

Olympics run in Fisher's family

By Dennis Onnen

Being an Olympian seems to run in the family of Husker half-miler Ron Fisher.

The 6 ft. 2 in., 165 lb. freshman from Ottawa, Canada, has a sister who ran the 400-meter dash for Canada in the 1968 Olympics. He also has a brother who has pole vaulted 17 ft. 4 in. and probably will represent Canada at this summer's Montreal Olympics.

It appears Fisher is heading in that direction, too, after his performances so far in the indoor season.



Photo by Steve Boerner

Husker freshman half-miler Ron Fisher.

He won the 880-yard run in a dual against Iowa State University and a triangular against the Universities of Kansas and Oklahoma, beating Cyclone David Korir and Jayhawk Tommy McCall, who have the fastest Big 8 Conference times in the event this year with marks of 1:51.8 and 1:52.1, respectively. Although Fisher has not matched those times, he ran a 1:52.2 in the opening leg of the distance medley relay which qualified for the NCAA meet at the Michigan State Relays Feb. 7.

Last weekend, Fisher qualified for the NCAA meet himself with a 1:10.4 in the 600-yard run at Colorado Springs, third fastest in Husker history. Only Dave Crook (1:09.2), Big 8 record holder, and Garth Case (1:10.3), three-time Big 8 champion in the event, have run faster.

Unsure about Olympics

But Fisher is not even sure if he will attend the Canadian Olympic qualifying trials in late June.

"It depends on how well I'm running in the outdoor season," he said.

Right now his sights are set on the Big 8 indoor championships Feb. 27 through 28. Although he ranks higher in the conference in the 600, he said he would like to run just the 880 instead of trying both.

"I think I'll be running the half-mile in the Big 8 meet," he said. "I hope so anyway—I think I can win it."

The physical education major has set no particular goals for himself—"I just want to make them happy they got me."

B plus in track

Fisher was not what would be called a "heavily recruited athlete." He was planning to go to the University of Toronto last fall before running into the Villanova track coach Aug. 26. Although Villanova had no scholarships left to offer, the coach contacted Husker coach Frank Sevigne. Sevigne then called Fisher Aug. 28 and offered a full scholarship, which he accepted.

Fisher, even though arriving at UNL a week late, did well in the classroom first semester. He had a grade point average of 3.89, marred by two grades of B plus. Oddly, one of those was in track.

Fisher and the rest of the Husker track team are back in action Saturday at the indoor track under Memorial Stadium. Nebraska Wesleyan University and Doane College also will participate in the Husker Invitational, but no team scores will be kept. Field events start at 1:15 p.m., with running events following at 2.

nebraskan sports

Injuries plaguing women gymnasts

Plagued by recent injuries, UNL's women's gymnastics team will compete in the Big 8 Conference meet in Boulder, Colo. today and Saturday.

Sophomore Kathi Ruddick, who injured her neck in a triangular meet last weekend against Kansas and Washburn Universities in Topeka, and junior Karla Gerbig, with an injured knee, did not make the trip to Colorado.

Also, freshman Barb Baker, usually an all-rounder for the Huskers, will compete only on the uneven bars because of a sprained ankle.

Colorado University (CU), Iowa State University (ISU), Kansas (KU), Oklahoma State University (OSU), and UNL will participate in the meet. The other three Big 8 schools, the Universities of Kansas State, Missouri and Oklahoma, do not have organized teams but may send individual competitors, according to Balke.

"Colorado and Iowa State are the favorites," Balke said. "They consistently score 96 to 99 points." UNL's highest point total this season was 87 points in the team's first meet.

She said the race for third should be close between KU and UNL with OSU fifth.

sports shorts

Eight names have been added to the list of high school seniors who signed national letters of intent Wednesday to attend UNL next fall on a football scholarship.

The most recent signees include in-staters Tom Mathies, 6 ft. 7 in., 250 lbs. from Oxford; Jeff Quinn, 6 ft. 3 in., 190 lbs. from Ord, and Kerry Weinmaster, 6 ft., 190 lbs. from North Platte.

Non-Nebraskans signing letters are Randy Schleusener, 6 ft. 5 in., 210 lbs. from Rapid City, S.D.; Lee Atkins, 6 ft. 1 in., 195 lbs. from San Angelo, Tex.; Calvin Anderson, 6 ft. 3 in., 265 lbs. from Minneapolis; Brian Grace, 6 ft. 2 in., 215 lbs. from Des Moines, and Kelvin Nash, 6 ft. 3 in., 195 lbs. from Riverside, Calif.

Nash is the only person not signing a Nebraska Big 8 Conference letter of intent two weeks ago.

The Lincoln Track Club is sponsoring a 10-mile Fun Run Sunday, beginning at 2 p.m. at UNL's outdoor track. Maps of the route will be available, and split times will be provided. A five-mile option, without transportation back to the track, also will be available. There is no entry fee.

UNL students and faculty members interested in archery may practice the sport Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon in Women's Physical Education Bldg. 301.

Participants are encouraged to supply their own equipment, but UNL's Recreation Dept. will have some equipment available in the gym.

Those interested are asked to enter through the lower level north door on the west side of the building.

The men's swimming team, now 2-5 in duals, ends its regular season this weekend. The squad travels to the University of Oklahoma Friday and Oklahoma State University Saturday.

UNL's Recreation Dept. is sponsoring a ski trip to Winter Park, Colo., during spring break. The trip, which includes five full days of skiing, costs \$167. One full day of lessons, three days of lift tickets and all ski equipment are included in the trip's cost. A \$50 reservation deposit is due today at the Recreation Dept. office at 1740 Vine St.

on record | Husker's loss to Wildcats could shatter playoff visions

By Larry Stunkel

Losing to Kansas State University (KSU) 65-53 Wednesday night may have darkened UNL's hopes for a Big 8 Conference basketball title, but it didn't completely turn off those hopes.

With some luck (also better offensive rebounding and consistency) the Huskers could fight back and tie for the title, or finish second which might be enough for an NCAA playoff berth.

Saturday's game at the University of Missouri is a must win for either possibility.

The first time UNL and Missouri University (MU) met this season, the Tigers garnered a 62-57 win in the Coliseum. The Huskers have revenge as an added motive.

MU had been deemed unbeatable at home, but the Tigers' lone conference loss to KSU Feb. 4 in Columbia flawed that legend.

The Tigers also have a number of close wins, the latest being a 61-60 victory at the University of Kansas (KU) Wednesday.

Needless to say, Nebraska must win all four of its remaining games to win the title. The two home games should not be too much trouble, but Kansas' 5-5 conference record doesn't depict the quality of the Jayhawks, who will be very tough in Lawrence.

Even if the Huskers win the rest of their games, MU and KSU both will have to be upset for the Huskers

to win the Big 8.

Missouri has the toughest schedule remaining, with UNL Saturday, the University of Oklahoma (the most improved team in the conference, according to UNL coach Joe Cipriano) at Norman, Okla., Feb. 28, KSU at Manhattan, Kan., March 3 and the University of Colorado in Columbia March 6.

Kansas State plays state rival Kansas in Manhattan Saturday, (the game will be televised regionally), Iowa State at Ames, Iowa, Feb. 27, Missouri in Manhattan, March 3 and Oklahoma State in Stillwater, Okla., March 6.

For the Huskers to win the title outright, Missouri must lose three of its next four games, and two of those losses must be UNL and KSU. Kansas State will have to lose to Kansas Saturday and one of the two games other than Missouri.

A betting man would have to say the odds are against the Huskers. If not the odds, then history—Nebraska has choked in the second half of the conference season each time it has been a contender.

Then again, Husker losses this season all have been relatively close—close enough that the right break at the right time could have changed some outcomes. Those breaks could start going the Huskers' way. If MU and KSU let down, Nebraska could find itself in the NCAA playoffs for the first time in 25 years.



Photo courtesy of Mark Ebel

Twelve UNL students, on a cooperative ski tour with University of Colorado students Feb. 12 through 15, traveled through part of the Roosevelt National Forest in Colorado. The tour was led by UNL Recreation Coordinator Mark Ebel.