

Huskers show potential in tie game with UNC

By Brian Christopherson
Staff writer

Nebraska soccer is the real deal. Anson Dorrance said so.

Dorrance is a good source. The North Carolina coach has guided some winners in his day.

He has only 19 career losses in 21 seasons as coach of the Tar Heels, with more national championship rings in his possession than fingers.

On Saturday night, Dorrance's North Carolina team was fortunate to escape with a 1-1 exhibition tie against NU. It was a one-sided affair, literally.

"We were lucky to escape with a tie," Dorrance said. "They could have set up a camp on our side of the field."

However, Nebraska only put one in the net out of 21 shots, on defender Breanna Boyd's first-half goal in the shortened 70-minute game.

"We had plenty of chances to win this game. We just have to do a better job of finishing our chances," NU Coach John Walker said.

Nebraska had 10 more shots than the Heels and owned a 13-2 advantage in corner kicks.

UNC scored a second half goal on a counter attack when Meredith Florance blasted a shot by NU goalie Karina LeBlanc to force the stalemate.

It was the fourth season that NU has played North Carolina in the spring, and the Cornhuskers haven't quite hurdled ahead, going 0-2-2.

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"We didn't win, but it wasn't because we didn't play hard," Walker said. "There was no shortage of effort."

UNC was playing its second game of the day, losing earlier to the United States National Under-21 team 3-1.

"It's hard to play two games in a day," Dorrance said. "It's a challenge, but we love challenges."

Following the hard-fought game, Dorrance said the Cornhuskers will be the ones presenting challenges to other teams next fall.

"The spring season can tell you what the core of your team is like, and the core they have is national caliber," Dorrance said.

"They're at that level that a small collection of schools are at, competing for the national title every year."

The Huskers took to the field again Sunday afternoon at the Abbott Sports Complex to take on the Under-21 team.

Najah Williams' goal in the 50th minute brought NU to a 1-1 tie with the all-star team.

However, goals by Stanford star Becky Myers in the 61st and 67th minute broke Nebraska's back.

"Up until that second goal of the half, I thought we played with them step for step and actually controlled most of the action," Walker said.

Tiredness dogged the Huskers down the stretch, after playing a game only 18

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hours earlier.

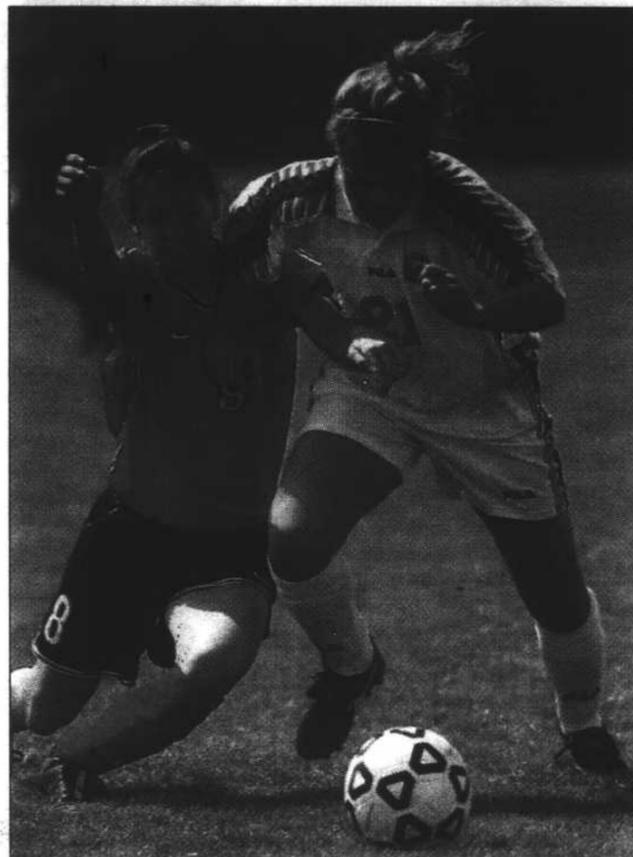
"We went all out early in the second half, but we just ran out of gas," Boyd said.

NU's Kori Saunders was disappointed that the Huskers couldn't pick up a win this weekend.

"I feel about the same as I felt about the North Carolina game," Saunders said. "We capitalized on only a few of our many opportunities, and they scored on most of their few chances."

Walker was optimistic about his team after the two games.

"This was such a good weekend for us. This is why we do the spring schedule the way we do it," Walker said. "After this weekend, we have no illusions. We know our strengths and weaknesses, and we know what we need to work on before fall."



Josh Wolfe/DN
FRESHMAN PAIGE PHILLIPS fights for control of the ball with the U.S.'s No. 8 during the first half Sunday at Abbott Sports Complex.

Scrimmage shows off improving defense

By Brandon Schulte
Staff writer

What a difference a week has made for the Nebraska football team.

In their first major scrimmage of the spring season, quarterbacks Jammal Lord, Joe Chrisman and Brett Lindstrom combined to lead an offensive attack that racked up nearly 700 yards of total offense and scored eight times.

In Saturday's second major scrimmage, the defense controlled the offense, as it allowed 409 yards, two touchdowns and two field goals while recording seven sacks and causing six turnovers.

Coach Frank Solich liked the changes he saw from his defense.

"I think the defense showed some progress," Solich said. "I thought they really, at times, stalled out drives and did things necessary to slow our offense down."

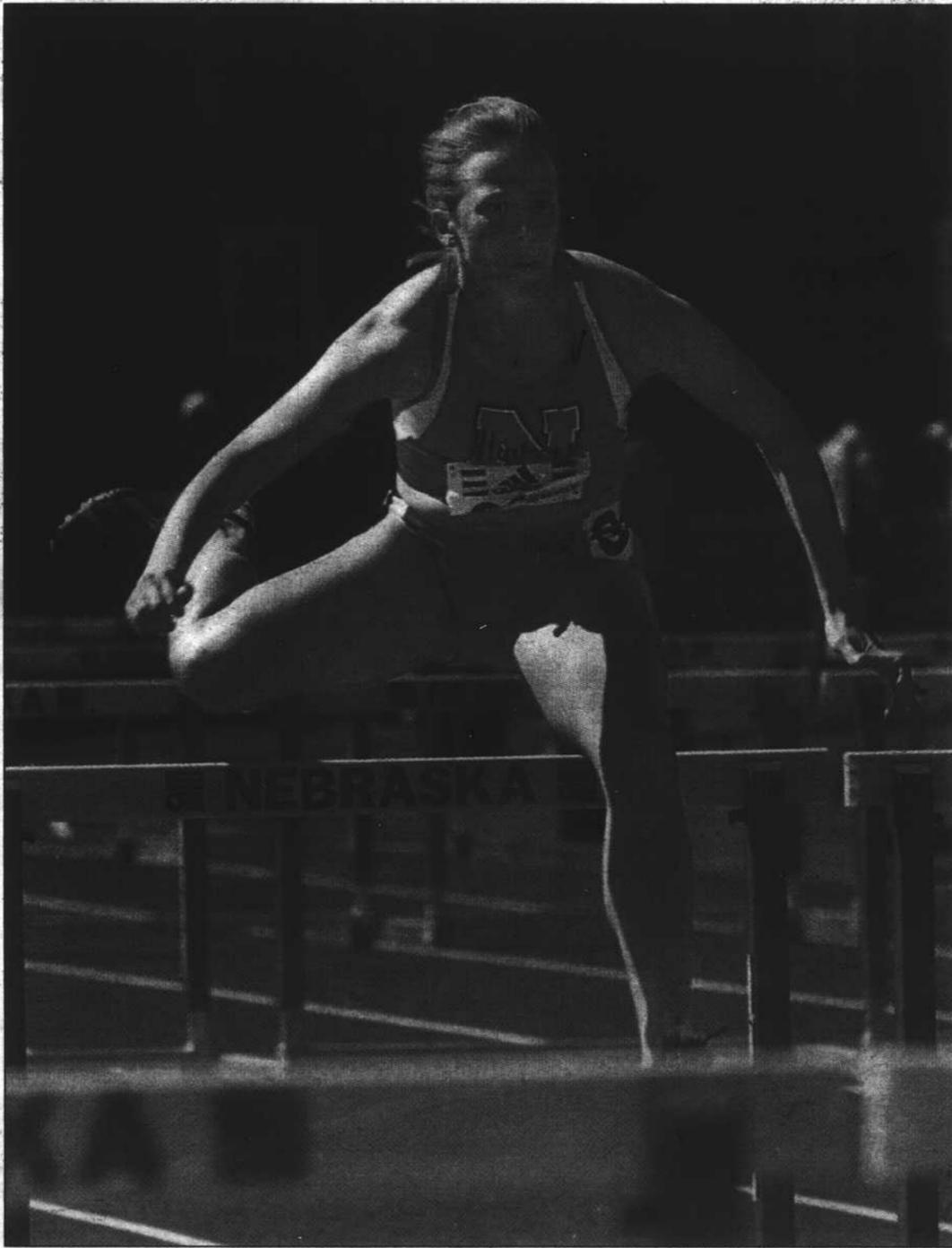
One of NU's main offensive weapons - Lord - went down with a knee injury to his posterior cruciate ligament.

Chrisman moved up to direct the No. 1 offense, while Lindstrom took the snaps with the No. 2 offense. And freshman receiver Kelly Cook was the third quarterback.

So the offense was scaled back as the jerseys virtually nullified the passing game and the option, Solich said.

"Offensively, we did move the football on the ground," Solich said. "We did not have much of a throwing attack today."

Most of the Cornhuskers' limited offensive success came on the ground, as they racked up 284 yards on an incredible 105 carries.



Mike Warren/DN
RENE PRETORIUS took third in the women's 100-meter high hurdles for NU behind second-place Emily Walbel, also of NU. The Huskers hosted their first home meet in over three years and won 10 events. Twenty teams competed in the open meet with over 800 athletes and some post-collegiate independent athletes.

NU finishes first home meet with good marks

By Jamie Suhr
Staff writer

Nebraska Track and Field Coach Gary Pepin couldn't be happier with Saturday's Nebraska Open, but it had little to do with scores or times. He was glad to be home.

The first home meet in nearly three years for the Huskers attracted 3,600 fans to the newly refurbished Ed Weir Stadium Track.

"I'm glad we got some good weather and pretty good performances, but it's nice to be home," Pepin said.

While the new track surface didn't churn out any record performances, Pepin said he wasn't disappointed. Five Huskers claimed provisional qualifying marks, and 10 athletes took home first-place finishes.

Nebraska cleaned up in the throw competitions. Shot-putter Leann Boerema threw a provisional qualifying mark in her third straight meet with a throw of 49 feet, 8 1/2 inches, while hammer-thrower Melissa Pricethrew a provisional mark of 193-5. Men's javelin-thrower Cory Lehman also qualified provisionally after throwing 221-1.

NU's Jessica Thompson finished third but was the top competing collegiate. Thompson cleared with a provisional mark of 6 feet.

NU sprinter Chris Chandler finished first in the 200-meters with a time of 21.21 seconds.

"I just wanted to go out there and do average and just get through the day," Chandler said.

With a leap of 19-10 3/4, long-jumper Dalhia Ingram took home first, but didn't compete in the triple jump for precautionary reasons after her hamstring tightened up.