

# SPORTS

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## High hopes mount for Tiger coach, team

BY MATTHEW HANSEN  
Staff writer

Dallas, Texas - Optimism was clearly the emotion of choice Thursday at the Big 12 Men's Basketball Media Day. Player after player and coach after coach professed nothing but anticipation about their upcoming seasons.

The Missouri player contingent of senior forward Jeff Hafer and sophomore guard Keyon Dooling stood out even among the cast of optimists. Their wide smiles and upbeat answers indicated a level of excitement that seemed to stare in the face of fact. It's right there in black and white - more than half of last season's points, rebounds and assists were compiled by a Tiger who has since grad-

uated.

The Missouri players' optimism was not grounded in numbers but was based primarily on the baby-faced, first-time head coach who sat between them. Former Duke Assistant Quin Snyder is expected by Dooling, Hafer and undoubtedly many Tiger fans to be the man to lead the Missouri program to heights previously unattainable.

"Ever since he got here, it has been obvious that he has an energy and a passion for the game," Dooling said. "His enthusiasm has been infectious to the point that we are already realizing that we are going to exceed expectations this year."

Snyder accepted the job as Missouri head man in early April following the resignation of long-time coach Norm

Stewart. The 33-year-old had previously made a name for himself at Duke University. He played point guard for the Blue Devils from 1986-89 and still ranks third on the team's all-time assists list.

Following several years as an assistant coach for the Los Angeles Clippers, Snyder returned to Duke as an assistant to Mike Krzyzewski. While at Duke, he established himself as one of college basketball's best recruiters. Snyder nabbed current NBA rookies Elton Brand, Chris Carrarell and Trajan Langdon for the Duke program. In his 10 years as a player and coach, Snyder was a part of five teams that reached the Final Four.

Snyder's background caused Dooling to believe that Missouri could eventually achieve comparable results.

"Coach is from the best program in

college basketball," Dooling said. "He's used to a certain standard of excellence that is really high. What he is doing right now is trying to get us to begin to achieve up to that standard of excellence. We are trying to imitate him and, by doing so, we will be successful."

When judged by wins and continued success, it's not as if Missouri basketball has been that lacking.

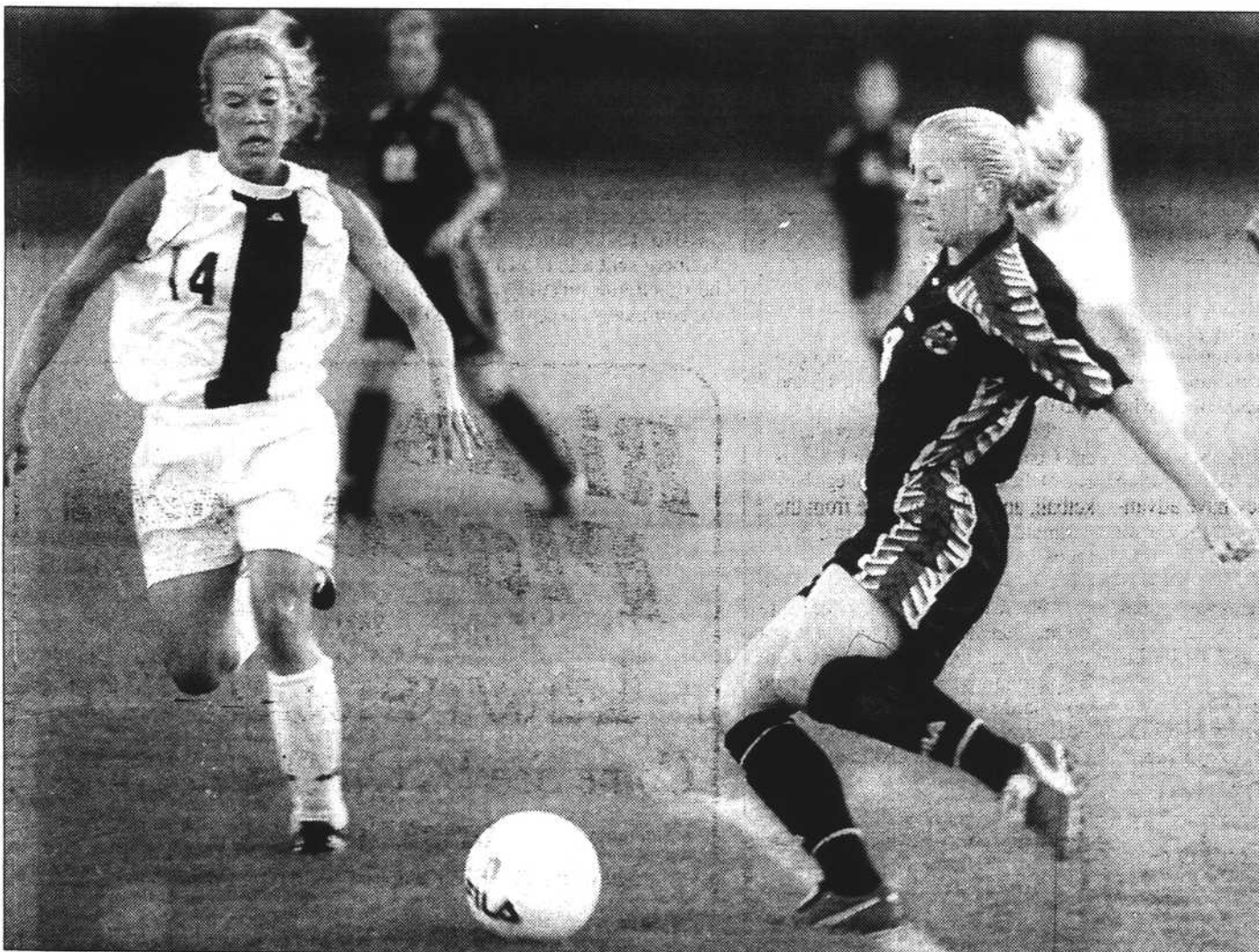
While at Missouri, Stewart led the Tigers to 16 NCAA tournaments and six conference titles. In his 32 seasons, he compiled a record of 634-333. The Missouri coaching legend stepped down in April as the NCAA's seventh-winningest coach in history.

Conspicuously absent among the

*The best high school players are going to listen to him. If we get those kind of players, there's no telling how good the program can become."*

JEFF HAFER  
Missouri forward

Please see MISSOURI on 11



MIKE WARREN/DN

NEBRASKA JUNIOR Jenny Benson and the soccer team will take on Iowa St. on Friday night at the Abbot Sports Complex for the Huskers' final home game of the regular season.

## Talented seniors to play final home game

BY BROCK WENDLANDT  
Staff writer

Nebraska Soccer Coach John Walker doesn't like to compare the intricacies of the senior classes that have led his teams throughout the years.

Each class had its strengths, Walker said, and each did tremendous work.

But even Walker, whose fourth-ranked team will celebrate Senior Night when it plays host to Iowa State (14-5-0 overall and 11-6-0 in the Big 12) tonight at 7, can't help but acknowledge the impact this year's senior class has had on his program.

"It's no coincidence that in 1996 we became a nationally prominent program," Walker said. "This class was very instrumental, and a lot of credit should go to them."

Seniors Lindsay Eddleman, Isabelle Morneau and Sharolta Nonen - along with junior Jenny Benson - were freshmen on the 1996 Cornhusker squad that plowed through the conference undefeated and finished the season with a 23-1 record.

The group added another member when Amy Walsh transferred to NU her sophomore year.

Although NU did not repeat its regular-season conference victory in '97 or '98, it

*"They were aggressive in their goals and brought an increase in team speed. All of them had a big impact and played right away."*

JOHN WALKER  
NU soccer coach

maintained a 74-10-2 overall record and recaptured the Big 12 league title again this year.

It was obvious these were determined freshmen, Walker said.

"They were aggressive in their goals and brought an increase in team speed," Walker said. "All of them had a big impact and played right away."

Iowa State Coach Cathy Klein said the players, who have all earned All-America honors, have made a lasting impression on the conference and have forced it to raise its level of play.

"John has done a brilliant job of building a competitive, spirited, experienced and dominating team," she said. "Nebraska's speed is second to no program in the country."

The combination of these attributes has

produced many impressive achievements.

Eddleman owns the Husker career scoring mark with 119 points, Nonen and Morneau anchor a defense that has allowed just 10 goals this season, and Walsh is considered by Walker to be the toughest ball-winner in the country.

While their individual accomplishments speak for themselves, Walker said, it's their unselfishness that characterizes them collectively.

"They've all worked extremely hard to develop their games," he said. "Three out of the four of them have switched positions, and that shows their dedication to the team."

It has been dedication that has paid off for the seniors, Walker said.

"It's rare to look around the country and see a team with four seniors who are all All-Americans. Most teams just don't have that."

## NU seeks to regain respect vs. Jayhawks

BY DARREN IVY  
Senior staff writer

Coming off an emotional loss to Texas, Nebraska is hoping that a steady diet of bird will be just what the doctor ordered for getting back on the winning track.

Last season after losing to Texas A&M 28-21, the hungry Huskers bounced back and feasted on the Jayhawks in a 41-0 romp in Lincoln.

When the two teams meet at 6 p.m. Saturday in Lawrence, No. 8/9 Nebraska is hoping some Jayhawk soup will help its hurting soul once again.

"The Texas game this past week was difficult on all of us," Head Coach Frank Solich said. "(The players) were down. They were stung pretty good. We have moved forward, and it is now removed from our thoughts. We are looking forward to Kansas and the rest of our schedule."

The Huskers have good reason to look forward to Kansas. They have history on their side, as the Jayhawks haven't defeated NU in 30 years. To put it in perspective, KU Coach Terry Allen was 11 years old the last time KU won.

With the Big 12 Conference's worst total defense and ninth-best offense, the Jayhawks look ripe for the taking again this year.

But amid that 411 yards per game the KU defense gives up on average was last week's 21-0 shutout of Missouri. In that game, the Jayhawks allowed just 44 yards on the ground. The improved play of KU's defense concerns Solich.

"I saw Kansas at the beginning of the year against Notre Dame, and I thought they looked pretty good," Solich said. "Since then, they've suffered a few injuries and had some things not go their way. But they've stuck together. Right now, they appear to be playing their best football."

The Huskers also are playing well. Despite losing to Texas, NU outgained the Longhorns 429-275. One reason for the high totals in yardage were big plays through the air.

Sophomore quarterback Eric Crouch is coming off of a career-day in passing. Sophomore tight end Tracey Wistrom has received several key passes from Crouch this season and had two more this past weekend against Texas. And both may have another big day Saturday.

If you look at how Kansas' defense has played all year, with the exception of last week, it has been a sieve. Kansas State and Texas A&M ran wild through the secondary.

The last five encounters also point toward a big day for the Husker offense. NU has outscored KU 225-27 the teams' past five encounters.

For Nebraska to put up that many points Saturday, it will have to quit turning the ball over. In the five losses the Huskers have had under Solich, NU has had 15 turnovers.

"You can't have that many turnovers and expect to win," Crouch said.

The turnovers and losses have given teams around the conference hope they can beat the Huskers.

This week, several KU players said they were confident in their chances against NU. The lack of respect for Nebraska has some of its player wanting to prove something, Wistrom said.

"Teams are starting to think they can defeat us," he said. "There are a lot of players who are taking that to heart. We want to make a statement this week against Kansas that we are a dominant football team."