

sports

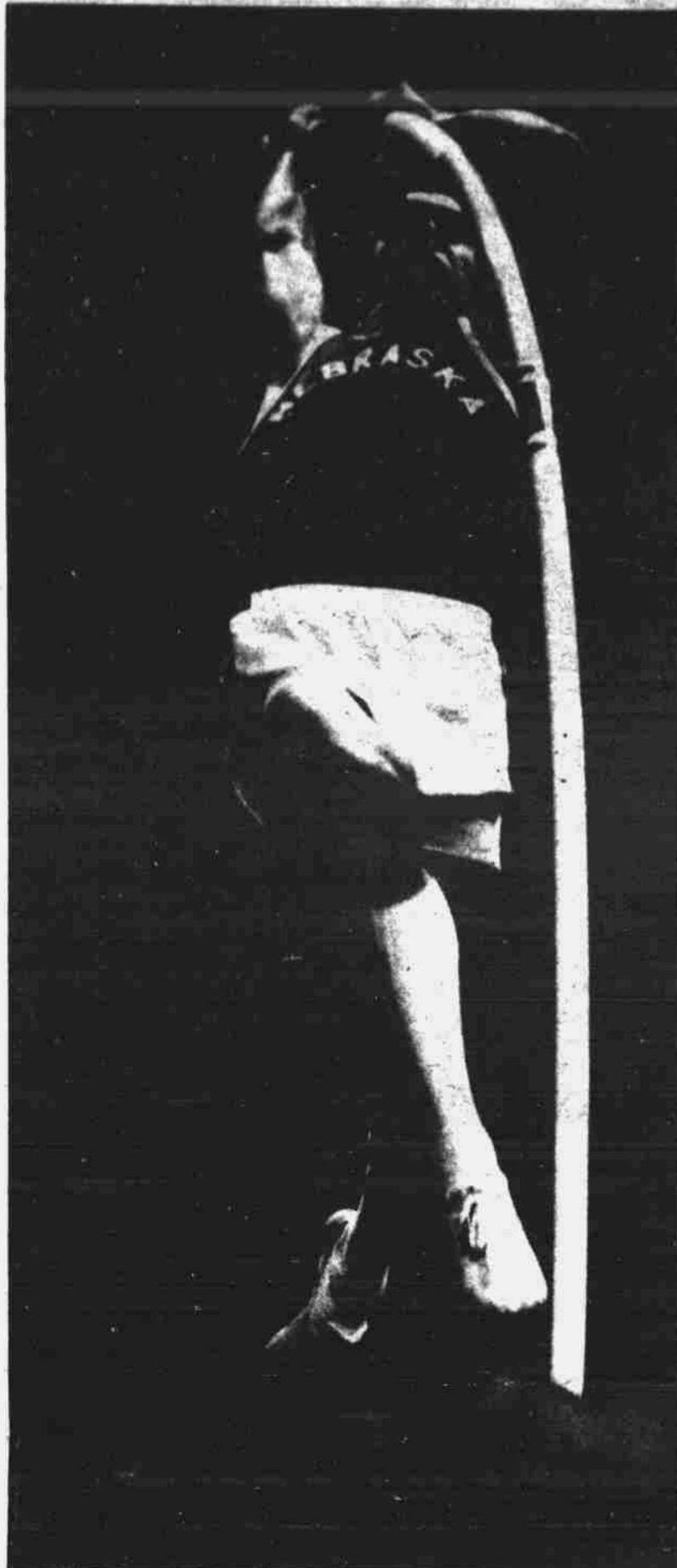


Photo by Bob Pearson

Sophomore pole vaulter Randy Raymond of Fremont

Coach, gymnasts alter vaulter's style

By Ed McClymont

Randy Raymond became a part of Nebraska track history last weekend, capping a series of changes that has led the free-flowing sophomore into the top position on the all-time Nebraska pole vaulting chart.

Raymond cleared the height of 17-1/2 in a dual against Iowa State to become the first Nebraska vaulter to clear 17 feet.

"I still can't believe I went 17 feet," Raymond said. "Although I think Coach Railsback (assistant track coach) was more excited than I was when I made it."

The Fremont native credits Railsback with improving his style, which enabled him to reach the record.

"Coach Railsback has helped a lot on my technique," Raymond said. "He's helped on my plant and penetration into the box. I hadn't even heard of penetration until he (Coach Railsback) came this year."

Along with the new style came a change in practice schedule, including a work out with the gymnasts.

"They (the gymnasts) helped us learn how to maneuver our weight around in the air which helps with the technique," Raymond said. "It breaks the monotony and its kind of fun."

Along with the gymnastics workout is the daily routine of lifting weights. This leaves only two days of the week to actually practice pole vaulting, a contrast to his high school days.

"We use to practice vaulting every day in high school," Raymond said. "It was hard getting use to the new way of doing things."

Raymond's previous outdoor best was achieved last year at the El Paso Relays where he cleared 16 feet. He thought he should have done better, and was self-admittedly miffed at the way things were progressing for him.

"I was frustrated with the bad weather we were having," Raymond said. "And so much of the outdoor season depends on the weather. I learned a lot in that year."

Raymond's 17 foot fault qualifies him for the national outdoor meet to be held at Champaign, Ill. He also qualified for the indoor meet last winter in Detroit.

The chief competition in the Big Eight appears to be Jeff Buckingham of Kansas. Buckingham, a freshman, has cleared 17-6 1/2 for the Jayhawks this season. Despite the half foot disadvantage, Raymond thinks he has a shot at overtaking Buckingham.

"Before he probably thought he had it (the Big Eight crown) to himself," Raymond said. "With the Big Eight at home this year I might have a shot at it. I'm in his range now, and if I pop one I could take it."

Raymond hasn't even considered any goals for his performances this year, choosing instead to let things ride and see what happens.

"I don't see my goals this year, because I really didn't know what to expect with a new coach and everything else," Raymond said. "I'm kind of afraid to set any goals, besides I still have a long way to improve."

This weekend Raymond and his teammates will travel to El Paso for the UTEP Relays, an annual headliner on the track circuit. The Huskers have not found the outdoor success they enjoyed this winter during the indoor season, due partly to injuries and sickness. Another factor that Raymond considers to be a reason for the Huskers inability to win outdoors is the lack of a Big Eight indoor championship.

"It hurts when you gear up for the indoor championship and don't win," Raymond said.

Raymond is hoping for a little cooperation from the weather this weekend in his attempt to further his record.

"If I get a good tailwind at El Paso I'll crank it up an extra half foot on the pole and see if I can make 17-6."

Baseball, hot dogs, swimsuits and ISU

When UNL's baseball team played Buena Vista College in a doubleheader last March, the weather was so cold that Head Coach John Sanders designated the twin bill as "Arctic Parka Day."

Now, a month later, and with weather conditions a little better, the Huskers will offer the season's second promotional day with Saturday's doubleheader against Iowa State.

In stark contrast to "Arctic Parka Day," Saturday has been billed as "Swimsuit Day."

All female wearing swimsuits will receive free admission to both games. The sorority or dorm floor with the highest bathing suit-clad representation will win an autographed Husker baseball.

For the record, Iowa State University's baseball team has had a losing season so far this spring.

ISU's 13-14 record, however, is belied by wins over national powers Hawaii and Oral Roberts and Big Eight contender Oklahoma State.

The Cyclones, while playing below .500 baseball, have firmly established themselves as an upset-minded group.

NU, 31-6 on the year, will be looking to dash ISU's hopes for another upset when the Huskers host the Cyclones in a pair of doubleheaders this weekend at Buck Beltzer Field.

Today's games are scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. and the teams will play tomorrow at 1 p.m.

"Iowa State has been playing good ball lately. It's important for us to do well," said Nebraska Head Coach John Sanders.

Today's twin bill marks the beginning of divisional play for both teams. The Huskers compiled a 7-1 record against Big Eight Western Division foes and lead the Eastern Division. Iowa State is second in the East with a 6-2 conference mark, followed by Missouri, 5-2, and Kansas, which is 5-3.

Besides keeping Iowa State at bay, a sweep of the Cyclones "would really put Kansas and Missouri in the hole," Sanders said.

Ray Tromba, 3-3, in the scheduled starter for today's game and Jim McManus, 3-0, will pitch tomorrow.

sports shorts

Hoping to improve on last year's fifth place finish, Coach Larry Romjue's Nebraska women's golf team will be in Stillwater, Okla. Sunday and Monday for the 36-hole Big Eight Championships.

Two UNL women gymnasts will perform Sunday on *NBC Sportsworld*.

Renee Reisdorff will be featured on the balance beam. She finished third in the event in the AIAW National Gymnastics Championships last week.

Teammate Patty Carmichael will compete in the floor exercise. She placed fifth in that event in the championships. Both gymnasts also were named to the All-American gymnastics team.

sports calendar

Friday

Baseball—Iowa State at Nebraska, (2), 1:30 at Buck Beltzer Field.

Softball—Nebraska at Emporia State.

Golf—Nebraska men at Wheatshocker Invitational, Wichita, Kan.

Saturday

Baseball—Iowa State at Nebraska, (2), 1:30 at Buck Beltzer Field.

Track—Nebraska men at El Paso Invitational, El Paso, Texas.

Nebraska women at Northern Colorado Invitational.

Softball—Nebraska at Wildcat Invitational, Manhattan, Kan.

Tennis—Nebraska men at Washburn University and McPherson College, Topeka, Kan.

Sunday

Golf—Nebraska women at Big Eight Championships, Stillwater, Okla.

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