

Husker javelin thrower Sorchik has sights set on Big 8 crown

By Dennis Onnen

It's tough to start at the top in athletics and stay there long. Just ask Scott Sorchik, Husker javelin thrower.

Two years ago as a freshman, at the Big 8 Conference meet, Sorchik heaved the javelin 243 ft. 7 in on his last throw in Husker history.

Then last year, things went wrong for both Sorchik and the Husker team, who plummeted to last place in the conference meet. Sorchik couldn't break 240 ft. during

the season, and although he managed a toss of 233 ft. 2 in. at the Big 8 meet, he ended up in second place.

This year, however, the junior from Sussex, N.J., showed he has his sights on another Big 8 crown with his efforts at the Texas Relays last weekend.

He was the top Husker finisher at the meet, throwing 226 ft. 11 in. for fifth place. Perhaps more significant, however, was a throw that didn't count. He barely scratched on a throw which went about 239 ft., less than one foot behind the winner.

No one to work with

"The biggest thing last year was I didn't have anybody to work with," Sorchik said. Wayne Ritchie, who ranks third on the all-time Husker javelin chart, provided competition for Sorchik two years ago. Last year, Sorchik was the lone javelin thrower.

"All winter we don't compete (the javelin is strictly an outdoor event), so it gets to be a long training period," he said. This year his brother Lance, a freshman, also throws the javelin so he has competition again.

Sorchik said he also gained weight last year, thinking it would increase his distance, "but it slowed me down too much." He weighs 190 lbs. now, compared to 220 lbs. last year.

Sorchik, an industrial arts major, said he originally planned to attend the University of Kansas (KU). However, his high school basketball coach is the nephew of Husker coach Frank Sevigne's wife. When Sevigne offered a bigger scholarship than KU, Sorchik said he decided to come to Lincoln.

Norman is next

His next chance to compete is Saturday at the Oklahoma Invitational in Norman. In addition to UNL, Sevigne said, the Universities of Oklahoma, Arkansas and North Texas State and Oklahoma State Universities are entered. He said Oklahoma is the team to beat. In the javelin, Sevigne and field coach John Korzy agreed Sorchik would be the favorite.

Better competition for Sorchik will come later at the Kansas and Drake Relays (he won both last year), where throwers from KU and Kansas State University (KSU) will compete. KU's Roger Hammond beat Sorchik in the Big 8 meet last year and has a best of 232 ft. 5 in. this year. His teammate Mark Kostek has gone even further—242 ft. 4 in. KSU's Frank Perbeck also has cleared 240 ft.

Those three opponents also will face Sorchik in the Big 8 meet May 14 and 15, but Sorchik will have the "home field" advantage then. Like two years ago, the meet will be in Lincoln.

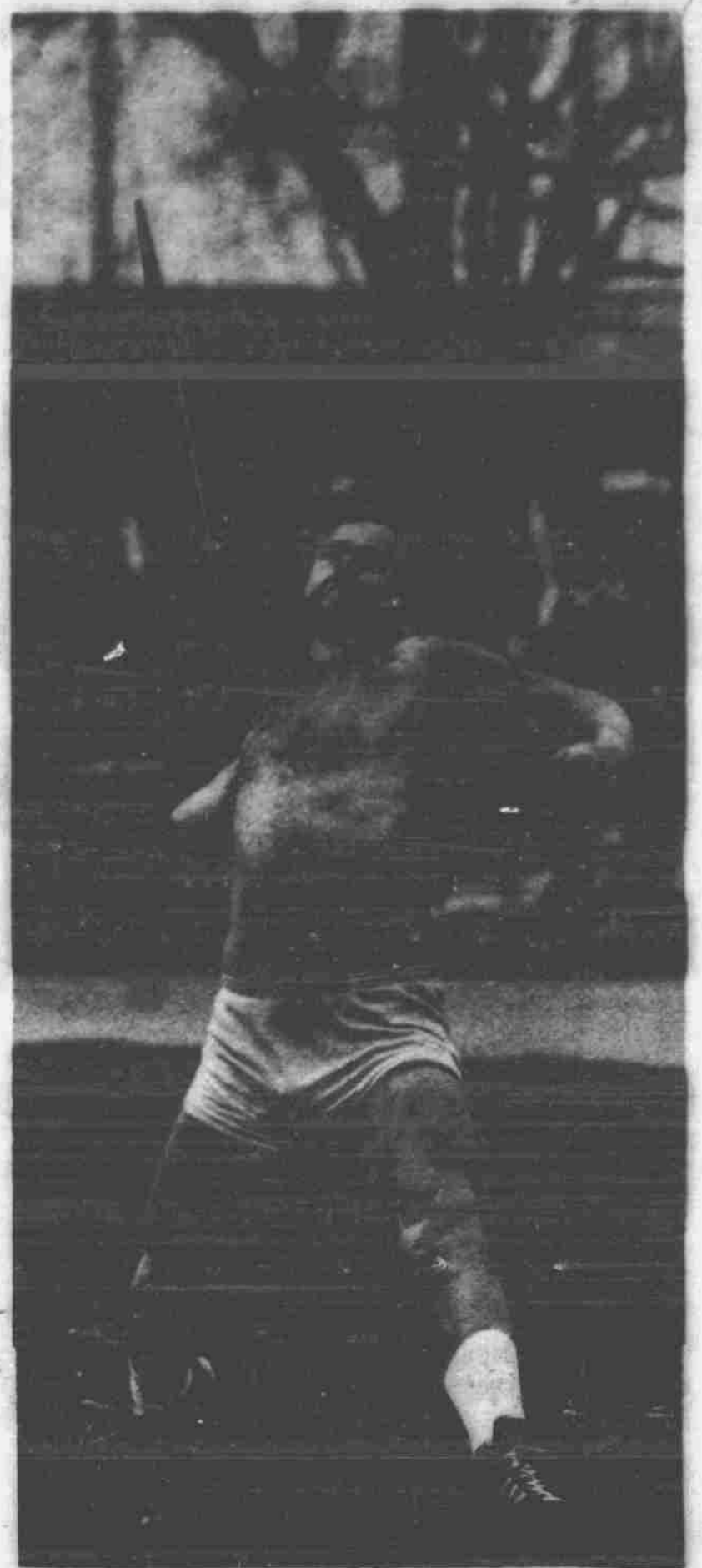


Photo by Kevin Highy
Scott Sorchik, Husker javelin thrower.

sports shorts

The UNL men's golf team will travel to Wichita, Kan., for the Wheatshocker Invitational today and Friday. The Huskers have finished sixth and third in their two previous meets this year.

Senior Deb Benish fired an 84 to pace the UNL women's golf team to a 340-374 win over Creighton University Tuesday in Omaha. Other Husker scores: sophomore Nanette Circo, 85; sophomore Jane Deeter, 85; freshman Sharon Slattery, 86; freshman Laurel Sinedberg, 95; junior Deb Denbeck, 100.

The Recreation Office is sponsoring a climbing seminar Friday and Saturday to train students for a May 14 through 28 climbing trip to South Dakota, Wyoming and Colorado. The seminar meets at the Recreation Office, 1740 Vine St., from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday and at the East Campus climbing wall from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. Saturday. Cost is \$10 for the seminar and \$165 for the trip in May. Six spots remain open for the seminar. If interested, contact Mark Ebel, 472-3467.

Nebraska Educational Television Network, Channel 12, will broadcast the Big 8 Conference gymnastics meet Friday at 11 p.m. Nebraska won the March 19 and 20 meet in Boulder, Colo., ending Iowa State University's seven-year domination of the event.

The UNL men's tennis team will compete in three weekend matches. The Huskers travel to Maryville, Mo., Friday to face Northwest Missouri University. Saturday, the Huskers host Gustavus Adolphus College at 9 a.m. and Doane College at 2:30 p.m. on the varsity tennis courts east of the Coliseum.

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