

Hogan wants NCAA title

NU player says 4-0 loss to USC in 1995 changed direction of program

BY DARREN IVY
Staff writer

Becky Hogan is not ready for her soccer career at Nebraska to end.

Hogan has seen the hard times, such as when NU went 10-8 and lost to Creighton. She also has experienced the good times since that season, in which the Cornhuskers have piled up a 58-8-1 record.

Many fond memories already exist, but she wants to add a few more. She has visions of how she wants it all to end. "I will be walking off the field at Greensboro, N.C. (site of the NCAA Championships), with cheers of celebration and tears because it's over," Hogan said. "There will be a whole conglomerate of emotions. I'll be proud of what I did and grateful to those who helped me."

Hogan has been a winner her whole life, and she wants to go out as one. In high school, she was a winner in basketball, soccer and track.

Then she came to NU. She maintained her winning attitude, despite a 10-8 season.

Fellow senior Sandy Smith recalled Hogan's first game.

"We all lived in the dorms," Smith said. "She came down and knocked on our door. She had shaved an 'N' in the back of her head and painted it red. I realized this girl would do anything for this sport and program."

Hogan led NU in scoring that season with 20 points, coming on seven goals and six assists. But the second-year program struggled.

"It was a total jumble," Hogan said. "It was Kari (Uppinghouse's)

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NU soccer player

first year. (The program) wasn't established."

Reflecting back to 1995, Hogan said it seems "so long ago." But a post-game talk by NU Coach John Walker after the second to last game of the season still sticks with her to this day. The Huskers lost to Southern California 4-0, and Walker was not a happy camper.

"He said, 'It was a pivotal time for the program. How well you do now builds the program for the future,'" Hogan said. "I realized how important college soccer was."

Smith also remembered that "low point in Nebraska soccer history."

"Coach Walker laid into everyone," Smith said. "He said we'd set the program back, and basically we'd played with no heart."

Hogan took the speech to heart and worked harder than she ever had. Though she was just a sophomore, she inspired her teammates through her hard work, talks and poems.

The Huskers went 21-0 the next regular season and finished it with a 23-1 record after losing to Portland in the NCAA quarterfinals.

Hogan earned third-team all-central region honors that year, but she rarely received media attention. That suited the West Jordan, Utah, native just fine.

"Somebody's got to do the dirty work," Hogan said. "Time after time, you make the 40-yard runs to get back

just in case the ball gets through. In all those times, it's been beneficial to be back four times. There's no glory in it."

Those sprints tire out most players, but not Hogan. The former track standout takes pride in the fact that she is in great shape.

"There is no one who is going to outrun me," Hogan said.

In the Big 12 Championship game Nov. 8, Missouri switched off three players on Hogan.

"That was the biggest compliment for me," Hogan said. "It means I have the stamina of three people, roughly speaking."

Against A&M in the Big 12 semifinals, Hogan's day in the spotlight came. She headed in a corner kick for the game-winning goal at the 125th minute. It was just her second goal of the season.

"It's not every day I score the game-winning goal," Hogan said. "It was the most important goal of my career."

Hogan has scored 17 goals in her career at NU. She may score more. She may not. But the way Hogan sees it, she has four more games to try.

Whether her career ends in the NCAA final in Greensboro on Dec. 6 or sometime before that, one thing is for certain.

"I will be very sad," Hogan said about how she will feel after her last game. "I will probably cry myself to sleep."

Pine learns from close loss at NCAA Championships

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my event, which is quite incredible," Pine said, "which is why it was so easy for me to come over and dominate NCAA swimming."

"He's one of the best in the world," Moore said. "He's been a tremendous asset to our team."

Pine's accomplishments gained the full respect of his teammates, who voted him co-captain for this year.

Both Moore and Pine himself describe Pine as a person who leads by example. While Pine was racing in practice against his teammates, Moore was quick to point out this impact.

"Here's this guy, one of the fastest in the world, and the guy next to him (senior David Foster) is racing him," Moore said.

"He's pushing this guy without saying a word. Now that's leadership. That's (leading) by example. That's

getting the job done."

But Pine still has quite a few jobs ahead of him. He nonchalantly laughed when explaining his desires.

"I've been so close twice before," Pine said. "I'd like to win the NCAAs this year so that next year I can concentrate on the Olympics."

Maybe by then, Pine will be eager to return to Australia for the 2000 Olympics that will be held in Sydney.

Pine said competing for an Olympic medal in his home country has been his ultimate goal since Sydney was announced as the site in 1992, when he was 16 years old.

"It was quite funny," Pine said. When my dad heard the announcement, he stood up and yelled, 'I want a bus to see Adam in the 2000 Olympics, can you book me a seat? I want a ticket!'"

"(Since then), it's always been in the back of my mind."

NU's Johnson makes return after broken leg in midsummer

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When Johnson's coach, Associate Head Coach Kelly Nordell, first saw her, Nordell realized Johnson's potential.

"I counted my blessings," Nordell said. "She has a tremendous amount of talent, the heart of a lion, likes to compete and is hungry. Those qualities make her a great athlete. She just needs a little fine-tuning."

Her athletic prowess was never more evident than this past summer. After breaking her leg in July, Johnson was back to her old form in the first meet of the year, winning four events at the Big 12 Invitational on Oct. 24.

Out of the pool, Karaica describes Johnson as random.

"She's totally random, you can ask anyone on our team," Karaica said. "She will come out with the most random comments at the most random times for no reason at all."

Karaica says this randomness allows Johnson to get along with everyone and make anyone laugh.

While Johnson may be a little quirky out of the pool, there is no question about her love for swimming and her meaning to the team.

"She can be a key component to carrying this team to a top-five finish," Nordell said. "She can definitely have a major impact."

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