

SPORTS PAGE

Daily Nebraskan

Than Big Eight Jumpers . . .

None Higher In History

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the third of a four-part series on this weekend's Big Eight indoor track and field championships March 3 and 4 in Kansas City.)

None in the history of the Big Eight Conference rank higher than Missouri's Steve Herndon in the high jump and Colorado's Chuck Rogers in the pole vault.

These two lead a contingent of field specialists which promises to give this year's Big Eight indoor championships (this week end) some of the closest individual-event battles in the 39-year history of the meet.

Balance in all four events is the keynote. Herndon, who already had the all-time outdoor best in the high jump with his 7-1 3/4, has now added the indoor best after reaching 6-11 in a dual meet against Oklahoma State.

This gave him the lead over Oklahoma's Ron Tull, a fellow seven-footer, who claimed the previous all-time indoor high by going 6-10 at last year's indoor meet.

Tull, however, won both the indoor and outdoor titles from Herndon last year, hitting his 7-1 1/2 personal best just before the outdoor.

**Straightened Form** Herndon straightened out his form last spring after taking a look at a movie of him in action and broke the 7 barrier. He has continued his push this year, staying close to the 7-foot mark all winter, about a two-inch improvement over last year.

Tull isn't following the pattern of his start last year. He's been slowed thus far by a bad leg and has been experimenting trying to find another new form of his own which will put him back over the 7-foot breaking point. Just beginning to come around now, he shows a 6-10 1/2 for his indoor best to date.

**NU's Krebs** Last year, these two were the class of the event. This year, however, Kansas' Ken Gaines and Nebraska's Steve Krebs have suddenly

become serious contenders. Gaines claimed the second best mark ever for a freshman last year when he scored a 6-10 1/2 in the high jump at the national decathlon meet last summer.

Perhaps the most exciting of the group, however, is Krebs, a real pint-sized leaper. Standing only 5-9, he has soared a foot over his height once this year and has been quite consistent at 6-7 and 6-8.

Other challengers are Kansas' John Turck, Iowa State's John Dvorak, and Oklahoma State's Larry Curtis. All three have gone 6-6.

**Pole Vault** Like Herndon, Rogers holds both the all-time indoor and outdoor bests in the pole vault, going 16-5 outdoors last year and 16-2 1/4 indoors this winter. He won the Big Eight indoor last year, missed at the Conference outdoor, but then came back to take the NCAA title with a 16-foot leap.

However, Rogers took a ride on his fiber-glass catapult recently that he didn't like and found himself in for a big letdown when his pole failed to snap back, leaving him rather supportless at a second-story height. The result was a bad fall from 14 feet and a broken pole.

He has now turned to a stiffer pole—a 190-pound test stick—and is working his way back up again toward his goal of 17 feet.

Rogers is not alone in the 16-foot club this year, however. Already there with him is Kansas' Bob Steinhoff, who is expected to be ready for the indoor meet after being sidelined with an injury.

Two other sophomores, Oklahoma State's Larry Curtis and Oklahoma's Larry Smith were over 16 last year and are closing in on the magic height this year. Both are in the 15-6 1/2 range now—15-4 won for Rogers last year.

**Defend Jump** There is no defending

champion for the indoor broad jump this year, but Kansas' Gary Ard is the favorite—he won the outdoor long jump as well as the triple jump.

However, the field for this event is shaping up to be the most well balanced of all. For the first time in league history, four jumpers are over the 24 mark indoors.

Ard has the lead with his 24-5 1/4, but the artist, both on the board and off the board, can't afford to step back and put his work in perspective.

At 24-5 is teammate Gaines. Then come an Oklahoma sophomore, Mike Gregory, and Missouri's Gary Rainwater, both of whom are over 24-3.

Of this challenging group, however, Rainwater is the most consistent, logging three efforts past the 24 marker and another at 23-11. For Gaines and Gregory, their bests are their only trips beyond 24 feet.

Another three, Colorado's Bill Adams, Iowa State's John Wagner, and Kansas State's Don Riedl, have been dropping in between 23 and 24, giving the field added depth. The finals for this event come up on Friday night.

**One Of Best** One of the best of all Big Eight shot putters, Missouri's Gene Crews, is gone, but one of the toughest bits of competition for team points looms ahead. There is no clear-cut leader right now, with seven having a shot at the title.

Top ranked now is Colorado's Barry King, a compact Britisher who has a 55-4 ceiling so far. A postal recruit who learned of Colorado from a folder tacked

spring vacation, according to Tim Rickard, club president.

**Make Plans** The Friday meeting, said Rickard, will be to make arrangements for the spring season.

Rickard, a graduate student in geography from Great Britain, said that financial arrangements for the year, matches with lo-

cal teams and discussion of the new league will be the purpose of the meeting.

**Soccer League** The proposed Soccer league, which would also include teams from Des Moines, Omaha and Kansas City, is well underway, according to Rickard.

"We're just waiting for it to be set up now," he said.

In addition to the Utah and league matches, Rickard listed games with Creighton University and other Nebraska teams as distinct possibilities.

The teams' first spring practice is scheduled for Sunday 2 p.m. on the practice field behind University High.

Rickard anticipated the turn-out of "quite a few" Americans, but said that many of the players are from outside the United States.

"More of the foreign stu-

dents here have played before," he explained.

Rickard, who is also a player-coach for the team, said the financial backing is still "up in the air" for the Soccer Club.

He indicated that the players may be given accommodations by the universities in Utah, but he expects no funds from the University of Nebraska athletic department.

Whether or not Union funds may be available is still unknown, Rickard said.

**Balance Games** He added that the club is trying to schedule a balance of home and away games for the season.

The meeting is for "anyone interested". Rickard expressed hope that former members will attend.

Other officers of the Soccer Club are Joel Swanson, vice president; Bod Fritzen, secretary and Victor Umunna, treasurer.

Dents Capture Handball Crown

The all-University handball team champion for the 1966-67 season is the Dents, spearheaded by Gary Toogood.

Toogood is the singles champion and joined teammate Gary McMullen for the doubles championship.

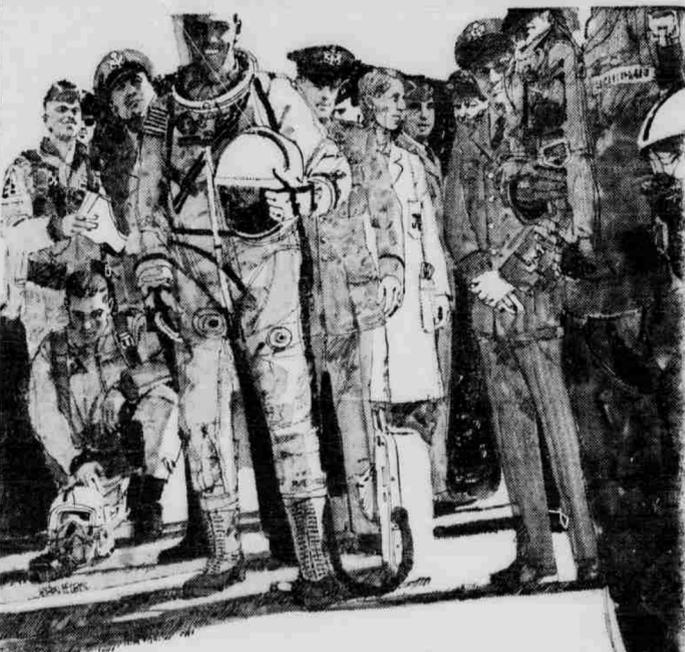
The Dents compiled 178 points, to 154 for Phi Delta Theta, in securing the team trophy.

Sigma Chi and Beta Theta Pi tied for third with 63 points, followed by Phi Kappa Psi with 60.

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Weeds of Wisdom

A bomb went off in the University of Nebraska Coliseum last Saturday night with six minutes gone in the second half. There were no injuries outside of the one casualty—the Kansas State basketball team.

This is not the first time such an explosion has occurred. In fact, bombs have been detonated in each of the Huskers last five home games. — sometimes once in each half.

Offensive Explosion

This bomb is the Nebraska offensive explosion and it occurs in the form of a chain reaction, lasting long enough to put the Cornhuskers comfortably 8 to 15 points in the lead. Besides this scoring effect, the power of the explosion thoroughly subdues the enemy (Nebraska's opponent) and the Huskers emerge to dominate the remaining time with apparent ease.

How do the fireworks start? Usually the fuse is ignited by a stolen pass. Then a burst of Husker hustle hurries the fuse to its end and then the explosion.

Outstanding Play

There is always at least one outstanding play as the fuse burns, such as Stuart Lantz going about thirty feet in the air for a rebound. Saturday night against K-State Nate Branch performed the significant action. Nate seemed to have a hunch that someone was passing the ball over his head as he ran downcourt to his defensive position. Branch threw up his hands and—you guessed it—deflected the pass, by chance to Tom Baack.

Once Nebraska's explosion offense is underway it is built around a tenaciously aggressive full court press and consists of ball stealing, blocked shots, fast break and accurate shooting. It also has the almost comical element of Huskers suddenly being wide open under the basket for easy shots.

Victory Explosion

When Nebraska explodes to dominating victories, as it has in conference games with Missouri, Oklahoma, Colorado, Iowa State and Kansas State, it is a tremendously exciting kind of basketball to watch. For the fans, the effect is often of a goose pimple nature.

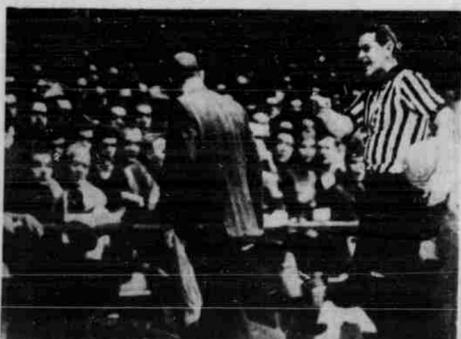
But unfortunately, Nebraska only explodes in the Coliseum. This is not a condemnation, but merely the pointing out of a characteristic of the game.

Ability and fun support on foreign floors just doesn't seem to prevail in basketball as in football. And it probably never will. It is too bad the fans will not flick to Boulder's maples as well as their gridiron, but that is the way of away-game support.

Basketball Trouble

And here is where the Nebraska basketball team will have trouble. They may explode and beat the Kansas Jayhawks this Saturday, but Colorado at Boulder the following week is something else.

It is doubtful that the Huskers can do it. It is a challenge to them to remember the dominating explosion offense they are capable of, forget who the fans are for, and explode—from start to finish, for this is what it will take. Remember last year?



PROOF POSITIVE . . . that assistant sports editor had a hand in the game. As referee gives Nebraska coach Joe Cipriano some friendly words of advice, photographer's picture captures hand of assistant sports editor on far left.

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