

Sports

Tracksters to visit Drake, Okie State

By Kirk Zebolsky

Nebraska's national indoor champion women's track team will compete at the Drake Relays today and Saturday in Des Moines, Iowa, while the men are sending a split squad to Drake and the Oklahoma Invitational today.

The 75th annual Drake Relays is the largest meet in the country this weekend and one of the biggest meets of the season.

The meet features some of the best performers in the country, including returning Drake Relays 100-meter dash champion Angela Thacker of Nebraska. Thacker is slated to compete in the Invitational 100-meter dash, and in the 400-meter and sprint medley relays.

Jennie Badami, Rhonda Blanford and Debra Powell will run with Thacker in the 400-meter relay. Their best time is 44.23. They have qualified for the NCAA outdoor championships May 28 to June 2. Of all Nebraska relays, men and women, Coach Gary Pepin said they have the best chance to win at Drake.

Thacker will be joined in the sprint medley relay by Holly Ashmore, Blanford and Powell. Nebraska's 1600-meter relay team at Drake will be Badami, Ashmore, Marcia Tate and Nicole Ali. The 1600 relay has also qualified for NCAA's. Also competing for Nebraska in the relays will be the 3,200-meter relay team of Ali, Nicole Landmann, Sue Nelson and Carol Nunnally.

Competing in the individual events for the Nebraska women, in addition to Thacker, will be Nicole Ali in the 400-meter hurdles and Powell and Blanford, both in the 100-meter hurdles.

Nebraska will compete without three-time Drake Relays' Outstanding Performer Merlene Ottey, who has completed her eligibility at Nebraska. Pepin said the women are not as strong as they were a year ago. He said the young team misses Ottey's scores and is slowed by injuries. But he said he thinks they are strong enough to win the Big Eight Outdoor Championships in Lincoln May 11 and 12.

The men will send 15 athletes to Drake and eight field men to Norman, Oklahoma today.

The three relay teams entered at Drake are the 400 (Stephan Fletcher, Ed Ross, Anthony Small and Dennis Wallace); the distance medley (Glen Cun-

ningham, John Hastings, Gerard O'Callaghan and Mark Perlinger); and the 3,200 (Cunningham, Mark Gunby, O'Callaghan and Perlinger).

Competing individually at Drake will be Wally Duffy in the 10,000-meter run, Stephan Fletcher and Ed Ross in the 110-meter high hurdles, Mark Gokie in the 1,500-meter run, J Jones in the 400-meter hurdles, Jeff Loescher in the high jump, Glen Loontjer in the pole vault, Kurt Russell in the 3,000-meter steeplechase, Anthony Small in the 100-meter dash and Dennis Wallace in the Invitational 200-meter dash.

The athletes going to Oklahoma are John Irwin, discus; Mike Schnebel, shot put, discus; Luke Traynowicz, discus; Gary Jensen, Steve Belmore and Jon Claymore, javelin; Mike Blair, high jump; and Mike Erickson, pole vault.

Pepin said the men are getting better all the time. He said he is pleased that they have set five school records this season.

In the high jump, Darren Burtow leaped a school record 7-4 $\frac{1}{2}$. Burton is out of action after cutting his toe, but Pepin said he should be back for Big Eights. For other school records, Mark Gokie ran 3:45.07 in

the 1,500 and Illinois transfer Wally Duffy ran 30:13.9 in the 10,000. Ed Ross ran 13.82 in the 110 hurdles and Glen Loontjer pole vaulted 17-9.

Loontjer set his pole vault record last Saturday at the Kansas Relays. He held the old record of 17-6 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Pepin said he was pleased with the performances of the men and women at the Kansas Relays. In spite of bad weather, freshman Jill Noel broke her school record in the 3,000 meter-run with 9:37.47. The Nebraska women's mile relay team set a new stadium record, running 3:42.62. For the men, Steve Belmore won the javelin, throwing 225-1, and Dennis Wallace won the 200 in 21.04.

Also qualifying for the NCAA's on the women's team were Thacker, 100, 200 and long jump; Blanford, 100 hurdles; Tate, 400; Heather Smith, high jump; and Deb Clark, heptathlon. Thacker's performances qualified her for the Olympic trials. Blanford also qualified for the trials.

For the men, Darren Burton and Jeff Loescher qualified for the NCAA's in the high jump. Loescher has jumped 7-0. Loontjer in the pole vault, and Ed Ross in the 110 hurdles also qualified for nationals. Ross, Loontjer and Burton have qualified for the Olympic Trials.

Blanford sets 1984 Olympic goals

By Scott Ahlstrand

Rhonda Blanford knows what it means to be a champion, and the junior hurdler for Nebraska's women's track team says she hopes to continue the tradition in June's U.S. Olympic Trials.

The Big Eight's defending indoor and outdoor champion hurdler, Blanford has set her sights on making the 1984 U.S. Olympic team in the 100-meter hurdles.

Blanford currently is ranked seventh in the U.S. in the 100-meter hurdles, but said she could jump up the list and finish in the top three at the trials.

"I'm seventh now, but when the trials come around I could be higher," she said. "Everybody's going to have a chance at the trials. It won't matter what your ranking is, just how good you're running that day. Whoever gets hot is going to make the

team. You have to be confident to stand a chance. And in my opinion, I have as good a chance as anyone at making the team."

Blanford said making the U.S. Olympic team has been a goal of hers since she began in track. The No. 1-ranked high school hurdler her senior year at Aurora Central in Denver, Blanford said just making the trials in '84 has been satisfying to her.

"I'm happy that I made it this far. My goal at the start of the year was qualifying for the trials. Now that I've made it, I'd like to run my best," she said. "If I don't make the team I'm still going to be pleased with what I've accomplished."

The hurdlers ranked ahead of her are all older than Blanford. Blanford said she is enthusiastic about her chances at making the 1988 Olympic team.

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UNL, Shockers split double-header

By Stu Pospisil

Left in the dark by both Mother Nature and Wichita State, Nebraska's baseball team once again failed to sweep both ends of a double-header at Buck Beltzer Field Thursday.

A 48-minute rain and hail delay during the first game, which Nebraska won 9-7, resulted in Wichita State winning the second game, 4-2, after six innings because of darkness. The twin-bill took 6 hours and 22 minutes to complete.

The Huskers were never the same team after the delay. Leading 9-5, Nebraska could only score two runs in its final eight innings of the day while stranding eight baserunners.

Relief ace Bill McGuire pitched Nebraska out of a jam to save his fourth game in the opener.

Wichita State had narrowed the deficit to 9-7 in the seventh, scoring two runs off starter Jeff Koenigsman and reliever Tom Holmes and had loaded the bases when McGuire entered.

McGuire threw out Victor Dunn at the plate after the Shockers' Loren Hibbs hit a chopper directly at the Husker pitcher. Rick Wrona then fouled out to Mike Duncan to end the inning.

"McGuire made a great fielding play," Nebraska Coach John Sanders said. "He didn't get both outs, but he did get the force play."

Koenigsman, who raised his record to 5-1, encountered problems early.

After being bailed out of the first inning by a double play, Koenigsman surrendered four runs in the second on three hits and four walks.

Nebraska scored one run in its half of the inning, then erupted for five third-inning runs.

Freshman Paul Meyers drove in the first three runs on a bases-loaded double to left field, then Mark Davis collected two RBIs on a right-field

double.

An inside-the-park home run by Duncan, in the fifth inning, was marred by centerfielder Hibbs colliding with the outfield fence. He was not seriously injured and remained in the game.

The second-game woes for Nebraska again began in the first inning. Dunn singled, and two outs later, Hibbs knocked his third homer of the season onto Avery Avenue.

Losing pitcher Mike Dobbs, 3-3, retired nine straight batters until Wichita

State strung together three singles and a double by Tim Raley for two runs in the fifth.

Nebraska, which had stranded two runners in the first and three in the second, produced a third-inning run on Duncan's triple past the rightfielder and McGuire's RBI single.

Davis pulled the Huskers to within 4-2 on a pinch-hit home run to lead off the sixth, but Shocker reliever Shawn Pumphrey then retired the next three batters to earn the save.

The game was called in the seventh inning after Holmes had walked two consecutive batters with one out.

Wichita State, of the Missouri Valley Conference is 30-13. Nebraska, ranked 10th by Collegiate Baseball magazine, is 40-14.

The Huskers will play North Central Conference member Morningside Sunday afternoon at Beltzer Field if Morningside and UNO complete their four-game weekend series. If played, the games will start at 1 p.m. and no admission will be charged.



Dan Kuhns/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's strange spring weather almost cut short the Huskers' double-header with Wichita State Thursday. The same weather turned back to sunny seconds later, though, and the show went on.