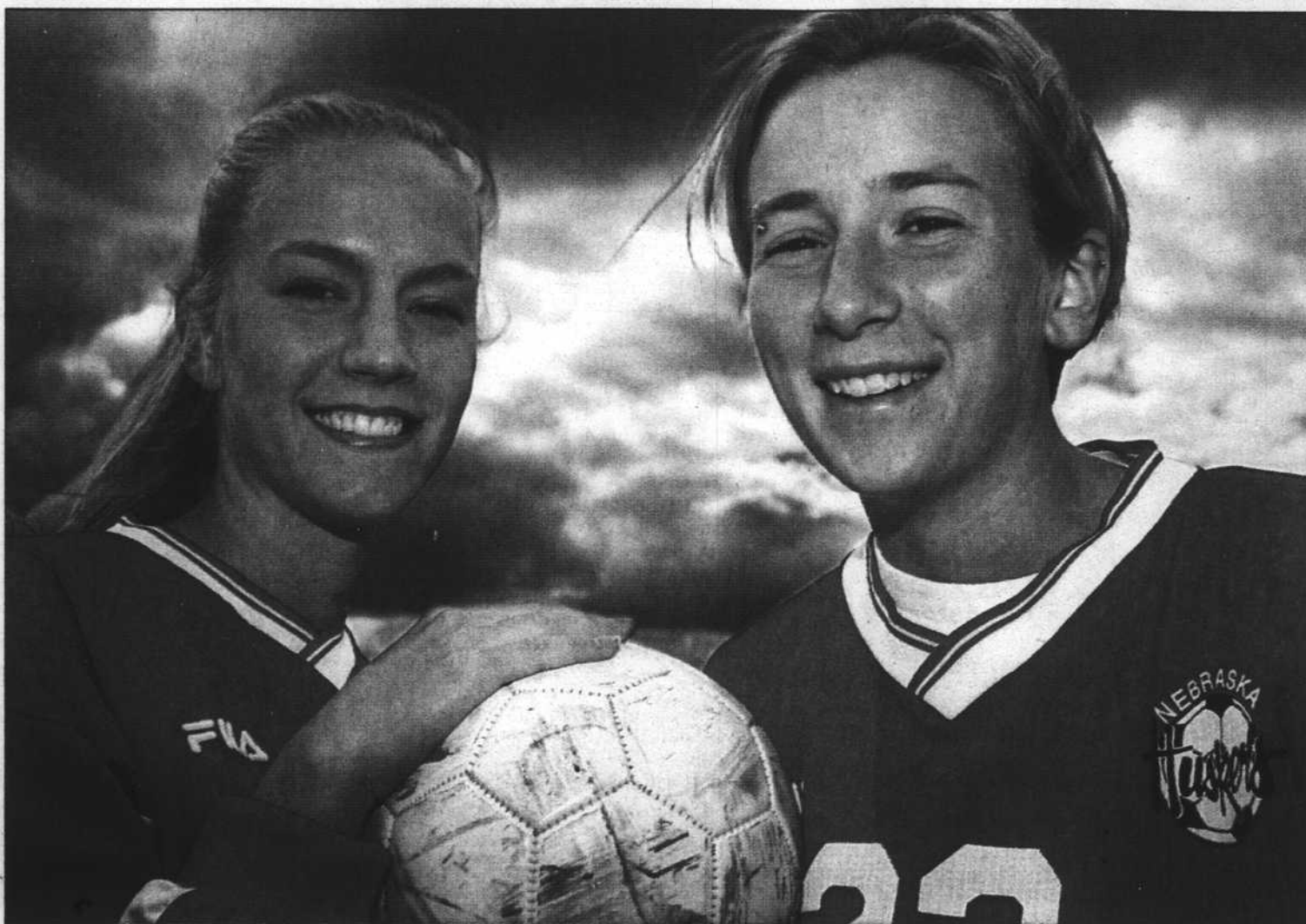


Becky Preston and Meghan Anderson are fourth and first respectively in scoring in the Big 12 Conference for the undefeated Nebraska soccer team. Preston and Anderson have been playing soccer together since high school at Omaha Burke and grew up on the same block.



Mike Warren/DN

## NU coaches won't look past Iowa

BY JOHN GASKINS

For a second at the Nebraska football press conference Tuesday, it seemed as though steam was going to start coming from the head of first-year defensive coordinator Craig Bohl.

He was asked the same sort of question many Husker coaches are asked when six-touchdown favorite NU (2-0) gets ready for sad-sack teams like 0-3 Iowa. The game kicks off Saturday at 2:30 p.m. at Memorial Stadium.

Bohl was asked what he expects out of his defensive unit — which he said has plenty of room for improvement after the first two games — against a Hawkeye offense that has tallied a whopping average of 14 points and 282 total yards a game this year.

Those marks leave Iowa 98th in scoring offense and 89th in total offense out of 114 Division I teams. Iowa will go up against a Blackshirt unit ranked 13th and fifth nationally in those same defensive categories.

So what, Bohl was asked, does he expect? A sub-200-yard clamppdown? A shutout? A woodshed beating? The first implementation of the mercy rule in college football?

Bohl, like most NU coaches, gave the trademark, diplomatic coach-speak reply, complete with eyebrows pointed south and a dash of dander.

"Our expectations are to improve this week," he said.

"We expect a physical, hard-fought game inside from their line. We need to be more explosive on defense and hope to put more pressure on the quarterback."

Well, yes. Nebraska could use a little more heat to put on opposing quarterbacks and runningbacks.

Thanks to rapid-fire San Jose State tailback Deonce Whitaker's 147 yards and Notre Dame quarterback Arnaz Battle's 107 yards, the Blackshirts are ranked an unfamiliar 99th in rushing defense.

Another staggering NU statistic: two sacks in two games.

But Iowa is Iowa, and its offense moves with the speed of a dump truck, driven by traditional drop-back quarterback Scott Mullen.

"Battle was certainly more dangerous running the ball than throwing," Bohl said. "Mullen is not as mobile, so we expect to put more pressure up front on him. We're looking forward to it."

Nebraska Coach Frank Solich was not hasty to jump to any conclusions either, calling every game "dangerous" and Iowa "way better" than its 0-3 record.

Like Bohl, Solich said NU is not overlooking the Hawkeyes, but the game will be used to fine-tune problem spots like the pass-rush, the offense's passing game and a special-teams unit that rolled over for Notre Dame.

Still, NU coaches and players can't avoid this: NU's power ranking is No. 1. Iowa can easily be considered one of the worst teams in the nation.

Nebraska has won 14 of its last 15 games. Iowa has lost 15 of its last 16. Nebraska is first nationally in rushing offense. Iowa is 72nd.

Nebraska beat Notre Dame on the road. Iowa lost to Western Michigan at home.

Will somebody acknowledge the mismatch on paper, please?

### Gameday

Nebraska Cornhuskers vs Iowa Hawkeyes

2:30 p.m. @ Memorial Stadium

TV: ABC (KETV 7, KLN 8)

Radio: Pinnacle Sports Network (KLN 1400)

## Long-time friends find connection on soccer field

BY MATTHEW HANSEN

Meghan Anderson and Becky Preston were always two of the best soccer players and two of the best friends around.

They started on Sahler Street, three doors apart. Between the sleepovers and hide-and-seek, they used to kick the soccer ball around. Even then, few were better. Then, no two kids had more fun.

A decade later, the sleepovers and the long talks about boys and parents and life have ended. Preston and Anderson are no longer inseparable best buds. In fact, "we are like night and day," Anderson said.

Except on the soccer field. There, the Nebraska juniors are frozen in time, connected by the soccer ball they have always shared.

Sure, the long-time west Omaha neighbors now compete on a wide scope. Anderson, a midfielder for the Nebraska Cornhuskers, leads the Big 12 Conference in scoring. Preston, an NU forward, is fourth.

But, as Preston or Anderson dribble down the field, eluding defenders, the other is open, and both know it. One delivers the ball. The other scores. They hug. Just like in the old days.

"I could close my eyes, and I know where she'd be on the field," Anderson said. "I know everything about her out there, and she knows everything about me."

It has always been this way. While life pulls them apart, soccer brings them together. For a brief moment, they are 8-year-olds, kicking the ball around, laughing.

...

Becky Preston's family moved into the neighborhood in 1988, just down the street from the Andersons. It wasn't long before the families' two daughters discovered each other and how much

# Sahler Street Stars

fun they could have.

Anderson went over to the Prestons' house nearly every night. The duo played basketball with their five older brothers. Elementary school, what Preston termed "stupid little clubs," listening to music, watching movies — the two Sahler Street rugrats did everything together.

Even then, though, they were different.

"Meghan was always so competitive," Preston said. "She didn't want to lose at basketball, absolutely anything."

But the common bond of Sahler Street and of childhood kept them together.

"It almost doesn't matter at that age (if you're different)," Anderson said. "We sure never thought about it. We just ran around and had fun."

Then it was on to Morton Junior High School and the beginning of Anderson's and Preston's soccer dominance.

"I mean, we didn't really have very much competition," said Preston, haltingly, as if she didn't want to offend Omaha's other former junior-high players. "I don't think we lost a game in junior high. I'm not sure. But we were pretty awesome."

Omaha Burke High School saw the teammates continue to dominate on soccer fields. But high school, with its tendency for cliques, also pulled the childhood friends further apart.

While they remained friendly and still lived three doors apart, Preston and Anderson rarely saw one another outside of soccer.

"Becky was kind of in one crowd, and I kind of hung out with the other crowd," Anderson said. "I don't mean this in a bad way at all, but she was kind of with the cheerleader crowd, and I was kind of with the everybody-else crowd, or maybe the jock crowd. I don't know."

"She was into soccer, but other things, too, like student council. I was pretty much just into sports."

The two Burke soccer stars weren't even close on the field. Anderson, a midfielder, directed the offense and scored most of the goals, while Preston led the defense, using her speed to keep other teams from scoring.

Anderson got most of the glory. She played on the U.S. Under-17 National Team in 1997 and was named the Gatorade Nebraska Player of the Year as a senior.

Preston, though, may have had a larger impact on the team's reaching

the state semifinals in 1998, according to NU Soccer Coach John Walker.

"She was just so quick, so they put her back there on defense," Walker said. "They looked weak back there, but she was able to cover the holes they had. She was playing there because that's where the team needed her."

While Walker said it was a no-brainer to recruit both Burke standouts, it took a visit from Preston to reassure him she had a definite future in soccer.

"She came to our camp and showed us some things on offense that were impressive,"

he said. "It was stuff we hadn't seen from her in high school because she played so much defense."

Both eventually committed to NU, although they didn't know the other was going to.

In fact, Preston said the first time she knew that Anderson was going to NU was when she picked up the newspaper and saw a story about Anderson.

"I got excited then because I knew how good she was, and I realized that we would get the chance to play more soccer together," Preston said.

As freshmen at NU, their paths continued to go in opposite directions. On the soccer field Anderson was a freshman sensation, earning second-

*"It almost doesn't matter at that age (if you're different). We sure never thought about it. We just ran around and had fun."*

Meghan Anderson  
NU soccer midfielder

Please see FRIENDS on page 9

## NU ombudsman was 1968 gold medalist

Charles Greene, the former judicial affairs director, also won an Olympic bronze medal.

BY JAMIE SUHR

When Charles Greene reflects on his winning a gold medal and a bronze medal at the 1968 Summer Olympics, he admits it wasn't his feet carrying him to the top of the podium.

It was Greene's confidence, bordering on cockiness, that pushed him to become the fastest man on the planet.

"Sprinters are thoroughbreds," Greene said. "We're temperamental and have huge egos. We have to believe in ourselves."

Going into the 1968 Olympics at Mexico City, Greene believed the U.S. Track and Field Team had the makings of something special.

"We knew going in that we were great," Greene said. "You can't forget greatness."

The 1968 team is widely regarded as one of the best teams in Olympic history.

On that team, Greene ran the first leg of the gold-medal winning 4-by-100-meter relay. He also won bronze in the 100-meter dash.

"People say I got lucky,"



Nate Wagner/DN

1968 Olympian Charles Greene holds the gold medal (left) he won for running the first leg of the 4-by-100-meter race and a photo (middle) of his running the 100-meter race that earned him the bronze medal (right) at the Mexico City Olympics. Greene is the University of Nebraska-Lincoln student ombudsman.

Greene said. "Baloney. I was supposed to get one. I worked for four years for it."

And now Greene has the medals in a case hanging on his

wall. He used to let his children take them to class for show-and-tell.

"The medals aren't worth anything," Greene said. "It's only

a symbol of how good I was that day, that year, in that decade. It doesn't say I lived in Selleck (Hall)

Please see SPRINTER on page 9

## OU looks to rebound against No. 1 Huskers

BY BRIAN CHRISTOPHERSON

The Sooner Schooner is wobbling into Lincoln this Saturday with a broken wheel and a banged-up axle.

The Oklahoma volleyball team's bruised ego stems from a three-game spanking at the hands of Texas A&M on Wednesday night.

The Sooners now stand at 6-3 on the season, with a 2-1 conference mark, as they head into the NU Coliseum for Saturday's 7 p.m. showdown with Nebraska.

"I don't know their team well enough to know how they're going to respond to that type of loss," Nebraska Coach John Cook said. "We just need to worry about what we have to do to get better as a team."

It doesn't seem that Nebraska would have many worries on its mind after Wednesday's sweep of Kansas, which moved the No. 1 Cornhuskers' record to 10-0 overall and 3-0 in conference play.

But Cook went to the tape and plucked out a few flaws his team can still improve on.

"Today, I showed the team videotape of that Kansas game

and all the balls that we let drop on our side," Cook said. "Even though we won, we have to be better than that."

Cook said NU will now turn its focus to trying to stop Oklahoma outside hitter Cathy Cook this Saturday.

The Oklahoma senior led her team with 18 kills in a losing effort against the Aggies.

"Beyond her, they're really a pretty balanced team," Cook said.

Senior right-side hitter Angie Oxley said Nebraska should be ready come Saturday, no matter what level of competition OU provides.

"We challenge ourselves to get better, and we motivate ourselves," Oxley said.

Oxley said this team has a good trait of going for the jugular.

She doesn't mind at all that this year's team has yet to be involved in a tough conference tussle, even sweeping usual powerhouse Texas.

"I do miss playing those tough matches sometimes, but when we win in three games and play as well as we can, our team will take that."