

# Super Scorer Timko Does It All for Huskers

By Kelli Kremlacek, Nebraska Media Relations

If there has been a goal scored by the Nebraska soccer team since the last presidential election, chances are senior Brittany Timko had something to do with it. Whether it was Timko's foot that sailed the fatal shot or offered up the perfect pass, somehow, it's a pretty safe bet that she was there.

From the start of the 2004 season to the present, Nebraska has scored 105 goals in games which Timko has played. In those games, she either scored or assisted on 67 percent of NU's goals. For Timko, who was originally slated as a two-way midfielder for the Huskers, creating goals has become as commonplace as lacing up her cleats.

"We were originally going to keep playing Brittany as a two-way midfielder," Head Coach John Walker said. "But her attacking traits were so evident early on that we knew we had to get her into an attacking position."

Since taking on a more aggressive attacking role, Timko has lit up the scoreboard with 36 goals, 39 assists and 111 points thus far in her career. Her offensive aptitude has also engrained Timko's name in the annals of Nebraska soccer as she is either tied for or owns 10 Husker records including single-game records for points (9), first-half points (7), first-half goals (3), overtime goals (1), first-half assists (3), second-half assists (3) and overtime assists (1). In addition, she has secured Husker single-season records for assists (20) and game-winning assists (8) and the program's career record for game-winning assists (16).

But success, and lots of it, is nothing new for the Coquitlam, British Columbia, native. In fact, Timko was incredibly well-established before ever thinking the name Nebraska.

By the time she was 16, the talented Timko was already a staple on the Canadian National Team and before she hit her 18th birthday, she was a World Cup starter.

"I began taking unofficial visits to a bunch of places pretty early on," Timko said. "I wasn't sure where I wanted to go, but I just had a feeling that I really liked Nebraska. I felt most comfortable there with the players and coaches and I was really impressed with the facilities."

Her mother reinforced the initial good feelings Timko expressed when looking at the Husker program.

"The people at Nebraska stood out above all the rest," Kara Timko said. "When all is said and done, it's relationships that mean the most in life. There is a good, comfortable, down-home feeling at Nebraska and I think it helped to cement our own family values in Brittany."

Timko's decision has paid off. In addition to her remarkable career statistics and numerous NU records, she also holds a number of conference and national honors including back-to-back Big 12 Player of the Year accolades, a pair of NSCAA All-America awards and most recently, her second consecutive nomination to the Hermann Award Watch List, an award given to collegiate soccer's top athlete.

"It feels great to be nominated for the award because I'm in a group with the top soccer players in the country," Timko said. "So it's definitely special, but at the end of the day it's just a watch list and I'm more concerned about getting wins with this team."

Timko's dedication to the Nebraska program is understandable as the program, and coaches John Walker, Marty Everding and Ann Cook, have given her so much in return.

"I don't think I ever would have developed as much as I have if I had gone to any other program," Timko said. "John (Walker) does a great job of developing all of his players. He does a lot of individual work with everyone and makes sure that we all have a great soccer knowledge."

In 12 years with the Nebraska soccer program, Walker has coached his share of talented soccer players including 10 All-Americans, nine national team members and 10 WUSA draftees. But none, he says, overshadow Timko.

"In terms of pure soccer technique and vision, she is as good as any of the players that have played here for sure," Walker said. "I think the one thing that maybe she is best at is the mobility part and how much ground she covers on the field. She rarely goes a minute in a game when she's not getting a touch on the ball and that has resulted in a lot of scoring opportunities for her."

In seven games this season, those scoring opportunities have continued to pour in for Timko. She currently has a team-best six goals, four assists and 16 points in 2006 as one of three seniors leading a young NU team to a 5-1-2 record heading into Big 12 Conference play this weekend against Kansas.

"A personal goal of mine is to lead," Timko said. "We have a very young team, so some of the older players have to take leadership roles in order for us to be successful."

Walker agrees and admits that sometimes Timko's presence on the field can make all the difference in the world.

"Lately the thing I remind her of most is the importance of the ability to make the players around her better," Walker said. "She can be a player of exceptional talent and exceptional work (ethic). She sets a picture for our younger players and I think she's enjoying her leadership role and her soccer a lot this season."



While most juniors in high school were being elected to their respective all-state teams, Timko was being named to the British Columbia Sports Hall of Fame.

"Brittany started soccer at five years old and was noticeably better at it than other kids her age," her mother, Kara Timko, said. "She loved the game and became dedicated to it from the start. She really just enjoys the camaraderie and kinship of pushing each other to excel that a team environment provides."

As one of the most sought-after recruits of the 2003 collegiate class, Timko obviously had her pick of impressive programs, but none made an impact like the Big Red.