

Thinclads overturn Jayhawks for Big 8 crown

by Steve Kadel

KANSAS CITY—Nebraska broke a team jinx and stopped a six-year string of Kansas victories Saturday night by outlasting Colorado 46 1/3-44 to win the Big Eight Conference Indoor Track and Field Championship at Kansas City. It was the first indoor title for Nebraska since 1963.

During Friday's preliminaries it seemed as if the jinx that plagued UNL at Kansas City in recent years might be working again.

The Cornhuskers lost sure points in the long jump when an ankle injury kept Hopeton Gordon from placing. Then Leighton Priestley, the pre-meet favorite to win the 440, was disqualified for a pushing foul.

Trailing Kansas and Colorado after nine events in Saturday's finals, Nebraska pulled into a nine-point lead with a 1-2 finish in the 1,000-yard run and a 2-4 placing in the 880. UNL moved even farther ahead when the mile relay of Priestley, Ruben Givens, Wes Leonard and Garth Case set a new conference indoor record of 3:16.1 to win that event.

Then the waiting began.

With only the high jump and pole vault to be completed Colorado still had three in the competition and a chance to win the meet. The result was in doubt for 20 minutes, while the Huskers nervously figured and refigured point totals.

When Colorado pole vaulter Mike Wedman missed on his last attempt, finishing second, champagne squirted from the middle of the Nebraska squad that had been watching from across the auditorium. Six members of the team hoisted coach Frank Sevigne onto their shoulders and carried him on a victory lap around the board track as the organist broke into "There Is No Place Like Nebraska."

Sevigne listed the 1,000 and 880 as the meet's turning point.

In the 1,000, Jim Hawkins and Roger Chadwick brought the Nebraska fans to their feet by taking the lead at the gun and holding it all the way to the tape. Hawkins set the pace with Chadwick close behind.

The 10 points from that event were a pleasant surprise for Sevigne. He had hoped for a 1-3 finish.

"The race worked out just like we planned it," said Chadwick. "We planned to take the lead and push it because we figured (Kansas State's) Jerome Howe would be tired from the mile. Jim took the lead because he's better at setting the pace than I am - he's been doing it all year."

Minutes after the 1,000, Larry Cimato and Jeff Wisemiller kept the Nebraska comeback alive with their 2-4 finish in the 880. And Cimato's second was nearly a first.

But those two events weren't the only clutch performances for Nebraska. Case won the 600 for the third time in four years and Leonard added a third place finish. Dan Speck ran his fastest indoor mile to pick up second in 4:10.

In the two-mile, Bob Unger battled Oklahoma State's Johan Halberstadt and Rich Hitchcock of Kansas State in a wild last lap sprint, finishing only a stride behind Halberstadt. Unger threaded his way through a string of lapped runners as he tried to catch Halberstadt on the backstretch.

It was Unger's first defeat of the season, and the first time he had faced Halberstadt.

"He's a great challenge, but I'm confident that I can get him," said Unger. "Lapped runners were a problem on the last lap."

To show their protest for teammate Priestley's disqualification Friday night, most members of the Cornhusker squad refused to go to the award stand to pick up their medals.

If Sevigne believes in superstition the Husker track team may not be buying any new warmup suits for a while. During the meet UNL wore the same warmups used in 1963 - the last time UNL won the title.

"Can you imagine wearing those wooly bastards for the next ten years?" laughed Wisemiller after the meet.

Even that prospect didn't worry the Nebraska track team Saturday night.



Photo by Don Tramm

Teamwork. . . Roger Chadwick and Jim Hawkins ran one-two for 10 of Nebraska's 46 points.

Celtics claim title by forfeit

The Celtics, a group of off-campus students, won the All-University intramural basketball championship by forfeit Friday night after Kappa Alpha Psi, UNL's black fraternity, refused to play the game at the Coliseum as a protest against the Recreation and Intramurals Department.

Al Lewis of the UNL Afro-American Collegiate Society read a statement at the game protesting the department's alleged racist policies and the department's decision to close Friday night's championship game to the public. Lewis also objected to the presence of six police officers at the game.

Phil Sienna, UNL Men's Intramurals director, said he

closed the game to the public because of a disturbance which occurred between a fan and a referee after Wednesday night's semi-final game between Kappa Alpha Psi and Abel VII. Sienna said he hoped to avoid another disturbance by closing Friday night's game.

Sienna awarded the All-University trophy to the Celtics by forfeit after Kappa Alpha Psi's protest. "The Men's intramural basketball program is over and the Celtics are the All-University champions," Sienna remarked. "It is too bad this thing had to happen."

Lewis had no comment Sunday on Friday's protest, but said he would make a statement regarding the incident later this week.

Senator seeks election delay

A suit filed Friday in Student Court by ASUN Sen. Steve Christensen could delay the student elections scheduled for March 22.

Christensen is one of four candidates for the ASUN presidency this spring. The senator named current ASUN President Steve Fowler and Electoral Commissioner Duane Snedeker as the defendants in the case.

Christensen is seeking an order from the court "directing the defendants to delay the general election for 30 days." The presidential hopeful is basing his case upon Section 3, Part A of the present ASUN

constitution.

The constitution states that "student court appointments shall be approved by at least two-thirds of the membership of the senate 30 class-days prior to the spring general election."

With 13 class days left until the scheduled election, Fowler has made the appointments. The senate has not approved them. Last Wednesday Fowler said the appointments would have been made sooner but the ASUN executives had been "tied down".

According to Student Court Chief Justice Mike Rumbaugh, the decision will be made on a simply majority vote of the court's seven members.

The tentative appointees include: Jay Panzing, Dave Rasmussen, Lloyd Friesen, Larry Holle, Jeff Meyers, Connie Wadhams and Bonnie Shreiner.

Fowler files for legislature

Steve Fowler, ASUN president, announced Sunday that he intends to be a candidate to the Nebraska Legislature from the 27th legislative district.

The 21-year-old Fowler is a senior at the University majoring in history. He will be opposing Sen. William Swanson in the May 9 state primary election.

Stan Sorenson, a graduate student, has also said he intends to be a candidate for Swanson's Unicameral seat but has not yet filed with the Nebraska secretary of state's office.

Fowler said he is seeking office "not as a supporter of any special interest group but instead as one who will try to speak for all of the people."

He has long been an advocate of human rights and education.

Before being elected ASUN president, Fowler served as a senator in that organization. He stressed he is not running as a student candidate.

Fowler, long active in the Democratic party, has worked on political campaigns for former Congressman Clair Callan and the late U.S. Sen. Robert Kennedy.

The 27th legislative district is comprised of west and southwest Lincoln.

Fowler said he would pay his filing fee of \$48 and hold a news conference Thursday.