

Two losses bring Huskies 'problems'

By **BRANDON SCHULTE**
Staff writer

Listening to Connecticut Soccer Coach Len Tsantiris talk about his team this year might give an inaccurate mental picture of an inept little band of overmatched women facing the top teams in the country.

"We have problems in a lot of ways," Tsantiris said. "It's a very young team. We need to work on everything, both scoring and defending."

Connecticut will travel to Lincoln to compete in the Husker Fila Invitational this weekend. The tournament will culminate in an arduous four-game stretch for the Huskies, with all of the games against ranked opponents.

After its first two matches, Connecticut is 0-2 - but the record itself doesn't tell the entire story.

Both of Connecticut's losses have been on the road to ranked teams, the first at the hands of No. 20 Duke and the second to No. 1 North Carolina.

Despite the losses, the Huskies are ranked No. 12 in the latest NSCAA poll.

Nebraska Coach John Walker said the reason for Connecticut's high ranking was its play against great opposition.

"Although they're 0-2, I think you look at some of the polls, and people can understand their losses," Walker said. "The loss to North Carolina almost doesn't count as a loss because everyone loses to them. They're still ranked as high as eighth in some polls."

The fact is, Connecticut has been a juggernaut the past 18 years

under Tsantiris.

Tsantiris is second on the Division-I all-time victory list. The Huskies have participated in the last 17 NCAA tournaments under him and reached the finals three times, with the last finals appearance occurring in 1997.

This year's edition is led by sophomore forward Mary Frances Monroe and lone senior Corey Dorn, a defender. Dorn is one of only five upperclassmen on the roster. And Monroe is the top returning scorer. She had 24 goals as a freshman and led the team in points with 65.

Tsantiris said the only way to get his team where it needs to be by the end of the season is to play top competition now.

"We aren't going to get better staying at home and playing easy teams because we won't know how to play against the tough teams we will face later on," Tsantiris said. "More than any team I've had here, this one needs to see tough competition."

Tsantiris admitted he didn't know much about No. 6 Nebraska or No. 15 Southern California, the two teams Connecticut will face this weekend. But he said he knows both will be formidable competition.

For now, though, he said the goal will not be to win the tournament, but rather to make strides that will help at tournament time.

"We want to play better this weekend than we did the previous one," Tsantiris said.

"Hopefully we'll see things go better on the field. Both of the teams we face are really good teams, and playing them will only make us better as a team."

Golfers open at home

By **LINDSAY GRIESER**
Staff writer

From wide-open to wooded, two extremely different private Lincoln golf courses will be the sites for the Sunday-Monday season openers for the contrasting young Nebraska men's golf team and the veteran women's golf team.

The men's team, with its one returning starter, sophomore Seth Porter, is set to play the Fairway Club Invitational at Firethorn Golf Club, a wide-open and modern course.

Meanwhile, the women's squad returns five starters, including senior Elizabeth Bahensky and sophomore Sarah Sasse, and will play the Big 12 Preview at the Lincoln Country Club, a more traditional and tree-lined course.

Despite their team's differences, both coaches said their teams feel comfortable starting the season playing at their respective courses.

"Number one, we have played (Firethorn) more than other teams, but number two, four or five of our players are freshmen," Men's Coach Larry Romjue said. "We don't exact-

"We have become pretty comfortable. We may have a little home-course edge."

ROBIN KRAPFL
NU women's golf coach

ly have a quote-unquote 'home advantage.'"

Women's Coach Robin Krapfl said her team has played at the Lincoln Country Club half a dozen times since school began.

"We have become pretty comfortable," Krapfl said. "We may have a little home-course edge."

Krapfl said the country club course is completely tree-lined, so it is important to stay on the fairway.

"Holes 15 to 18 are key, so you need to get off to a good start," Krapfl said. "Play smart at the end and try not to get aggressive. You could end up with some high numbers."

Firethorn, on the other hand, is a much more wide-open course. The course is a links course - directly off

from the fairways and greens is the rough, long grass.

"The course itself is a challenge," Romjue said. "I would say holes 12, 13 and 14 are a challenging series. They require good shot making." Romjue also added that paring those holes or shooting one over would be the way to win.

Firethorn, a course of relatively fast greens, was designed by Pete Dye, a famous golf-course architect. Dye has also designed the TPC at Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra, Fla., and Kohler, Wis. - the site of the 1998 U.S. Women's Open.

"The teams coming in will enjoy playing on such a challenging course," Romjue said. "It's nice for us to start out at home."

Coach feels confident with Brooks

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that Brooks is finding easier every day.

"Mirjana (Glisovic) has been a real help because we are both new," Brooks said. "We both didn't know what to expect coming in."

As far as the upcoming cross country and track seasons, Dirksen is just eager for Brooks to start competing.

"She will be one of the top two or three runners on the team this year," Dirksen said. "If she is not, we have a lot better team than what I thought."

Dirksen said that Brooks will primarily run in the 5,000- and 10,000-meter runs in the track season, events in which her times rank her in the top 10 in Nebraska history.

Brooks is apprehensive about one thing: the indoor track season.

"I am a bit nervous about running

indoors," Brooks said. "I just don't want any injuries."

Brooks has had no major injuries in the past, and the NU coaching staff is hoping that does not change. Brooks will have only one year to do what it takes most athletes four years to do.

Brooks is first scheduled to run Sept. 18 when the Huskers play host to the Woody/Greeno Nebraska Invite at Pioneers Park.

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