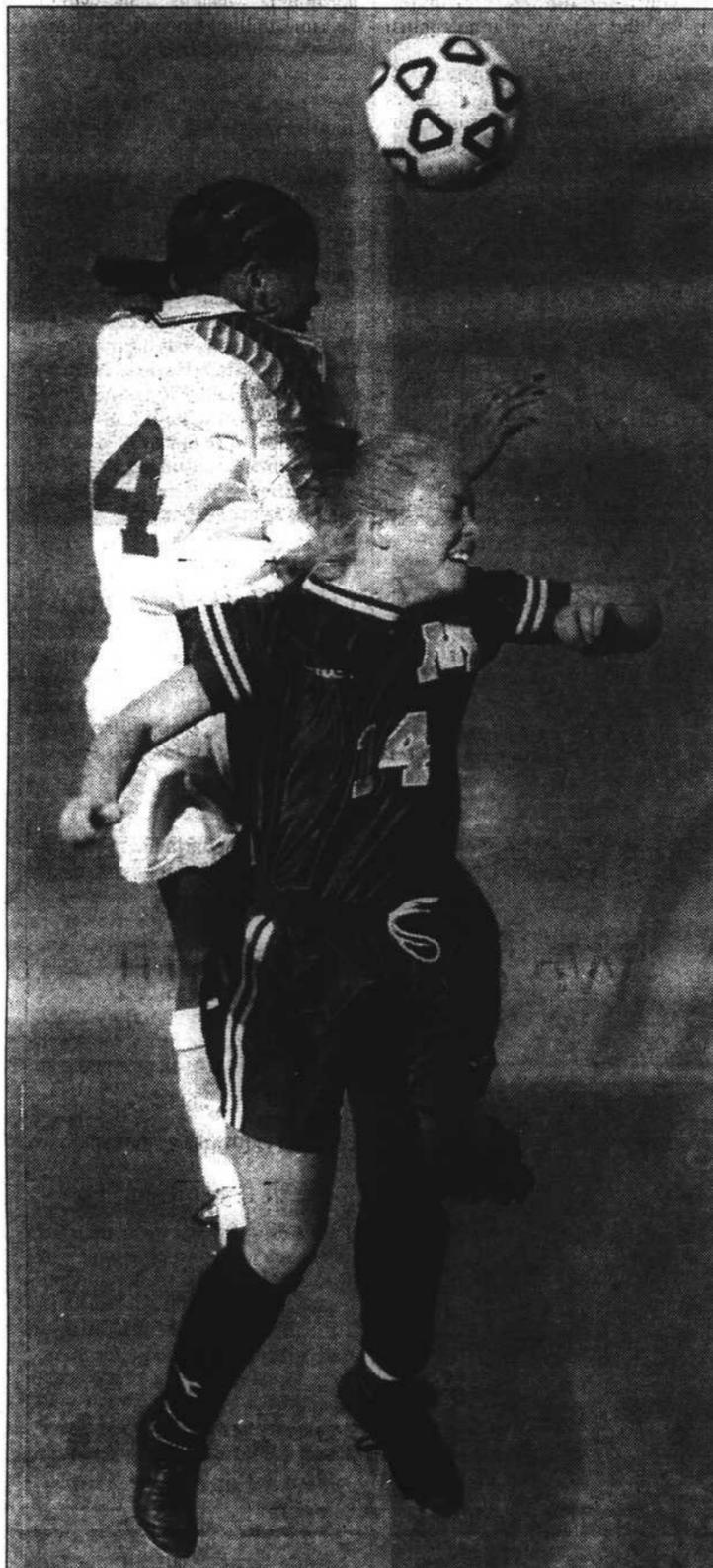


SPORTS

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Slow start can't stop NU soccer victory



NEBRASKA MIDFIELDER Najah Williams fights for a header against University of Minnesota defender Noelle Papanhausen in the first half at the Abbott Sports Complex. NU beat UM 5-0 to advance in the NCAA playoffs

■ **First half starts sluggish, but Husker women turn it around with second wind.**

BY BRANDON SCHULTE
Staff writer

The No. 4 Nebraska soccer team continued its eight-day layoff about 15 minutes too long Sunday.

But after an uncharacteristic slow start, NU warmed up and looked as it had all season.

Following a first-round bye, the Cornhuskers defeated Minnesota 5-0 at the Abbott Sports Complex in the second round of the NCAA Tournament. The 1,814 fans in attendance saw Minnesota control the opening minutes of the match.

But once Nebraska, which moved to 21-1-1 this season, woke up, it scored all five goals in a 51-minute span.

"We were a little slow to get started," NU Coach John Walker said. "You have to give credit to Minnesota. They started the game with a lot of energy."

"Once we found our feet, it was almost like a wake-up call. Then I thought we played very well. The last 30 minutes of the first half and first 30 minutes of the second half were played

at a high level."

NU goalkeeper Karina LeBlanc saved Nebraska from an early deficit. UM's Jaime O'Gara went at LeBlanc in a one-on-one at the top of the 18-yard box. O'Gara shot low to her right, and LeBlanc made a fabulous kick save.

Becky Preston got the Huskers on the board in the 17th minute.

The play started when Lindsay Eddleman split two defenders in the box and was able to cross the ball back across the the mouth of the goal to Preston. UM goalkeeper Dana Larson partially deflected Preston's right-footed shot but wasn't able to keep it out of the net.

After that, Nebraska gained momentum. Walker said it was important that his team was able to maintain high pressure.

"It's really important (to stay intense)," Walker said. "It's human nature after you score to let down a little bit. We talk about trying to pick up our intensity after a goal and to not let up."

Nebraska went up 2-0 in the 35th minute when Meghan Anderson took a short pass from Sharolta Nonen on a corner kick and blasted an 18-yard shot just inside the near post to beat a diving Larson.

"I don't think we were in control

Nebraska	5
Minnesota	0

until I scored off of that corner kick," Anderson said. "I think after the first goal, things picked up for us, but after the second goal everything seemed to go our way."

The all-conference midfielder would add Nebraska's last goal and an assist to increase her team-leading point total to 53, for the season, moving her into third place on NU's single season scoring list.

With the win, Nebraska will meet a familiar foe, Texas A&M, in a 1 p.m. match Sunday at the Abbott Sports Complex. The Aggies beat Kentucky 3-2 in overtime on Sunday.

NU has defeated A&M the last three times the schools have met, including a 1-0 victory in College Station, Texas, this year and a 7-0 win in Lincoln at the NCAA Tournament last year.

In other second-round action, two seeded teams were upset at home. Hartford defeated defending national champion and No. 3 seed Florida 1-0, and Boston College upset No. 8 seed Harvard also by the score of 1-0.

Wrestlers get tough win

BY DAVID DIEHL
Staff Writer

Lock Haven put eighth-ranked Nebraska's wrestling team in a 10-0 hole after three matches, but after an NU comeback, it was Brad Vering who eventually dug the grave.

Vering, No. 4 in the country at 197 pounds, pinned Lock Haven's Mike Greenberg 1 minute, 34 seconds into the first period and extended the Cornhuskers' one-point lead into a 20-13 dual-clinching score.

The Bald Eagles picked up three points in the heavyweight match, providing the 20-16 final team score.

The win came despite the fact that the Huskers had two true freshmen wrestling their first-ever collegiate match and a junior college transfer taking on his first Division I opponent.

Paul Gomez, the regular starter at 125 pounds, is academically ineligible for the first semester. True freshman Joe Malia wrestled in his place. Adam Kastl got the start at 141 pounds in place of Justin Flores, who is out after having his knee scoped Nov. 8.

Vering said with new guys and

starters who aren't regulars in the lineup, the older ones had to take control.

"Guys like Bryan (Snyder), Charles (McTorry) and myself and a couple other guys really had to step it up and score the bonus points," he said.

Head Coach Tim Neumann gave credit to his two captains, Snyder and Vering, and how they brought his team back. Snyder's 20-4 technical pin and Vering's win combined to give NU 11 of its 20 points.

"Vering and Snyder did what they had to do," Neumann said.

Vering moved up a weight class this season, up from 184 pounds last year. He said wrestling at his more natural weight benefited him. Weight cutting isn't an issue now, which has made him quicker, and he's having more fun, he said.

Neumann said the matches were a great experience for the team because it was tough coming out of the gates and wrestling a dual right away, as opposed to wrestling in open meets such as they have done in the past.

"The matchup's for a January dual we're wrestling in November," Neumann said. "You train them to wrestle in November, and they had to

Nebraska	20
Lock Haven	16

"Vering and Snyder did what they had to do."

TIM NEUMANN
NU wrestling head coach

wrestle with the intensity of January, and that's good."

Lock Haven had taken the first three matches with one major decision and two three-point decisions, building a 10-0 lead. Joe Henson, Snyder, Tony Denke, and Ati Conner won Nebraska's next four matches, claiming a 14-10 lead for the Big Red.

184-pounder McTorry's upset bid of Lock Haven's 18th-ranked Dave Murray was doused after Murray came back from a 5-2 deficit and posted a 6-5 win, gaining a bonus point for riding time.

Sanderford says Huskers prepared, not excited

BY JOHN GASKINS
Staff writer

As they entered the locker room after their 88-70 exhibition victory over Sweden on Sunday night, Nebraska women's basketball players found just two words written on the board by Coach Paul Sanderford: prepared and excited.

His point? The 24th-ranked Huskers held up their end of the bargain in just one of the two departments, and it wasn't the one he preferred.

"He'd rather have us excited than prepared," NU center Charlie Rogers said. "We came out flat. He kept telling us during timeouts that if he paid money to come watch us play, he'd

never come again because we're so boring."

Nebraska looked solid and organized at some points, lethargic and sloppy at others. The Huskers stormed out to an early 11-4 lead and never trailed.

The early pounding was due in large part to the spirited play of Rogers, who made her first six shots and scored 11 of her team-high 22 points in the first three minutes. Rogers would have enjoyed a career-high scoring night had the game counted.

But after the opening rally, the next 37 minutes looked "sluggish" and "tired" in Sanderford's eyes.

Despite NU's main post players, Rogers and freshman Stephanie Jones (15 points), picking up the scoring

Nebraska	88
Sweden	70

slack from foul-plagued guards Brooke Schwartz and Nicole Kubik, Sanderford was unhappy with their defense and rebounding.

Rogers grabbed just two defensive rebounds in 22 minutes, and Jones snagged five total rebounds in 30 minutes. The Huskers were without 6-5 junior transfer Casey Leonhardt, who suffered a minor ankle sprain late in the week.

It certainly wasn't the same pass-happy, 102-51 frenzy the Huskers enjoyed in their first exhibition display Nov. 3 against Lithuania. To its credit, NU shot 53 percent from the floor and

"He kept telling us during time-outs that if he paid money to come watch us play, he'd never come again because we're so boring."

CHARLIE ROGERS
NU center

committed just 16 turnovers in its final exhibition tuneup for its Friday season opener against Georgia Southern in the Time Warner Classic.

Also to Nebraska's credit, it faced a much tougher challenge from the Swedes than the Lithuanians. Guard

Katja Johansson lit up NU with eight 3-pointers and a game-high 33 points to lead the club team.

"They knew what they were doing," Sanderford said. "They were doing a lot of things we'd like to do. They moved the ball well."