

Soccer player to remain inactive after freak accident

■ Saunders was injured in the Aug. 10th accident while playing video games after morning practice with her teammates.

BY JAMIE SUHR

Nebraska soccer player Kori Saunders' future remains unclear after returning home from the hospital last week.

Saunders was injured Aug. 10 after a glass and wooden table she was sitting on collapsed, causing an eight-inch shard of glass to pierce her back. The piece of glass cut her ureter and chipped a vertebrae, narrowly missing several vital organs.

The sophomore from Overland Park, Kan., will be resting at home

with her mother for the next week, and she must remain inactive for the next six weeks.

Despite the required inactivity, it has yet to be determined whether Saunders will redshirt this season.

"We don't know," Coach John Walker said.

"We'll wait to see. She's ordered to bed rest now, so she's a long way from doing anything."

Two weeks ago, it was uncertain whether she would ever play soccer again.

After morning practice on Aug. 10, many players from the team gathered at teammates Brooke Jones' and Paige Phillips' apartment to play Super Mario Bros. video game before afternoon practice.

"We were trying to kill some time," Jones said. "Anything but sleep."

To see the television better, Saunders took a seat on the coffee table in front of the television. A few moments later, the table broke, crashing to the ground, shattering the glass top.

"At first, we all kind of laughed, and Kori did too," Phillips said. "We didn't realize anything was wrong until she hit the ground and screamed."

After her deafening scream, Saunders reached behind her and pulled out the knife-like slab of glass. Quickly, Phillips and teammate Christine Latham rushed to Saunders' side rolling her onto her stomach and applied gauze to the gash.

"Until I saw the wound, until I saw it. That was when we realized we had to call 911," Phillips said.

"At first we all kind of laughed, and Kori did too. We didn't realize anything was wrong until she hit the ground and screamed."

Paige Phillips
teammate

It appears Saunders has escaped serious long-term damage.

The piece of glass missed all her main arteries, her kidney and her spinal cord, which could have left her paralyzed.

Saunders will meet with doctors during the first week of September to determine when she can resume physical activity.

Phillips said Saunders was aiming for a return to the playing field this

season. "Of course she is," Phillips said. "She's a really strong person. She'll do whatever she has to do to get back."

While Walker remains optimistic, he said the seriousness of the injury means the team will prepare for the season without her.

"She certainly will be an impact player here," Walker said. "We'll have to see if it's this fall or not."

Weather dampens scrimmage

BY JOSHUA CAMENZIND

Nebraska's first scrimmage of the fall brought both full contact and adverse weather to the players for the first time this season.

The Cornhuskers scrimmaged for nearly two hours before about 20 fans at Memorial Stadium on Saturday. While the rain lasted for the majority of the scrimmage and kept most fans away, it did give the players a good chance to practice hanging on to the ball.

And the players showed that more practice will be needed.

"We had some quarterback exchange problems with some of the younger guys," Coach Frank Solich said. "You are never pleased with that, but it was not an easy day for them with the weather, and it was the first scrimmage for them."

The quarterbacks also struggled in the air, completing just six of 17 passes for 117 yards. Starting quarterback Eric Crouch completed one of four attempts, a 38-yarder to Matt Davison, while backup Jammal Lord hit on three of nine passes for 52 yards.

"The rain, which was coming down pretty hard from the start, probably took us out of a lot of the passing game," Solich said.

But for the most part, NU's running game looked sharp.

Thunder Collins led all rushers with 56 yards on nine carries with two touchdowns - mostly against lower defenses. DeAntae Grixby, Dahrnan Diedrick and Dan Alexander all rushed for over 50 yards in helping the offenses combine for 447 yards in 108 plays.

"The power game, at times,



Husker sophomore I-back Dahrran Diedrick scrambles away from the NU defense during Saturday's scrimmage.

SCOTT MCCLURG/DN

Please see WEATHER on 14

Bufs optimistic despite schedule

BY SAMUEL MCKEWON

In Colorado's difficult transition last year, new coach Gary Barnett didn't have time to worry about his team's dicey 2000 schedule. He didn't even have time to see it.

It wasn't until late into the Buffaloes' season that Barnett even glanced at the opening six-game slate - Colorado State in Denver, at Southern California, Washington, at Texas A&M, Kansas State and at Texas - and saw his team might be out of the conference title hunt before Halloween.

And things were looking so positive for CU, which roused from its long Rick Neuheisel sleep to win four of its last six games and nearly bop Nebraska off its lofty perch. Even with that 33-30 overtime loss to the Cornhuskers, the Buffs finished 7-5 and pounded Boston College 62-28 in the Insight.com Bowl.

Now, it's quite possible Colorado is better as a team in 2000, but because of the schedule, may again struggle in the early going.

But Barnett, whose stint at Northwestern proved him capable of slaying non-conference dragons like Notre Dame, won't make excuses.

"This is the type of non-conference schedule you'd like to have," he said at the Big 12 Media Days in late July. "I believe in playing a tough non-conference schedule to be fair to players and fans."

It's the first three conference games, against three top 20 teams, that Barnett takes umbrage to, saying if "the conference wants us to do well, then it has to take into account what they're stacking us up against right away in the conference."

But that's all the complaining Barnett will do. He refused to concede the Big 12 North race to Nebraska and Kansas State.

BIG XII PREVIEW

- Colorado Buffaloes
- Preseason Rank: 3rd (North)
- 1999: 7-5 (5-3 Big XII, 3rd in North Division)
- Offensive Starters Returning: 6
- Defensive Starters Returning: 6
- Prognosis: Buffs are better, but schedule is tougher.

MELANIE FALK/DN

Midway through last season, with a 3-3 record, Barnett said his team had the awakening, and the team's attitude has shifted to his liking.

He has a salty, quick defense led by preseason All-Big 12 pick Jashon Sykes at linebacker. He has a solid corps of receivers. He has the "it" player of the 2000 recruiting class in running back Marcus Houston, who has local sports columnists calling for him to start in game one.

Now, if Barnett only had a quarterback. In fall drills, three have emerged - junior college transfer Bobby Pesavento, sophomore Zac Colvin and true freshman Craig Ochs from Boulder. Pesavento, "a guy you wouldn't even know is in the room," Barnett said, has the lead but Colvin and Ochs are hanging.

All three have performed well in scrimmages, leading the coach to call it "a heckuva quarterback battle" last Friday.

CU teammates don't seem worried.

"We're confident with whoever," tight end Daniel Graham said. "The attitude is there right now."

Attitude is a key word around Buffs' camp, something

Please see BUFFS on 14

NU tabbed Big 12 champion

■ Huskers dominate all conference selections and are picked to edge Kansas State and defeat Texas in the title game.

BY SAMUEL MCKEWON

It was a meaty debate. Pros, cons. Deep schedule analysis. A comparison of scores against common opponents. Everything a decision between Nebraska and Kansas State for the Big 12 North Champion should entail.

Except that meaty debate was over Texas A&M or Oklahoma State for fourth place in the South Division. Such is the case with a typical sports-writer clan more interested in getting the minute detail right than remembering the big picture.

Maybe because the big picture seems pretty easy - the North title comes down to a NU-KSU tilt in November, while Texas is the favorite in the South, with Oklahoma in second.

We think Colorado, Kansas

and Texas Tech will join the above four as bowl participants. In the vaunted battle for fourth in the South, OSU beat A&M. But neither will be bowl-bound.

As our Big 12 Offensive Player of the Year, the Cornhuskers' Eric Crouch is a dependable pick, while UT's Casey Hampton edges out NU's Carlos Polk for best defensive player.

Not surprisingly, Nebraska (seven) and Texas (five), along with Kansas State (six), dominate the All Big-12 selection list.

It's quite possible that NU could have staked a claim at every spot on the offensive line. We tabbed three for good measure.

And while Crouch is the obvious choice at quarterback with Major Applewhite embroiled in a battle with Chris Simms, many teams in the conference possess a talented signal-caller.

Besides Crouch, Applewhite and Simms, all upper crust college quarterbacks, there's Oklahoma's Josh Heupel, Oklahoma State's Tony Lindsay, Kansas' Dysten Smith and Iowa State's Sage Rosenfels all return-

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ing to start another year.

As our Newcomer-of-the-Year selection suggests, Ell Roberson of Kansas State should be a household quarterback name by the end of the year.

Conversely, there's slim pickings at running back, where UT's Hodges Mitchell and Texas Tech's Ricky Williams prevail for now, but may not emerge as the best.

The horde of Husker backs loom, as do newcomers Josh Scobey of Kansas State and Freshman-of-the-Year prediction Marcus Houston at

Please see PICKS on 15

Pre Season All Big XII Team

- Offense**
- Quarterback: Eric Crouch (Jr.), Nebraska
- Running Back: Hodges Mitchell (Sr.), Texas
- Ricky Williams (Sr.), Texas Tech
- Wide Receiver: Javon Green (Sr.), Colorado
- Quincy Morgan (Sr.), Kansas St.
- Offensive Line: Russ Hochstein (Sr.), Nebraska
- Toniu Fonoti (So.), Nebraska
- Dominic Raiola (Jr.), Nebraska
- Randall Cummins (Sr.), Kansas St.
- Leonard Davis (Sr.), Texas
- Punter: Dan Hadenfeldt (Sr.), Nebraska
- All-Purpose: David Allen (Sr.), Kansas St.
- Defense**
- Defensive Tackle: Casey Hampton (Sr.), Texas
- Shaun Rogers (Sr.), Texas
- Defensive End: Justin Smith (Jr.), Missouri
- Kyle Vanden Bosch (Sr.), Nebraska
- Line Backer: Jashon Sykes (Jr.), Colorado
- Rocky Calmus (Sr.), Oklahoma
- Carlos Polk (Sr.), Nebraska
- Defensive Back: Dyshod Carter (Sr.), Kansas St.
- Jarrod Cooper (Sr.), Kansas St.
- Kevin Curtis (Jr.), Texas Tech
- Carl Nesmith (Jr.), Kansas
- Freshman of the Year: Marcus Houston (RB), Colorado
- Newcomer of the Year: Ell Roberson (QB), Kansas St.
- Offensive Player of the Year: Eric Crouch (QB), Nebraska
- Defensive Player of the Year: Casey Hampton (DT), Texas

Dejan Lonowski/DN

NU soccer standouts help Canada shut out the Huskers

■ Husker starters Latham and LeBlanc split time between the two teams in the exhibition at Abbott Sports Complex.

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Nebraska women's soccer team truly beat themselves in a 3-0 exhibition loss to the Canadian National Team Aug. 16.

Cornhusker sophomore forward Christine Latham scored two goals for the Canadians while splitting time between the two teams.

Current Husker goalkeeper Karina LeBlanc also started for the Canadians, beginning the shutout of the Huskers.

An Abbott Sports Complex crowd of 1,583 witnessed the current Cornhuskers play well - while wearing the jerseys of the Canadian team.

Latham played two periods for Canada and one for Nebraska, while LeBlanc played the first period for Canada and the last two for Nebraska.

Both Latham and LeBlanc, as well as sophomore defender Breanna Boyd, are members of the Canadian National Team and are starters for Nebraska.

Former Husker standouts Isabelle Morneau, Sharolta None and Amy Walsh also play on the Canadian team.

Latham scored her first goal at 10:02 to give Canada a quick 1-0 lead.

Canadian forward Charmaine Hopper added a goal ten minutes later.

Latham added a second-period goal for the Canadians to cap the scoring.

Despite having both LeBlanc and Latham for the final period and outshooting the Canadians 7-6 during that time, Nebraska was unable to get into the scoring column.

The Canadian team outshot Nebraska 18-11 in the contest.

Nebraska opens regular season play on Friday, Aug. 25 at the University of Minnesota before hosting Arkansas-Little Rock in the home opener two days later.