

NU track hopes fade at Kansas City

by STEVE KADEL
Sports Writer

Kansas City—What can you say about a good track team that finishes fifth? That they were upset in the mile? And the mile relay? And practically everywhere else?

If you're talking about Nebraska's disappointing fifth place performance at the Big Eight Indoor Track and Field MEET Saturday, the answer is yes.

NU ENTERED the meet potentially capable of defeating perennial conference kingpin Kansas, but learned that winning a title on paper and doing it on the track aren't quite the same. Despite coming into the meet with three

conference leaders on the form chart and others sprinkled within the top five the Cornhuskers failed to twin an event.

But KU's victory, their sixth straight indoor title, wasn't just the product of Nebraska's collapse. The Jayhawks helped themselves with clutch performances where they needed them.

Some thought Kansas might be weak in the pole vault because 1970 indoor winner Jan Johnson had transferred. No problem—in stepped Bill Hatcher who vaulted 16-4 to win. And with defending long jump champion Phil Reaves injured, KU looked vulnerable in that event—until Mike Stutt

sailed 24-7 for first place.

SURPRISING COLORADO grabbed the runner-up spot as NU faded farther and farther back.

"If you look at our marks we really didn't do that bad," remarked Nebraska's Assistant Coach Dean Brittenham. "For instance, Garth (Case) was beaten in the 600 but he ran a great time. In the two-mile Bob Under placed fifth with a 9:04 but that time would have put him right with last year's winner. I think it's a case of the whole conference being better this year."

Brittenham pointed out that NU was hurt by weakness in the field events.

"It's because we haven't

recruited heavily in the field events," he explained. "a half or more of our kids are walk-ons and it's hard to expect them to compete with someone like a Salf from Kansas. I'd imagine we'll try to get more people in this area but they're rare—there's just not that many good performers around."

NEBRASKA'S TROUBLES started early when sub-four minute miler Greg Carlberg was beaten by Oklahoma State's Peter Kaal. Kaal was disqualified for pushing, but after reviewing video tapes of the race officials decided he wasn't guilty of the infraction

and he was awarded the gold medal.

NU also came close to winning the 880 but Larry Cimato's last lap sprint started too late to catch KU's Jim Neihouse and the Husker freshman had to settle for second.

"I should have stayed closer to him during the middle of the race," Cimato said minutes after the finish. "Then I could have gotten him on the last lap. I was worried about going out too hard and having someone catch me from behind. I could have even lost second that way."

Missouri beats NU, 77-65

Nebraska basketball coach Joe Cipriano said Saturday's date with Missouri wasn't a must game.

It wasn't...mathematically speaking. But it was...practically speaking. And the Cornhuskers lost, 77-65.

Nebraska remains fourth in the Big Eight at 6-5. Missouri leads the second place race for the NIT with an 8-3 league record and Oklahoma stands third at 7-4.

IF NEBRASKA is to get sole possession of second, it must win its three remaining games. And league leading Kansas (10-0) is included on the Huskers remaining list at Lawrence, Kansas.

The Huskers also face Kansas State and Colorado at the Coliseum.

But in addition to three Nebraska wins, it would also take three Missouri losses to the same teams. Oklahoma (with Iowa State, Kansas and Oklahoma State remaining) would have to lose two of its remaining games if the Huskers hope for sole ownership of second.

THERE IS, of course, still the possibility of a tie for second place. But if the Huskers tied with Oklahoma,

the Sooners would probably get the NIT invitation since they defeated Nebraska twice.

Should Nebraska tie with Missouri, the Huskers would probably be invited for the best overall record. But if Nebraska still hopes for second (either by itself or tied) it will need plenty of outside assistance.

CIPRIANO REALIZES THIS. "We just have to play them one at a time," said Cip last week. "All we can do now is play our best and hope we get some help from other teams."

The Cornhuskers fell behind early against Missouri, 8-0, and never gained the lead. Although tying the game four times in the first half, the Huskers suffered from a slow-starting second half and Missouri controlled the remaining 18 minutes.

Nebraska's Marvin Stewart, a strong contender for all Big Eight honors, led all scorers with 30 points.

Nebraska entertains Kansas State at the Coliseum Tuesday in a must game for the Huskers. That's even speaking mathematically.

Tipoff Tuesday is 7:35 p.m.

Intramurals

University High School: 5 p.m. Abel VII vs. Abel VIII-A; 6:30 Pen vs. Pershing; 7:30 Kennedy vs. Harper IV-A; 8:30 Schramm IV-A vs. Selleck; 9:30 Abel II-A vs. Abel VI-A.
P.E. Court No. 1: 5 p.m. Abel XIII-A vs. Abel X-A; 6:30 Glenn vs. Pershing; 7:30 Patton vs. Governors; 8:30 Rogers vs. Harper X-A; 9:30 Schramm X-A vs. Harper VII-A.
P.E. Court No 2: p.p.m. Gus II-A vs. Harper V-A; 6:30 Wheaties vs. Cardinals; 7:30 PJ

vs. 747; 8:30 Young Lawyers vs. Committee; 9:30 Juicers vs. Varsity Golf.

Freshman Court: 6:30 p.m. Farmhouse-A vs. Beta Theta PI-A; 7:30 Beta Sigma Psi-A vs. Phi Kappa Psi -A; 8:30 Cornhusker vs. Phi Delta Theta-A; 9:30 Kappa Alpha Psi-A vs. Theta XI-A.

Varsity Court: 6:30 P.M. Delta Upsilon-A vs. Sigma Nu-A; 7:30 Sigma Alpha Mu-A vs. Pioneer; 9:30 Avery vs. Kisselbach.

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