

# ISU tracksters tops, NU third

By Jeff Korbek

Holding the Big Eight track and field championships at the Bob Devaney Sports Center results in a home court advantage for Nebraska.

Ask Tom Hoffman. Hoffman crossed the finish line Friday night to a standing ovation, but the junior from Exeter wound up fourth, not first, in his first-ever three-mile run.

"Tonight, I heard them (crowd) really well," Hoffman said. "I'm glad the meet is at home."

The crowd was just as enthusiastic when Nebraska pole vaulter Glen Loontjer cleared 17-6 1/2 to break the Nebraska school record of 17-6 Saturday. His vault was good enough to earn him second place behind Joe Dial of Oklahoma State, who cleared 18-1 for a Big Eight record.

The loudest ovation took place when Marc Adam, a senior from Canada, became the only event winner for the Huskers by winning the two mile. Adam's time of 8:39.66 qualified him for nationals and broke the school record of 8:47.6.

Adam outdistanced Iowa State's Joseph Kipsang by four seconds, but thought Kipsang was much closer than he really was.

"I thought there was some guy behind me," Adam said referring to his strong kick in the last lap. "I really thought there was somebody behind me."

Iowa State came into the Sports Center favored to win the Big Eight meet by the coaches earlier this week. And they did just that, winning nine of the 17 events and scoring 143 points. Missouri finished a distant second with 93 and Nebraska third with 81.

"Out of the six confer-

ence championships that we've won in track and cross country, this was our best performance," Iowa State Coach Bill Bergan said.

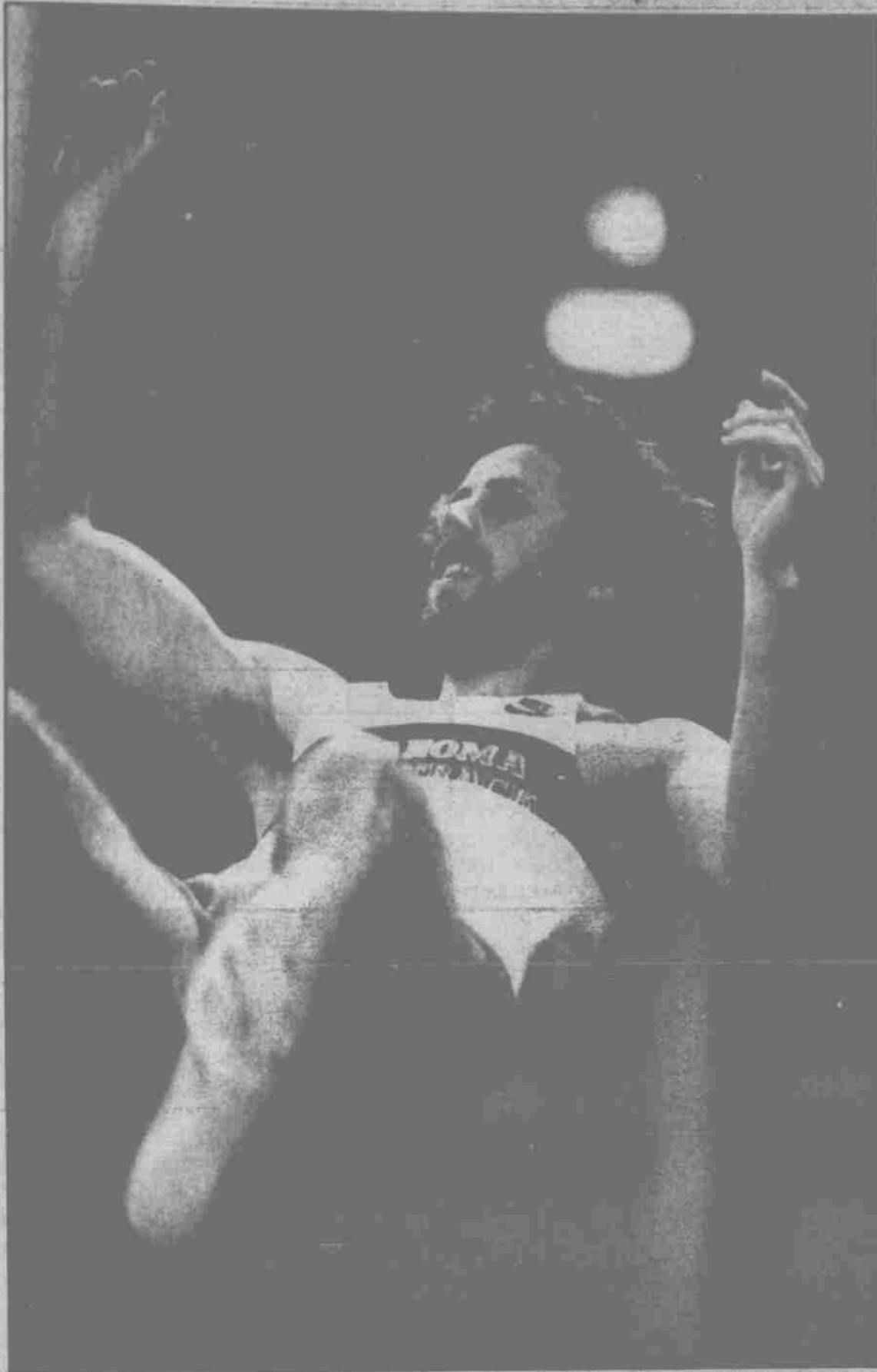
Iowa State sprinter Sunday Uti picked up the meet's outstanding athlete honors, winning the 440-

yard dash and anchoring ISU's mile relay team, whose 3:11.54 broke the Sports Center record, the Big Eight record and qualified them for nationals.

Nebraska Coach Gary Pepin said he was pleased with his team's third place finish.

"We have come so far from a year ago," Pepin said. Nebraska finished in last place last year.

Adam agreed, "We knew we could finish second, but coming from eighth last year, it is such an improvement."



David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan

Oklahoma State pole vaulter Joe Dial falls to the pit after breaking the Big Eight record with a vault of 18-1.

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