

Spring Game answers all questions

■ Coach Frank Solich said he was generally pleased with the performance of the current squad.

By Brandon Schulte

Staff writer

In a sense, the Nebraska football program follows the same model, to a "T," that Henry Ford outlined for his Ford factories during the Progressive Era.

Just as Ford introduced a system to business that plugged similar parts into the same design to produce a high quantity of quality automobiles, the Cornhuskers don't rebuild a new team each year — it reloads by inserting similar players into the same positions, only they have different faces and names.

Coming into spring drills we asked five questions that NU had to answer if it hoped to attain its goal of winning a national championship in 2000. Did it answer these questions and others that cropped up during the 15 spring practices?

Your guess is as good as mine, but if Coach Frank Solich's opinion counts, and it does, then NU is right on track.

"I'm generally pleased with this group of athletes," Solich said. "I think they've had a tremendous work ethic immediately upon arriving back in Lincoln from the bowl game. They went right to work on winter conditioning, and that continued into this spring.

"We stayed on the field a lot this spring. The workouts were not easy, and they were long, so it was kind of a demanding spring for them. Yet they responded very well."

The majority of the spring work was to replace eight starters (two offense and six defense) who were lost from last year's team



I-BACK DAHRRAN Diederick lunges forward for extra yards during the Red-White Spring Game. Diederick split time with Correll Buckhalter for the Red team while Dan Alexander is recovering from an injury. Mike Warren/DN

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Huskies set Final Four goals

Soccer team looks ahead after defeating Notre Dame 2-0

By Brian Christopherson

Staff writer

It is human nature to consider last Saturday evening a night of revenge for the Nebraska soccer team.

After all, NU had just whipped and collared the same Irish team that had stopped them a shoot-out shy of a Final Four last season.

Surely there was even a twinge of satisfaction in each Cornhusker after walking off the field, but the 2-0 job that NU pulled on Notre Dame wasn't some win-one-for-the-Gipper attempt to avenge last fall's heartache.

Perhaps it was a message sent to the rest of the country or a momentum builder for next season.

The only thing known for sure by Nebraska players and coaches is that this Husker team is shooting for the sky next fall.

All the close calls to glory of years past are just a speck in the rearview mirror now with the emergence of this Nebraska team that compiled one of the best spring seasons in school history.

"The national title is definitely something you think about," sophomore forward Kelly Rheem said. "I think we've played really well all spring and filled in the spots we need to."

NU's win over the Irish catapulted the Huskers to a 3-1-2 spring ending record, with the lone loss coming against the United States Under 21 Team, a collaboration of all-stars from

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John Walker
NU soccer coach

teams throughout the country.

NU Coach John Walker said he was greatly satisfied with the season's outcome.

"This has been one of the most effective springs in terms of results," Walker said.

"I think this is the first time that we have not lost to a college team in the spring and definitely the first time that we have not been out-shot by a college team during the spring."

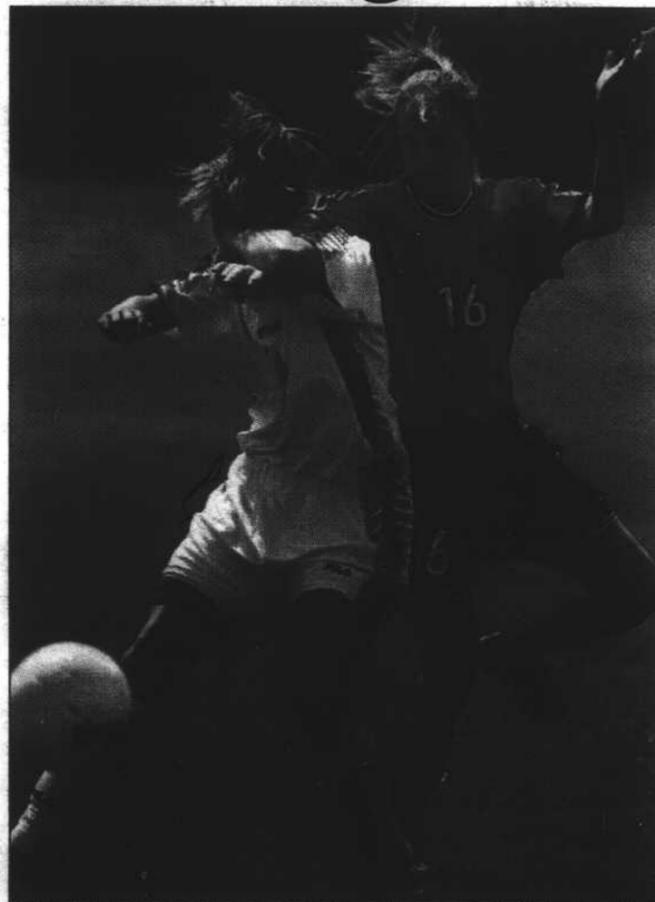
Lopsided wins over Iowa (6-0) and Southern California (4-0) accompany the victory over UND.

And the ties are nothing to sneeze at, coming against top-ten power Florida on the road and defending national champion North Carolina at home.

NU outshot the Heels 14-2 in that match and owned a 22-12 edge over the Gators.

"Putting more shots on net is something we've worked on," Rheem said. "We just need to finish a few more opportunities during the fall."

Sophomore midfielder Meghan Anderson said this team



JUNIOR Midfielder Jenny Benson fights for control of the ball with U.S.'s No. 16 in the spring exhibition game April 9 at Abbot Sports Complex. Josh Wolfe/DN

is not lacking in confidence, especially after the team's recent success.

"I think we showed ourselves that we can play with and beat any team in the country," Anderson said. "We had to establish players to fill in for the loss of four seniors, but I think that we did that."

Rheem and Anderson believe that new faces are going to have to

take over leadership roles on the field next season, and both agreed that the role already may have been claimed this spring by junior Jenny Benson.

"We're completely different this season. Last year's team was more vocal, and this team leads more by example on the field."

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— SPORTS OPINION —
Beltzer Field gets no respect as NU's 'mutt'



Matthew Hansen

xxxIt is early May, and Chancellor Search Party Chairwoman X is showing Prospective Chancellor Y around the University of Nebraska campus. They are specifically touring the athletic facilities, possibly to divert attention from the academic facilities.

Whatever the reason, Prospective Chancellor Y is duly impressed. He has stood on the state-of-the-art Fieldturf at Memorial Stadium and been awed by the history surrounding him. He has sat in the chancellor's private luxury box near the state-of-the-art press box at the stadium.

He has admired the sheer brazenness of the state-of-the-art Huskervision screens at Memorial and Devaney, although he thinks they might be a bit tacky.

While standing on the state-of-the-art track, though, Y notices another athletic field he hasn't been introduced to.

"What's that?" he asks X, his loafers scratching the soft surface. "The baseball practice field?"

X stammers, visibly shaken. She mumbles something about a new facility.

Y can't quite understand her. Turns out that this eyesore is Buck Beltzer Field, home to the Nebraska baseball team. Turns out that the Huskers will play in a new, state-of-art

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