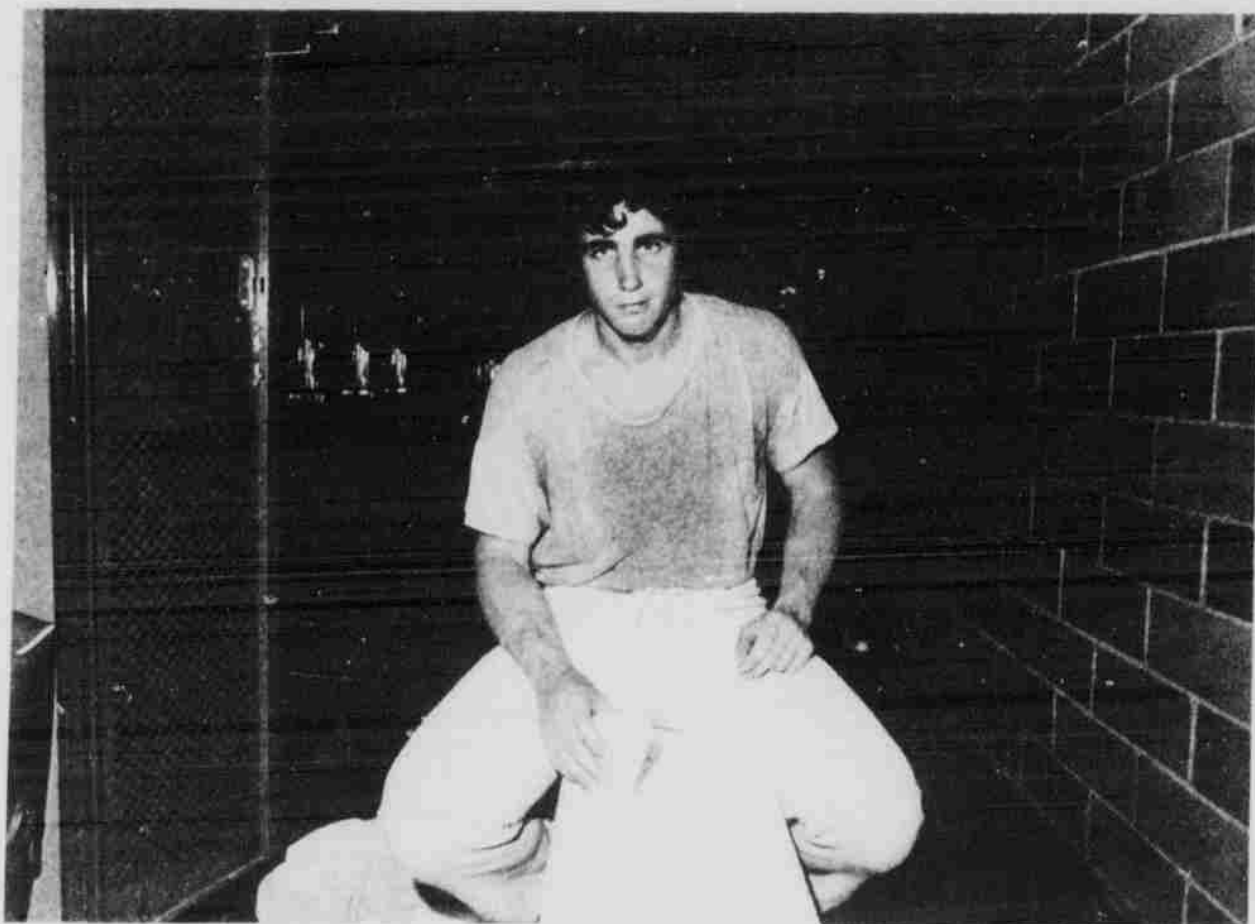


Long jump star Childs leaps to new lengths



Long jump star Ron Childs...has adjusted well to indoor track.

Last year Ron Childs was just a better-than-average long jumper on the Husker track team. But this season Childs has become one of the leading jumpers in the country.

Childs and 18 of his Husker teammates will be in Des Moines, Iowa, this weekend for the annual Drake Relays.

Childs holds the UNL indoor and outdoor long jump marks. He broke both marks this year.

He set the Husker indoor mark of 25-2 at the Big Eight Indoor Meet, finishing second to Colorado's Kingsley Adams. The old indoor record was held by teammate Hopeton Gordon.

In a dual meet in San Jose, Calif., two weeks ago, Childs sailed 25-5 1/4 to break N.S. Hurd's mark of 24-10 set in 1969.

Last year Childs' best leap was 24-7 3/4. His smallest jump this season has been 24-6 in a quadrangular at the University of Oregon.

What is the reason for Childs' big improvement over last year?

"I've done a lot of weight training since last season," Childs said. "I've also gotten a lot better attitude."

Childs has gained 25 pounds since last season. He now packs 185 pounds on his 5'11" frame. He said he can leg press 750 pounds up to 35 times.

"Coach Korky (UNL assistant track coach John Korky) had a lot to do with it," Childs said. "He set up some pretty good workouts for me."

Childs, a senior from Auburn, Calif., transferred to UNL from Northern California Junior College after his sophomore year. He said he learned to adjust to an indoor track season.

"We never had an indoor season in California," Childs said. "When I came to Nebraska I was used to jumping all year around. I never jumped indoors until I came here."

Childs said he didn't like jumping indoors at first but now he has come to like the indoor season better than the outdoor season.

"I learned to like the people being around me," Childs explained. "At an indoor meet you can tell if people are watching you. People kind of psyched me up a little bit."

Childs, who finished seventh at the NCAA indoor track championships earlier this season, has not set any goals for himself.

"I would just like to keep the success going since it's my last year," Childs said. "I'm not the next Olympian or anything like that, I'd just like to finish out my year really well."

Nebraska in a single contest at 1 p.m. Saturday.

Nebraska's tennis team will host the University of Colorado at 1 p.m. today on the Husker courts.

Coach Jim Porter's team will host Iowa State at 1 p.m. Saturday.

Nebraska's football team will hold a scrimmage Saturday afternoon. Practice for the Huskers starts at 1:30 p.m. in Memorial Stadium.

sports shorts

Coach Tony Sharpe's baseball squad will meet Kansas State University in a doubleheader at 1:30 p.m. today on the UNL diamond. The Wildcats will play

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