

Huskers shut out Hawkeyes 6-0 in scrimmage

By Brian Christopherson
Staff writer

Welcome to Lincoln, neighbor. The Nebraska women's soccer team was not so hospitable to their friends from Iowa, delivering a 6-0 flogging to the Hawkeyes on Saturday afternoon at the Abbott Sports Complex.

The win pushed NU's record to 2-0-1 on the spring season and gave the Cornhuskers their first game action in three weeks, with a home match-up with national champion North Carolina looming next Friday.

"I thought we did some really good things out there and created a lot of chances," Nebraska Coach John Walker said.

"There were also some things we didn't do as well. They didn't score, but we weren't as organized on defense as we'd like to be, and we let them play with the ball too much."

However, NU left little doubt that it was in control, scoring early and often,

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Becky Preston
NU soccer player

starting with Nebraska forward Becky Preston's goal six minutes and 27 seconds into the match.

Preston made it 3-0 with her second goal at the 20:16 mark, following a Najah Williams steal in the box that put NU up 2-0.

Freshman Christine Latham knocked in one of the team's 15 shots on a goal in the 30th minute of the first half to push the score to 4-0.

Meghan Anderson scored on a free kick in the second half and later on a shot from the outside of the penalty box for the final 6-0 tally.

Still, the Huskers were their own worst critics, despite a 33-7 shot edge and 15-3 edge in shots on goal.

"I think we worked hard out there, but the pressure dropped off in the second half," Anderson said. "We weren't talking or communicating like we were in the first half."

Preston agreed, already pushing her thoughts ahead to next week's contest with the Tar Heels.

"We can't play the way we did today next week against North Carolina," Preston said. "We can't make near as many mistakes."

However, Preston also added that the team is progressing along very well during this spring exhibition season.

"I think we're comfortable with the changes in positions from last season, and we're feeling confident," she said.



Heather Glenboski/DN
FRESHMAN FORWARD CHRISTINE Latham keeps the ball from the Hawkeyes' freshman defender Suzanne Rivers in a spring exhibition game Saturday at the Abbott Sports Complex. Latham contributed to the Husker's 6-0 win with an unassisted goal in the first half.

A&M defeats NU in final match

By Jamie Suhr
Staff writer

It appeared to be business as usual for the Nebraska women's tennis team halfway through its final match Sunday against Texas A&M, but things aren't always as they appear.

The Aggies claimed the dual 5-4 and snapped NU's 14-game winning streak, despite falling behind 5-0 in the day's deciding match.

"That's a hard way to go down," said dejected NU Coach Scott Jacobson. "They can hang their heads high, though."

With the dual tied at four matches apiece, the Huskers' No. 3 doubles team of Ndali Ijomah and Stacey Tomkiewicz built what looked like an insurmountable lead against A&M's Oliva Karlikova and Leah Killen.

"Stacey was serving like a monster," Jacobson said.

The Aggies would split the next four points to trail 7-2 before Karlikova and Killen battled back, scoring six straight to take an 8-7 lead.

NU salvaged the next point to force a tie-breaker, but then it was all Aggies. A&M outscored the Huskers 7-3 to claim the match.

Despite Tomkiewicz and Ijomah losing the deciding match, Jacobson made it clear there would be no finger pointing.

"Just because they're the last match doesn't mean it's their fault," Jacobson said. "We win as a team, we lose as a team."

NU's Sandra Noetzel notched her 98th victory, a school record, by defeating Martina Nedorostova 6-4, 6-4. She is just two wins shy of becoming the first Husker to tally 100 career wins.

"I didn't really realize it until someone told me," Noetzel said. "I looked at the record and said 100 would be nice, but I never really keep



Josh Wolfe/DN
JUNIOR NDALI IJOMAH yells after missing a hit during a dual meet against Texas A&M at the Cather-Pound Courts Sunday. The Huskers lost to the Aggies 5-4, snapping their 14-game winning streak.

track of my record."

The Husker team wasn't the only one to have a streak snapped. NU's Katarina Balan lost her first singles match of the season, falling to Killen 7-5, 6-0.

The Huskers (3-2 Big 12) will hit the road to face Missouri on Tuesday. Jacobson said getting back on the courts will help them forget the loss.

"I think the kids will bounce back well," Jacobson said.

Men, women take second at USC meet

From Staff Reports

In its first big outdoor meet of the season, the Nebraska track and field team claimed second on both the men's and women's sides at the Los Angeles Quadrangular on Saturday.

The Huskers faced three of the top outdoor teams in the country: Louisiana State, North Carolina and Southern California.

The men's team fell just one point short to host USC (193-192), while the women's team finished with a score of 170, just 15 points behind USC.

Men's sprinter Chris Chandler and women's javelin-thrower Cassi

Morelock each automatically qualified for the NCAA outdoor championships, while nine other Huskers qualified provisionally.

Chandler set the Cromwell Field record with a blistering time of 10.16 in the 100-meters. Chandler was an automatic qualifier in both the 60- and 200-meters during the indoor season.

Men's javelin-thrower Cory Lehman nabbed the top spot with a provisional qualifying throw of 233 feet, 8 inches.

Triple-jumper Sheldon Hutchinson, pole-vaulter Eric Eshbach and high-jumper Shaun Kologinczak provisionally qualified

for nationals for the NU men.

Aside from Morelock, who threw the javelin 174-7, the Husker women had two other first-place finishers. Leann Boerema had a provisional mark of 50 feet in the shot put, while Melissa Price provisionally qualified in the hammer throw with a toss of 196-1.

Seven-time All-American Dalia Ingram was No. 1 in the long jump with a leap of 20-9 and second-place in the triple jump with a mark of 43-3 1/4.

Rounding out NU's top finishers was high-jumper Carrie Branses, who topped 5-11 1/2 to take home first.

McGwire, Sosa showdown to highlight opening day

ST. LOUIS (AP) - The matchup is being billed as Mark McGwire vs. Sammy Sosa.

After all the offseason changes in St. Louis and Chicago, maybe it's time to focus on the Cardinals and the Cubs.

"It's such old news," McGwire said of the home run race between the two sluggers that has captivated the sport the past two seasons. "Both teams have improved themselves."

Those improvements will be on display Monday as McGwire's Cardinals open their season against Sosa's Cubs, who split a two-game, season-opening series in Japan against the New York Mets.

The Cubs, 67-95 last year, are fortified by the additions of second baseman Eric Young, catcher Joe Girardi and pitcher Ismael Valdes, plus the upcoming return of pitcher Kerry Wood.

"Whenever he's ready to join us, he will lift our staff to great heights," manager Don Baylor said of the 1998 NL Rookie of the Year. "He's a guy who can match up with a lot of No. 1s."

The Cardinals, 75-86 last year,

added starters Kile, Pat Hentgen and Andy Benes, closer Dave Veres, second baseman Fernando Vina and center fielder Jim Edmonds.

"Everything's great," McGwire said. "It needed to be done."

The team has improved to the point that manager Tony La Russa is toying with the idea of moving McGwire from No. 3 in the lineup to cleanup, ahead of Edmonds or Ray Lankford.

Not only that, there's new long ball company in the NL Central to spread the spotlight. Ken Griffey Jr. was the one attracting crowds this spring, and it's the Reds, not the Cardinals, who are expecting media crushes all season.

"If it's like that, it's much better for us," Sosa said. "It'll give us a little break."

La Russa doesn't mind the two getting attention, if it's deserved.

"The focus on McGwire and Sosa comes from the media as much as the fans," La Russa said. "I don't think there's anything wrong with that part of the game getting a lot of attention, as long as the teams are, too."

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(402) 472-7440 (department)
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