



Jim Beltzer . . . should get some points for Nebraska in Big Eight meet.

Beltzer 'Ready For Pitch'

Because of their traditional mastery of their specialties, Missouri's Gene Crews and Kansas' Tom Purma go into this year's Big Eight Conference track and field championships, Friday and Saturday at the University of Missouri, on soldier footing than most of the individual event favorites.

Crews is the best in the history of the Big Eight when it comes to putting the shot. He will be going after his second straight outdoor crown to go with the three in a row he won indoors.

The hefty Tiger claimed the all-time Big Eight best at the Conference indoor when he splattered chalk dust at the 61-7/4 spot. This is a foot better than the outdoor record, and previous all-time best, held by Olympic Gold-Medalist Bill Neider of Kansas.

No one has really been close to Crews, the 1964 National Track and Field Federation indoor champion, this year with the 16-pound ball. However, Nebraska's Jim Beltzer might be ready to make his pitch after settling at the 58-foot level all spring.

Beltzer rates as one of the most improved weight men in the country. During the past year, he has added more than three feet to his previous best efforts set two years ago.

In comparison with last year at this time, when he was bothered by an exposed nerve in the elbow of his throwing arm, Beltzer is plopping the ball out there six feet farther.

At the next level stand Kansas' Gary Barr and Colorado's Terry Ten Eyck and Barry King. Not a lot, except experience, separates these three. The two Buffs have a year on Barr.

The Kansan has been a Johnny-come-lately, but he might score the best weight double of all the behemoths if he carries his improvement trend in the discus through the weekend. He has upped his efforts to the upper 160s and is rated as solid in both events now, with teammate Gary Schwartz, the defending discus king, leading the platter troops.

Schwartz, however, is probably feeling the competition pinch more than any of the other weight tossers. Sailing awfully close to his near-180 distance are Oklahoma State's Miles Lister, Oklahoma's Carl Pellegrini and Gordon Wheeler, King, Crews, and Barr.

Even though this discus race rates about as tight as any, a new Conference record is unlikely, though Schwartz has been within five feet of the standard—the mark is 183-5 by Al Oerter, another Olympic Gold-Medalist from Kansas.

Another Jayhawker trying for a sec-

ond title on the Conference circuit is Purma, the javelin flinger who had his little trend toward domination of the event sidetracked last year when Bill Floerke decided to compete again for Kansas State.

Purma did wing the spear to a winning distance when he was a sophomore, but had to settle for second last year. So far this year, he has been consistently 20 feet out in front of the rest.

Even though dominating his specialty, he doesn't have much of a shot at the current record, either. Like Schwartz, Purma, too, is tossing in the shadow of an Olympian, Bill Alley, who managed to break ground at 256-10 while competing for the Jayhawks.

The race for second — and valuable team points, in this event should be interesting. Any one of five could do it: Kansas State's Bud Roper, Oklahoma's Byron Berline (the national old-time fiddling champion), Oklahoma's Henry Bell, Kansas' Jim Pankratz and Colorado's Glen Arbeau. All are returning placers.

Big 8 Track Meet Draws NU Stars

Nebraska's Cornhuskers will challenge for the 1966 Big 8 Track and Field Championship trophy at Columbia, Mo., Friday and Saturday with a 19-man squad.

"It looks like a wide-open race between several good teams," Coach Frank Sevigne said. "And we plan on being in the race for the title. If all our men perform up to capabilities, we'll have a shot at winning the meet."

Ace Husker sprinter Charlie Greene and veteran hurdler Ray Harvey, who missed the dual with Missouri last week as the Scarlets won, 83-62, are expected to be ready for full-scale labor in the loop meet.

Greene, defending champion in the 100 and 220, is entered in both events again, and will also run a leg on the NU 440-yard relay team.

"My leg feels better and I'll be ready," Greene said Monday, referring to the strain he suffered during the Drake Relays.

Nebraska's chief strength lies in the sprints, where both Greene and Lynn Headley rate status, the middle distances, (Dave Crook and Pete Scott the vets, Les Hellbusch a fine sophomore) and both the 120-yard high hurdles and 330 intermediates (Dave Kudron, Lon Sherlock and Harvey).

Jim Beltzer, who has established a new NU shot record of 57-9 1/2 and Steve Krebs, a 6-6 1/4 high jumper, lead the Husker field delegation.

Branch Is Featured At J-School

A Cornhusker basketball standout will be featured at the annual School of Journalism banquet May 14 at the Nebraska Union, but neither basketball nor journalism has anything to do with his appearance.

Nate Branch and his Combo will provide music for the banquet and dance. According to Branch, the group plays everything from classics to rock 'n roll because "we started out to be different from other combos in the area."

The banquet and dance is open to the public, with student tickets \$2.50 and adults \$3.25. The dinner is slated for 6:30 p.m.

The 6'4" junior from Palo Alto, Calif., picked up his interest in music while singing in the church choir where his father was a minister. He said he liked to stay and listen to the piano and learn how to play. Eventually he took six lessons, but Branch said he really didn't "get it" until he taught himself.

His present combo was formed when Branch, Larry Loftus and Fred Riva, both Sophomores, decided to enter the "April Foolishness" talent contest of Sellen Quadrangle (a university dorm complex) in 1965. With Branch on the piano, Riva on the guitar and Loftus on the drums, they won the contest.

"Since then, it has been one job after another," Branch said. Dates have included the 1965 Homecoming dance, Lincoln State Hospital shows, wedding receptions, proms and dances.

Branch said that the group plans to cut a record soon and more could be coming.

SPORTS PAGE

Daily Nebraskan

Kelley Baker • Sports Editor

Bufs Visit NU In Home Finale

By BOB FLASNICK Unless a playoff develops in the Big Eight baseball race that involves Nebraska, this weekend's three game series with Colorado will be the last chance Nebraska fans will have to see the Husker nine in action on the home diamond.

The sixth place Huskers, 8-7 in league play, will have a double-header on Friday which starts at 1:30 p.m. and a single game on Saturday beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Husker coach Tony Sharpe hopes to take three games from the seventh place Buffs and says that since the league leaders will be fighting among themselves, "We have a chance to move up a ways."

"We're in good shape again physically; I'll keep my fingers crossed until Friday," said Sharpe. "We need to be more consistent in our hitting; we get bushels full, then we get none."

Six-foot-six righthander Bob Stickels, who was "beamed" in the sixth inning at Kansas State Saturday, is okay and is scheduled to pitch the second game Friday afternoon. Stickels has a 4-2 record in league play.

Bob Hergenrader (2-3) is scheduled to open on the mound for Nebraska in Fri-

day's opener and Gary Nebbauer (3-2) has been tabbed by Sharpe to open in Saturday's 11:00 a.m. game.

A bit of a problem could develop on Saturday if third baseman Bob Churchich, the Husker's leading hitter in league play, goes all nine innings of the series finale with Colorado.

Churchich has been dividing his time this spring between baseball and the role of quarterback on the football team which will play its annual intra-squad game at 2:00 p.m. Saturday afternoon at Seacrest Field.

Coach Sharpe thinks Churchich will be able to fill a dual role on Saturday without too much difficulty. "We ought to be through by 1:30 or 2:00 o'clock," Sharpe said.

Sigler To Miss NU Squad Game

Ernie Sigler, red-shirt sophomore quarterback on the Nebraska football team, will miss the annual spring game between the Red and White clubs at Seacrest Field Saturday.

Sigler, a native of Dallas, suffered a fractured shoulder in last Saturday's scrimmage. He had been pegged to share signal-calling duties with Al Fierro on the White club. Sigler's injury is the third major shoulder injury during the spring practice.

Early in the drills, squad veteran Larry Hansen and soph Sam Buda were sidelined by dislocations. Also on the shelf for the spring game — which starts at 2 p.m. — is defensive starting halfback Kaye Castens.

Otherwise, the Huskers should be in near-top shape for winup scrap.

Simmons Named Outstanding Star

Grant Simmons, Nebraska's All Big 8 basketball star, will receive the Walter Dobbins Award as the outstanding player on the Husker team last season during halftime ceremonies at Seacrest Field Saturday.

The award, given annually by the Lincoln Lodge No. 80 of Elks, will be presented by former Exalted Ruler Herb Herminghaus. Simmons also won the honor in 1965.

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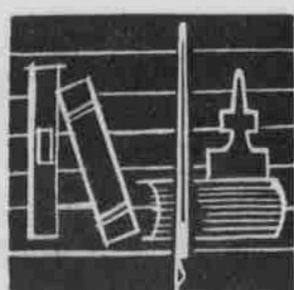
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