



Photo by Don Tremain

Hawkins (right) . . . holds off teammates Roger Chadwick and Larry Cimato to win the half-mile against Missouri.

Hawkins runs to win

By STEVE KADEL
Staff Writer

Jim Hawkins is a runner who has never been satisfied doing things the easy way.

And when the Huskers meet Iowa State in a dual track meet Saturday at Ames, Hawkins will be in the half-mile running the way he has always run—competitive from gun to tape.

The sophomore from Omaha has won both home duals for Nebraska this year and posted his best time, 1:51.9, on the two-mile relay at the Drake Relays. And each time his strategy has been to take the lead and push hard all the way, regardless of the toll such a plan takes on a runner.

It would be easy to stay back in the pack, following the pace and wait for a sprint to the finish in the last 100 yards. But Hawkins will have no part of that kind of a race. He considers it a cop-out.

"Against Minnesota and Missouri nobody wanted to take the lead on the first lap so I took it," he said. "Generally I don't go into a race with a certain plan except to run the competition, but if I have to lead it doesn't bother me."

Hawkins didn't win a race indoors this year but he's dominated the half-mile outdoors. He figures it's because he isn't suited to the small, indoor tracks with their tight turns.

"You don't have to fight those curves outdoors," Hawkins explained.

He finished sixth at last year's Big Eight Outdoor Meet and is hoping to move up this season.

"I'm stronger this year and haven't had to sit out with injuries like I did before last year's conference meet," he said.

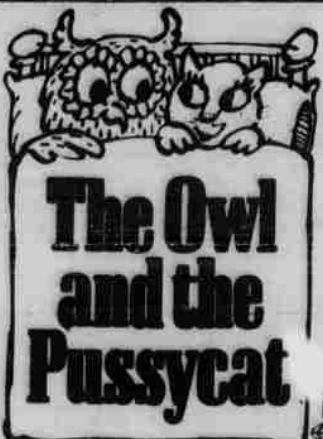
This Saturdays Hawkins' toughest competition may come from teammate Greg Carlberg, who is dropping down to the half-mile.

"It'll take an even pace to beat him, with a first quarter in 55 seconds," Hawkins said. "He's strong and can maintain his speed, it's just a matter of being able to outkick him on the last turn."

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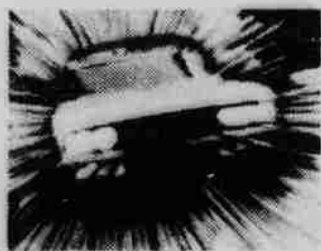
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