krondak hit .462 with 13 kills and 13 digs.

Coach Terry Pettit was quite pleased with McWilliams' perfor-

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