

Ottey, Loontjer shine at Husker track meet

By Jack Denker

For Nebraska tracksters Merlene Ottey and Glen Loontjer, last Saturday's Husker Invitational at the Bob Devaney Sports Center track should be a day to remember.

Ottey, who was running for the first time this indoor season, ran three races and broke three records and was the meet's only double event winner.

Loontjer, a senior captain from Geneva, Ne., satisfied the 2,000 fans by winning the pole vault with a

career best vault of 17-4½.

Ottey started her day by winning her heat of the 60-yard dash trials with a record time of 6.73. She returned in the finals to improve her time to 6.69. Nebraska's Angela Thacker finished second with a time of 6.75.

"My 60 was great," Ottey said. "I think Angela helped me a lot, she was right there the whole way." "I knew she was going to run a great 60-yard dash," Nebraska Coach Gary Pepin said. "That was absolutely a world class performance."

Ottey said the most surprising time was her record 54.00 in the 440. The time was also a national qualifying time as well as a new meet record. The old record was 56.00 set in 1980 by Iowa State's Kim Whitehead.

Ottey said she had been training only two weeks before the meet and had a couple bad practices during that time, which prompted her to ask Pepin for the season off.

"Merlene feels great pressure to perform well every time she runs," Pepin said. "I told Merlene she couldn't approach every meet with the idea she is going to win or break a record."

Ottey and Iowa State's Danny Harris, who set a new meet record in the men's 440 with a time of 46.98, were chosen as the meet's outstanding competitors.

Loontjer's vault of 17-4½ exceeded qualifying standards for the NCAA indoor and outdoor championships, something he had already accomplished by making the same height a week ago in a dual meet with Kansas.

"I made it (17-4½) a lot easier than last time, it was a much better jump," Loontjer said. "Things are starting to come back around for me. My rhythm is back."

Loontjer's winning performance was one of only two turned in by the men's team Saturday.

For the second consecutive week, high jumper Darren Burton broke the school record, this time clearing 7-3.

"Last week I wanted to jump 7-1 or higher and I did. This week I wanted 7-3 or higher so I could qualify for nationals and I did. Now 7-4½ is my goal for next week," Burton said.

The Cornhusker distance medley relay team of Glen Cunningham, Dennis Wallace, Gerald O'Callaghan and Marc Adam, finished second in a time of 9:43.88. The time was under the NCAA qualifying standard and set a school record.

"Our main goal was to qualify for nationals, which we did and then we broke the school record, so I was happy with that," Cunningham said. "If Villanova University would have run I think we would have won it."

Wisconsin won the event with a time of 9:43.47. Pepin said one of Villanova's runners got sick before the meet so they elected not to run in the relay.

As for the Husker women, first place finishes were recorded by the two-mile relay team of Sue Nelson, Nicole Ali, Nicole Landmann and Laura Wright, who set Sports Center and Nebraska team records with a time of 8:50.33. Nelson won the 880 in a time of 2:15.74, while Rhonda Blanford won the 60-yard hurdles in meet record time of 7.76 and Angela Thacker won the long jump with a leap of 20-1½. Marcia Tate won the 600-yard run in a time of 1:20.56.

THE GREAT KALUA IS ABOUT TO CREAM YOU, LINCOLN.



Come see 14 body-slammin' boys make their moves, Feb. 23.

Here they come. Fourteen pros that are brand new to town, but know how to wrestle like you've never seen. They've got moves that have made them famous across the country, and around the world. And they're going to give you a workout you'll never forget.

**USA
PRO
WRESTLING**

Order tickets now, and get in on the premiere that's going to have the sports world buzzing.

BODY-SLAMMIN'!

© 1984 USA Pro Wrestling, Inc.

NO CIVILIAN BAND CAN MAKE YOU THIS OFFER.

If you're a musician who's serious about performing, you should take a serious look at the Army.

Army bands offer you an average of 40 performances a month. In everything from concerts to parades.

Army bands also offer you a chance to travel.

The Army has bands performing in Japan, Hawaii, Europe and all across America.

And Army bands offer you the chance to play with good musicians. Just to qualify, you have to be able to sight-read music you've never seen before and demonstrate several other musical skills.

It's a genuine, right-now, immediate opportunity.

Compare it to your civilian offers. Then write: Army Opportunities, P.O. Box 300, North Hollywood, CA 91603.

**ARMY BAND.
BE ALL YOU CAN BE.**



Sports Shorts

Nebraska's 22nd-ranked wrestling team got unexpected performances in the lower weight classes and turned them into a 28-12 dual victory against 15th-rated Missouri Saturday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The Huskers, who normally count on points from All-Americans Jim Scherr at 177, Bill Scherr at 190 and heavyweight Gary Albright, picked up 11 points from Matt Campbell, Chris Marisette, Dave Evans and Lyndon Ruhnke to post the upset.

Nebraska's swimmers warmed up for the Big Eight meet with victories by the men's and women's teams Saturday at the sports center.

Kevin Weires, Eric Ognibene and Ernie Duran each won two events as the men defeated Kansas, 75-37.

The women won two duals, beating Wyoming, 85-55, and UNO, 102-34.