

# Cornhusker track teams see daylight

By Jeff Korbelik  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's men's and women's track teams are in the process of rebuilding for the upcoming outdoor season despite both teams' Big Eight Indoor Championships in February. "Even though we've performed real well during the indoor season, we're tired and sore from week after week of running indoors," Assistant Coach Jeff Goldberg said. Both squads will send partial teams to the Paper Tiger Invitational in Baton Rouge, La., today and Saturday. The

meet is hosted by Louisiana State. "We're working on resting a little bit and are not looking for any great performances," Goldberg said. Goldberg said the teams will concentrate on getting used to running outdoors. Both teams are gearing more for the conference and national championships in late spring, he said. The invitational will allow some athletes to get their first taste of competition this year. Sophomore recruit Kobus Coetzee from South Africa will throw the javelin for the first time. "We're real excited about Kobus," Goldberg said. "He has thrown one for

278 feet and he has thrown over 250 feet in practice." Nebraska's school record in the javelin is held by Scott Sorchick with a throw of 262-11 in 1977. Women javelin throwers, senior Kelley Owen and freshman Karyn Szarkowski, also will see their first action of the year. The women's portion of the competition will carry two events relatively unfamiliar to Nebraska: the shuttle hurdle relay and the women's distance medley. Goldberg said each event is only run about three or four times a year.

Neither event is included in the NCAA championships. Nebraska will run senior Rhonda Blanford, freshmen Vicky Johnson and Karen Kruger, and junior Stephanie Thomas in the shuttle hurdle relay. Juniors Sue Nelson, and sophomores Jill Noel and Laura Wight will run the medley. Goldberg said he is not sure who Nebraska would have run the 440 leg in the medley. NCAA women's indoor champion Florida State and second place Louisiana State will participate in the invitational. Nebraska finished fourth at nationals.

The men will see competition from Southern Methodist, Texas El-Paso, LSU and Arizona State.

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Nebraska long jumper Charline Grant competes during the indoor season. The Huskers open their outdoor track season this weekend at Baton Rouge, La.

## Former Yankee Joe Pepitone continues trend of fallen heroes

**The Reuters News Service**  
NEW YORK — The arrest of former New York Yankee baseball star Joe Pepitone on drug and gun charges this week is the latest example of an American sports hero going from the sports pages to the police blotter. Pepitone, 44, was arrested in Brooklyn late Monday night after a car in which he was a passenger was pulled over by police for running a red light. Police said they found about \$70,000 worth of cocaine, a bag of heroin, a quantity of guanabene capsules, a tool used to grind cocaine, 140 empty glassine envelopes, and what appeared to be records of drug transactions. They also found a loaded .22 caliber pistol and about \$7,000 cash. If convicted, the former first baseman and outfielder who starred in the 1960s and left the game in 1973, faces a sentence of 15 years to life. Pepitone, who once reveled in the attention he got as a sports celebrity in New York City, was brought into the police station with his hands cuffed behind his back and his black cowboy hat tugged down over his face to avoid photographs. Just last week another former baseball star, Denny McLain, was convicted of drug charges and could spend the rest of his life in prison, and Jim Brown, one of the greatest football players ever, was formally charged Wednesday with rape and assault. Then there is Mercury Morris, former running back for three Miami Dolphin Superbowl winners in the 1970s, doing 20 years for attempting to sell cocaine, Billy Cannon, former Heisman Trophy winner turned dentist, serving five years in prison for masterminding a \$6 million counterfeiting scheme, and several members of the New Orleans Saints being investigated on suspicion of drug involvement. Two-time Olympic Gold Medal winner Edwin Moses had his reputation tarnished even though he was acquitted by a jury last month shortly after he had been arrested on charges of soliciting

an undercover policewoman posing as a prostitute. The first major scandal and still the most threatening to the very survival of baseball involved the Chicago White Sox of 1918, when several members of the team were judged to have thrown the World Series. Legend has it that when the story came out, a young boy with tears in his eyes, approached Shoeless Joe Jackson, one of the team's biggest stars who was banned for life from baseball for his part in the fix, and pleaded: "Say it ain't so, Joe." More than 60 years later, even in a time that is supposed to be much more jaded, many people are still surprised when the clay feet of their heroes are uncovered, and are asking another Joe the same question. But maybe Joe Pepitone himself summed it all up in the title of his book: "Joe, You Coulda Made Us Proud."

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