

SPORTS

PAGE 10

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UT's 1-2 punch KOs Huskers in five games

BY JOHN GASKINS
Staff writer

AUSTIN, Texas — Nebraska tried to knock on Texas' door Saturday night, hoping for the breakthrough win of the season.

And for a while, the third-ranked Cornhuskers' volleyball team had its foot planted firmly inside — appearing to finally barge back into the Big 12 Conference title hunt and avenge a season full of upsets and fifth-game breakdowns.

But after NU took a two-games-to-one lead, a couple of UT gate keepers named Erin Aldrich and Kathy Tilson slammed the door shut. The 10th-ranked Longhorns stormed through the fourth

game and staved off the Huskers in the fifth to break NU's five-match winning streak, 15-11, 15-7, 12-15, 9-15, 15-13.



Pettit

dominant of a team right now."

With the dramatic victory, UT (15-3 overall) kept itself in a first-place tie with Kansas State atop the Big 12 standings at 9-1 after losing to the Wildcats

on Oct. 9.

Meanwhile, Nebraska (15-5) distanced itself in third place at 7-3 and two matches back, halfway through the conference slate. The loss also left Nebraska 0-4 in five-game matches — all against top 16 teams — but both NU Coach Terry Pettit and All-American outside hitter Nancy Meendering denied NU has any fifth-game problems or jinxes.

"We have the same mentality going into every game," a frustrated Meendering said after becoming the first player in school history to record six 30-kill performances in one season.

"They just had better fundamentals. We were well-prepared for this. I just wish we could've handled it better than we did."

The two-hour, forty-minute match proved to be an exquisite dessert for the 3,630 fans at the Gregory Gymnasium after the delicious feast the two programs provided in Saturday's football game, a 24-20 Texas win.

After the Longhorns took game one, NU roared back in game two and used 14 of Meendering's match-high 32 kills to go up a game. For the night, Meendering swung 82 times and hit .317.

But Aldrich, a three-time NCAA Champion in the high jump, and Tilson, a sophomore hitting nearly four kills per game, took charge from there. Aldrich finished with a career-high 32 kills, and Tilson reached the same feat with 31.

"I told Erin in the middle of game four, 'You're winning this match for

Volleyball

	game 1	game 2	game 3	game 4	game 5
Nebraska	11	15	15	9	13
Texas	15	7	12	15	15

us," Texas Coach Jim Moore said. "And she goes, 'OK,' and she did.

"And Kathy, I can't be more proud of anybody I've ever coached because she wasn't even recruited by anybody, and she comes out and proves she's one of the best outside hitters in the country."

Tilson followed Aldrich's 13-kill third game with a nine-kill game of her own in game four. But it was its dominance in game five that kept Nebraska from stealing the win.

Please see VOLLEY on 11

NU wins Big 12, gets No. 1 seed

BY BRANDON SCHULTE
Staff writer

In assembly line fashion, the Nebraska soccer team captured the Big 12 Conference regular season title.

By pounding out two wins against Oklahoma and Oklahoma State, the Cornhuskers wrapped up the No. 1 seed at the conference tournament and moved to 16-1-1 overall and 9-0 in conference.

Nebraska jumped out to early leads in both games, defeating the Sooners 3-1 on Friday to clinch the title and the Cowgirls 10-0 on Sunday.

The Cornhuskers have won 12-straight games against league opponents and have outscored them 57-5 over that stretch. This season alone No. 4 NU has outscored league foes 43-3.

Coach John Walker was pleased with the way the team played despite the limited availability of All-conference midfielders Amy Walsh and Jenny Benson. Benson missed both matches with a lingering groin injury while Walsh missed Friday night's game and played sparingly on Sunday.

"We didn't play our best soccer game of the season, but we also played without two of the best players in the country in the midfield with Amy Walsh and Jenny Benson out of the lineup," Walker said. "We also stayed undefeated in the conference and won the Big 12 title, so obviously we don't have too many complaints."

Nebraska sped away from OU in the first 10 minutes with goals from sophomores Meghan Anderson and Becky Preston and cruised to the victory as Christine Latham added a goal later in the half.

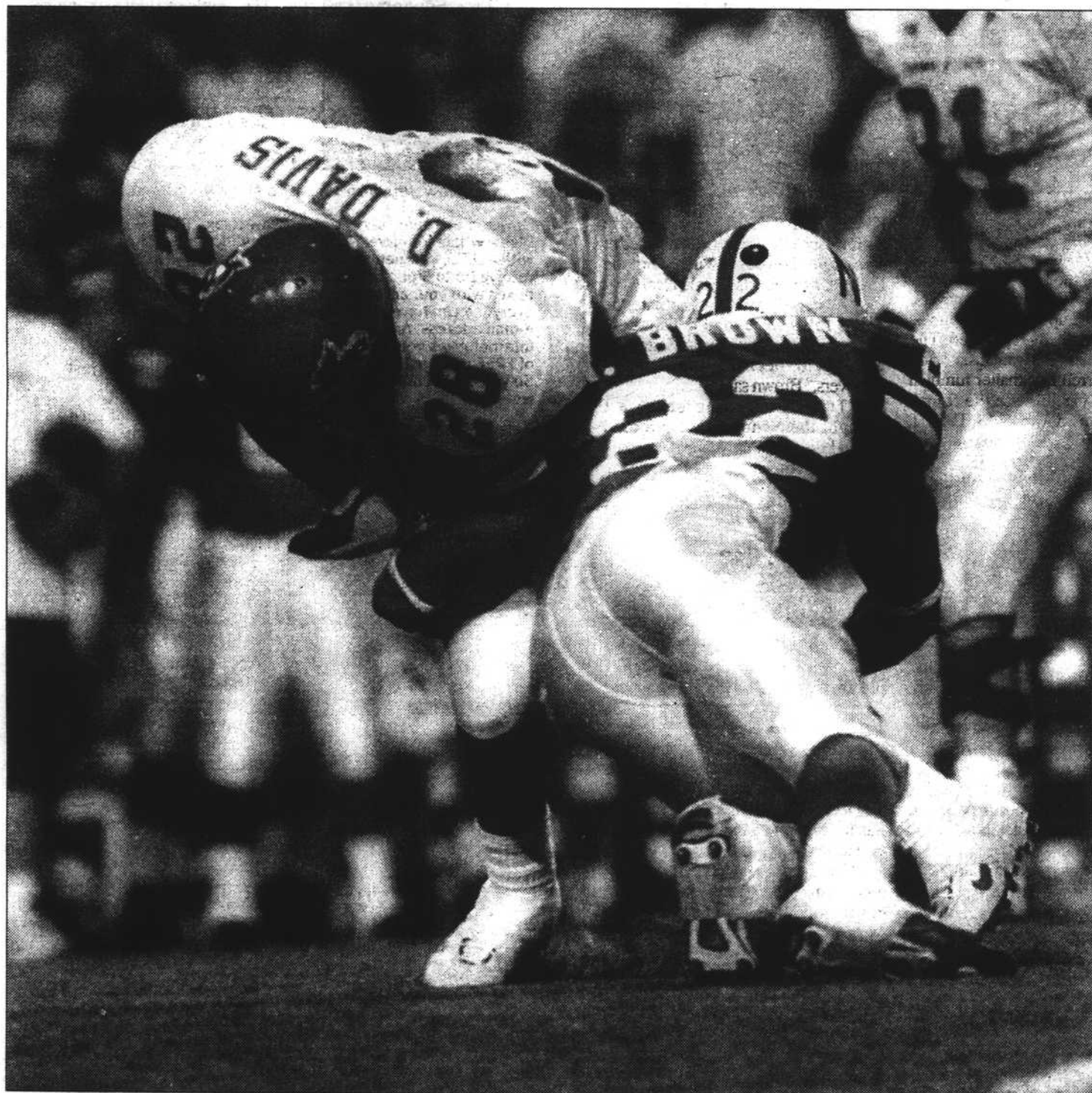
OSU put up less of a fight as Lindsay Eddleman scored the game-winning goal in the seventh minute. Seven other Huskers contributed goals in the blowout victory.

With her goal, Eddleman became the leading scorer in Husker history with 117 points. She added two assists later in the game to bring her career total to 119, which is three better than the 116 points Kim Engesser scored in her career.

Anderson, the Big 12 Soccer Player of the Week, notched three goals and three assists this weekend to give her 41 points in 1999. She became the fifth player in NU history to eclipse the 40-point mark in one year.

Nebraska will need to crank out a win against Iowa State this Friday to close the regular season perfectly in conference. Walker said the team will continue to work on getting better as it has the last couple of weeks, with the Big 12 Tournament looming in less than two weeks.

"We've focused on trying to improve the last couple of weekends," Walker said. "The idea that everyone is capable of making contributions is something we still need to work on."



NATE WAGNER/DN

Ralph Brown and the rest of the Husker defense played a spirited game against Texas but were doomed by 11 plays in the second half that helped UT win 24-20.

McBride: Pre-game talk helped seal fate

BY JOSHUA CAMENZIND
Staff writer

Many will say that Texas has Nebraska's number. Many will also contend that the Longhorns were motivated by comments made by the Huskers in the two weeks leading up to Saturday's game.

And Defensive Coach Charlie McBride will be right there agreeing with them.

McBride's defense held UT to only a field goal in the first half but gave up 21 points in the second half.

Texas kept NU's defense off-balance with slide blocking and running the ball enough to keep them honest, McBride said.

"They scored three touchdowns in 11 plays," McBride said. "And when you have that happen to you in rushes like that, that is pretty concerning."

McBride said Texas did bring a new twist against the Huskers.

"They got the ball off quick," McBride said. "They weren't on their normal rhythm. They were like throwing quick drop backs from the shotgun. And then they got some big plays on deep routes. But normally they were

trying to hit us in the intermediate areas.

"They really did a good job of knowing there was going to be pressure, probably anticipating what Kansas State did, probably anticipating that we are the same type of team."

McBride said that NU did not help its own cause when several players made comments about Texas prior to the game.

"I didn't even know it happened until this morning," McBride said. "My wife read something about it, and I am not sure what

Please see DEFENSE on 11