

Huskers dedicate track with Oregon dual meet

Nebraska track and field enters a new era Saturday when the Husker track team dedicates its new outdoor track in a meet against powerful Oregon.

"We will definitely be the underdogs," Husker Coach Frank Sevigne said of the meet. "But there will be some real good races."

Field events start at 1:30 p.m. followed by the track events one hour later. There will be no admission charge.

One of the top races will be the two-mile where Oregon ace Steve Prefontaine, considered the best American distance runner, comes to Lincoln with a long list of credentials including two NCAA three-mile titles, two NCAA cross-country crowns and the 1971 AAU three-mile title. Prefontaine, whose life-time best in the two-mile is 8:33.2, will run against the Huskers' Bob Unger, who set a school record of 8:58.4 this spring.

The Ducks also feature the defending NCAA long jump champion in Bouncy Moore, a 26-foot plus jumper.

Three of the most competitive events are expected to be in the 440, 880 and the mile. The 440 will feature Nebraska's Leighton Priestley (season best of 46.2) and Garth Case (47.3) against Oregon's Craig Blackman (47.3). In the 880 three Oregon and two Nebraska runners have season bests of 1:52.9 or better and the mile will feature six runners who have broken 4:10 this spring.

No formal dedication ceremonies are planned for the new \$180,000 Tartan all-weather track since permanent stands for 5,000 spectators have not been constructed yet, according to Sevigne. He noted that Nebraska will have one of the finest track complexes in the nation when the permanent stands are completed.

The new track was built after seating additions forced the phasing out of Memorial Stadium's old cinder track. At one time Memorial Stadium track was considered one of the best cinder tracks in the country and was the site of five National AAU championships in 1927, 1931, 1935, 1939 and 1947 and three NCAA championships in 1942, 1953 and 1959.

"The list of great world athletes like Jesse Owens who have competed in Memorial Stadium would be too long to enumerate," Sevigne said. "Many world and national records have been set right here on the University of Nebraska campus."

"It is my hope that the athletic department can once again bring to the state, Lincoln and the University the track and field prestige it once so thoroughly enjoyed."

gary seacrest sports

One of the Big Eight races that doesn't get a lot of publicity is the all-sports chart where all the standings of the various sports are combined.

Nebraska in past years has not fared so well in this race. But as the spring sports season begins the Huskers are in second place in the all-sports race right behind Oklahoma.

The standings at the end of the seven sports completed, according to Hal Brown of the *Lincoln Star*, shows Oklahoma with 22 points, Nebraska 24½, Kansas 29½, Kansas State 32, Iowa State 33, Colorado 34, Oklahoma State 37 and Missouri 41.

Last year the Huskers finished sixth in the final all-sports standings. This year's excellent showing is due to improved finishes by the Huskers' track squads. Cross country moved from seventh to third and indoor track jumped from fifth to first.

While Nebraska is not expected to overpower Oklahoma's strength in the spring sports, the Huskers have a good chance to

remain in second place. In the spring sports the Nebraska golfers and track team are expected to place in the first division, but baseball and tennis are figured to finish in the second division.

The new UNL fieldhouse will be a big boost to the Nebraska winter sports, especially swimming and basketball. In addition, Bob Devaney will become full-time athletic director after the 1972 football season. Many people expect Devaney will make the entire athletic program a winner, just as he did with the football team.

Omaha, which had trouble supporting the state high school basketball tournament a few years ago, is becoming a major professional sports city.

Nebraska's largest city has not only attracted the May 25th heavyweight title fight between Joe Frazier and Ron Stander, but will also be one of the homes of the old Cincinnati Royals. The NBA team will operate in Kansas City and Omaha next season after drawing disappointing crowds in Cincinnati.

But the event getting the most publicity recently is the big fight. Many people have said Stander has no chance against Frazier and the fight is a farce.

Matching the inexperienced Stander against the accomplished Frazier will probably not help the image of boxing, which needs all the help it can get. About the only good thing that can be said about the fight is that it will give Nebraskans a chance to see Frazier fight.

sports shorts

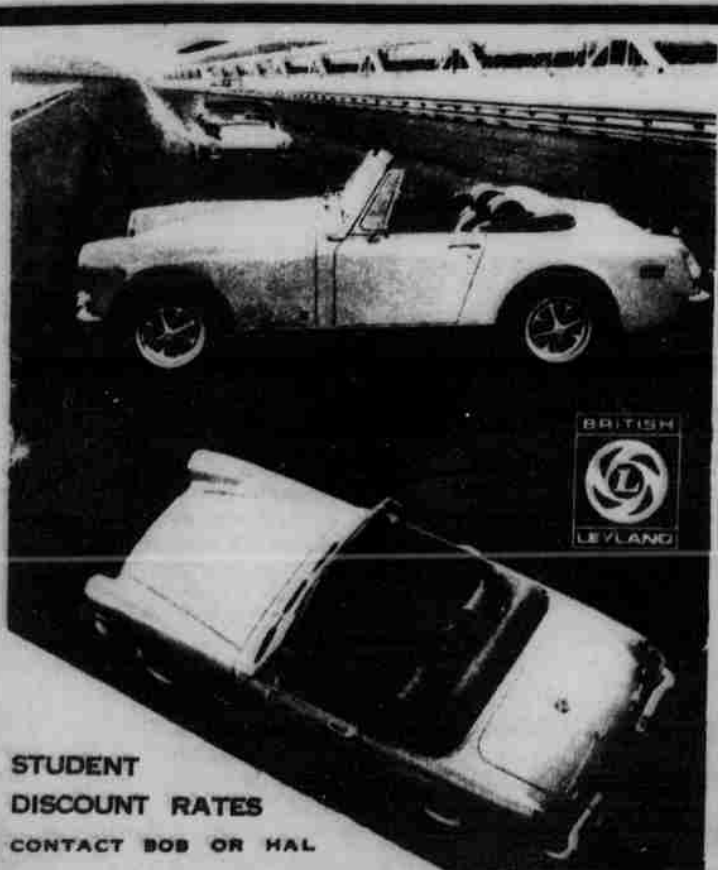
The first UNL Karate Tournament, sponsored by the UNL Korean Karate Club, will be held at Henzlik Hall gym this Saturday with preliminaries beginning at noon and final eliminations at 7:30 p.m.

There will be no admission

charge to the tournament, which will include many forms of Karate.

The Nebraska football team is scheduled to have a scrimmage at Memorial Stadium Saturday starting at 1:30 p.m.

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