

LUBBOCK, Texas - Texas Tech sophomore midfielder Taylor Lytle enters this weekend's Red Raider Classic as the nation's assist leader after the NCAA posted its weekly statistical rankings Monday afternoon.

The Las Cruces, N.M., native has eight assists on the season, one more than Ingrid Wells of Georgetown. She has dished out at least one assist in six of seven matches this season, with the lone shutout coming Aug. 28 against Utah State.

Lytle's assist numbers double the total for any other Big 12 player as Morgan Malborough (Nebraska), Hanna Gilmore (Baylor), and Dria Hampton (Oklahoma) are the nearest to Lytle with four. Her 12 total points are good for third in the conference.

With her impressive start, Lytle is already among the top three on the school's career assists chart with 16, two shy of Kristi Patterson for second all-time. Lytle set the school single-game mark Sept. 4 against TCU as she notched three assists in Tech's 4-3 double-overtime victory over the Horned Frogs, topping a 15-year record that had been accomplished 19 times previously.

One more assist will move Lytle into a tie atop the school's single-season chart currently held by Patterson (1994) and Kristy Frantz (1998). After already matching her assist total from a year ago, Lytle joins Frantz as the only Tech players in school history with multiple eight-plus assists seasons.

Following six-straight matches away from home, the Red Raiders return to the John Walker Soccer Complex this weekend to face Alabama at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Weber State at 1:30 p.m. Sunday as part of the Red Raider Classic. TCU will be the fourth team in the round-robin format.