

# Gordon: not jumpy about practice lack

by STEVE KADEL  
Staff Writer

Practice makes perfect, the old saying goes, and there should be no more applicable place than the competitive world of Big Eight track. But when you ask NU's Hopeton Gordon how work on his triple jump is coming along, all you get is a blank stare and the reply, "I don't practice."

It's not that the sophomore from Kingston, Jamaica, is lazy. The problem is lack of a pit to jump into.

When the football program expanded operations in Memorial Stadium with the AstroTurf field it completely covered up the old broadjump runways and pits. Now the only runway on the University campus is located under the East Stadium in the indoor track and it's impossible to jump there in the spring because it is too dusty and hot.

**BUT GORDON** accepts his fate philosophically. And he's found some other ways to get ready for his specialty.

"I do a lot of running now," he said, "and I work on stadium steps. But there's no way to practice getting my step down on the runway."

He's even gone to Nebraska Wesleyan to practice, but since they have a dirt runway it doesn't help when he jumps from tartan at the big meets. "You can't practice on one type and compete on the other. You run much faster on a tartan runway than a dirt one so Wesleyan is no help in trying to get my steps down," Gordon said.

Spring practice—

## Passing game suffers

by JIM JOHNSTON  
Sports Editor

NEBRASKA'S PASSING GAME, suffering from a lack of timing after a week's vacation, was not at its best Wednesday. But head coach Bob Devaney was pleased with the running game and the overall performance of his squad.

"Our overall play is improving," observed Devaney after the Cornhusker units went through 15-minute scrimmage sessions Wednesday. "Our passing is bad. We're not throwing the ball well, but it's probably the layoff that hurt us."

Another thing that could be at fault, according to Devaney, is the overemphasis of new plays in spring practice and the failure to examine individuals.

"**WE CAN'T OVEREMPHASIZE** new plays and stunts in spring ball and overlook individuals," said the head coach. "We're always trying to get down finesse a little too much in the spring."

But two individuals Devaney didn't overlook Wednesday were fullback candidates Bill Olds and Maury Damkroger.

"All the fullbacks ran well," said Devaney. "Olds and Damkroger probably looked the best. They're coming along pretty well."

**DEVANEY WAS ALSO** pleased with the performance of the younger players. Depth, especially in the defensive backfield, was a problem last season. Devaney's concentrating on improving the situation for next fall.

"This is the best our third and fourth units have looked," said Devaney. "Our younger players are improving and it's really going to help us."

Few changes were made in the first team offense. But the most notable was at center where Doug Jamail handled first string duties because starter Doug Dumler is sidelined with the flu.



Hopeton Gordon... the Huskers' Jamaican Flyer watches as spring football practice continues on the AstroTurf that covers his former practice grounds.

The result is that if he gets into competition and can't correlate his steps to the board he keeps scratching and has no way to correct the situation. This happened at last week's Kansas Relays. Gordon had several jumps near 52 feet but all were nullified because of scratches.

**STILL, HE HASN'T** done too badly. Last year he finished 11th at the NCAA Outdoor Meet, triple jumping 50 feet 3 1/2 inches. And already this season he leads the Big Eight Conference with a 50-6 1/2" leap, only 4 1/2 inches short of his own school record.

He's hoping for a legal jump of 52 feet, this weekend at the Drake Relays, last stop for the Nebraska thinclads on the Midwest relay circuit. That distance would have won at Kansas, but Gordon faces tougher competition at Drake.

"I was sixth at the NCAA Indoor this year," he said, "and four of the five who beat me will be jumping Saturday."

**ONE OF THE BEST** may be fellow Midwesterner Patrick Onyango of Wisconsin. Onyango, a freshman at the Big Ten school, came to the United States from his home in Nairobi, Kenya, one of the fastest rising powers in international athletics. Onyango just edged Gordon for the fifth place medal at this year's NCAA Indoor meet.

Barry McClure of Middle

Tennessee, Charles Steffe of New Mexico, and University of Southern California's Henry Jackson also beat Gordon indoors and will be competing at Drake. But the NU ace is welcoming the challenge. He's always wanted to compete against the best and his ultimate goal in track, participating in the Olympic Games, underscores that fact.

He doesn't talk much about things as far away as the 1972 Olympics, but when he does he speaks confidently. The Husker triple jumper won't be satisfied with being third best when the Olympic year rolls around, and he'll be taking another step down the long road toward Munich this weekend at the Drake Relays.

## Ambassador tapes NETCHE program

Ambassador John Hugh Crimmins, deputy assistant secretary of state for Inter-American Affairs, will be in Lincoln Thursday, April 22 to appear on a program for the Nebraska Educational Television Council for Higher Education, Inc. (NETCHE).

Crimmins will videotape the program entitled, "Latin America" on the Peru State College campus.

"Latin America" is the last in a series of eight hour-long presentations entitled "Problem Areas of American Foreign Policy." The series is telecast to Nebraska colleges

and universities through the facilities of the Nebraska Educational Television Network.

Crimmins is a career Foreign Service officer who has made Latin America his speciality. Although now a resident of Maryland, he was originally from Massachusetts, where he graduated from Harvard University in 1941.

NETCHE is a non profit corporation of Nebraska colleges and universities which provides both credit courses and supplemental television lessons such as the foreign affairs series for its voluntary member schools.

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