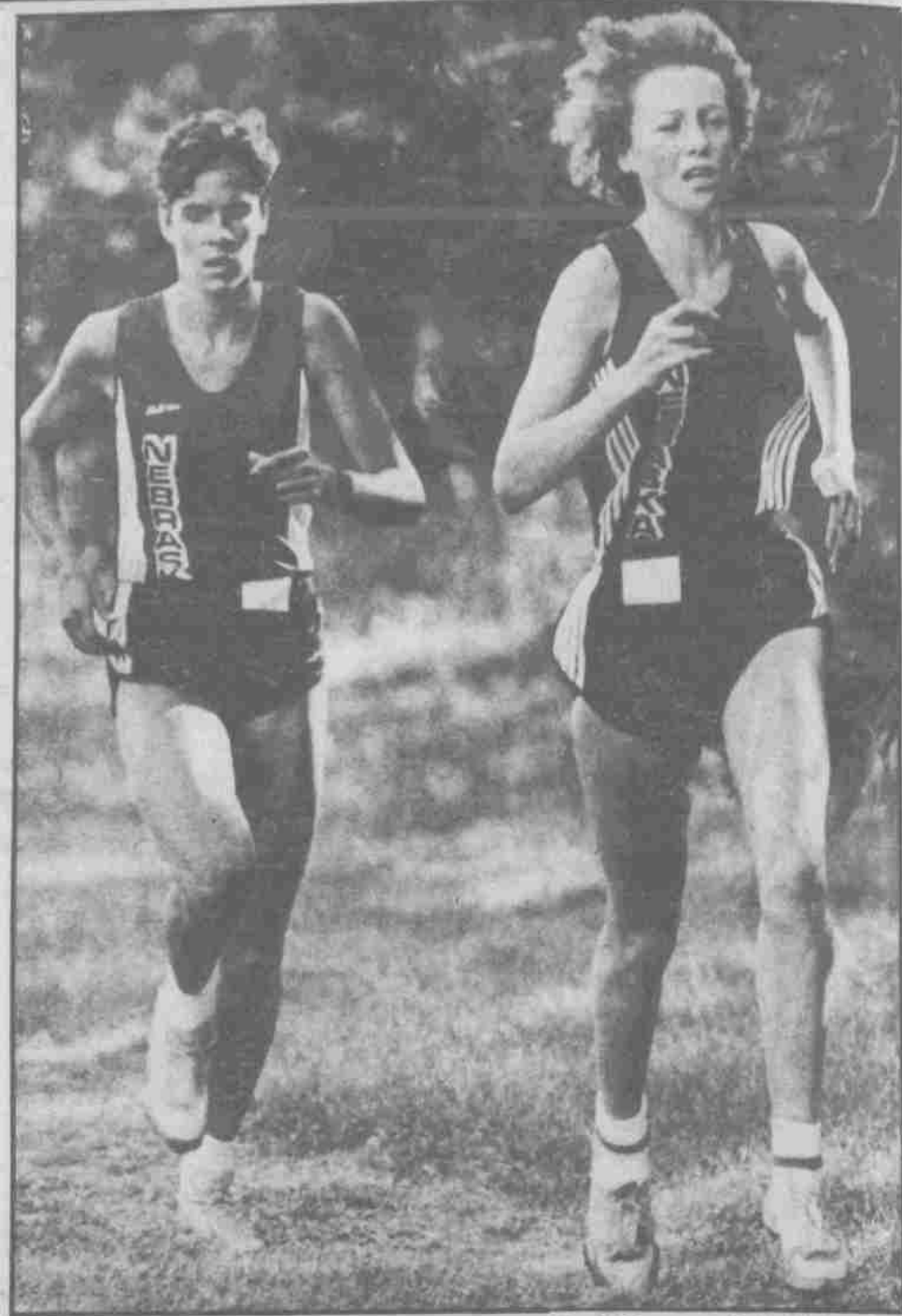


# Sports



David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska cross country runner Gerard O'Callaghan watches as Kansas State's Ron Stahl crosses the finish at the Husker Invitational at Pioneers Park. O'Callaghan had to pull out of the race with an injured Achilles tendon.



David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Jill Noel (left) and Laura Wight head toward the finish at the Husker Invitational Saturday. Wight finished second and Noel third as Nebraska won the women's team title.

## NU women nip KSU for invite title

By Tom Kisicki  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska women's cross country team began the 1985 season by accomplishing something it never has before.

The Cornhuskers defeated Kansas State for the first time when they won the Husker Invitational at Pioneers Park on Saturday.

"Beating Kansas State was our goal going into the meet," Coach Jay Dirksen said.

The meet ended up a two-team battle as Nebraska and Kansas State had nine of the top 11 finishers. The Huskers were led by Laura Wight (second), Jill Noel (third), Mary Amen (seventh), Karlene Erickson (10th) and Sammie Resh (11th). Dirksen said he was pleased with the close finish of his top five runners.

"Our spread between the first and fifth runner was about fifty-two seconds," Dirksen said. "That is the best we've ever had. To me that is really encouraging."

Noel also said she was satisfied with the team's high finish.

"We all stayed together so well," she said. "We were clumped together at the

beginning and we held it to the end."

Dirksen said the team's future looks promising.

"The younger runners ran really well, particularly Allison Laack and Lori Henning," he said. "We're making good progress. If we stay healthy, we'll be a contender at any meet."

The winner of the meet was Chris Vanatta, who ran unattached. Vanatta attends Kansas State but was ineligible to represent the team after she transferred from Southeast Missouri State. Vanatta said she was surprised by her success.

"This was my first meet with big schools, and I didn't know what to expect," she said. "I was a little shaky the first thousand meters, but by the time I settled with the leaders, I was pretty confident."

In the men's race, the absence of Jean Verster and an injury to Gerard O'Callaghan hindered the Huskers' chance of bettering their third place finish, Dirksen said.

"Obviously, we're a much better team than today indicated," he said. "When you don't have your full team out, it's hard to tell a lot about the team's performance."

O'Callaghan was in second place

when he was injured midway through the race.

"At the bottom of the hill, I twisted my ankle," O'Callaghan said. "I dropped out when I got to the top because I didn't want to jeopardize the whole season. It (the injury) was a recurrence of an achilles tendon problem I've had."

Nebraska's top finisher was Bryan Clark, who finished fourth.

"Bryan had a great race today," Dirksen said. "He's off to a very good start."

Clark was not as pleased with his performance as was Dirksen.

"It went OK for the first race of the year," Clark said, "but I wish I could have taken a few more of the Kansas State runners."

Kansas State coach Steve Miller said his runners had something very important going for them in the meet.

"We're a veteran team, very mature," Miller said, "and cross country is a sport of maturity."

Junior Ron Stahl, one of the Kansas State veterans, won the race.

"I felt good, really relaxed," Stahl said. "As a team, we're pulling together well. We had a really positive attitude going in."

## Illinois 'treats' home crowd to 'quiet' three-point win

By Terry Hackett  
Daily Illini Associate Sports Editor

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Illinois narrowly escaped defeat Saturday as an inspired Southern Illinois team fought to the final minute of the game, only to fall four points short of victory, 28-25.

For Illinois' fans, it was an embarrassment. The victory was sour as 76,000 people watched their team walk off the field quietly.

"It was probably the quietest win I've ever been associated with," said Illinois linebacker Bob Sebring. "But down the road it will just be marked as a win in the books."

Illinois' win can be attributed almost entirely to the third quarter,

in which the team scored 22 points in less than 12 minutes.

Fullback Thomas Rooks rushed for 89 of his game-high 137 yards in the third quarter. In the other three quarters, particularly the first half, the Illini were stopped by Southern Illinois. Illinois quarterback Jack Trudeau was unable to move the offense and most drives ended in punts or turnovers.

"They played well, what can I say, they almost beat us," Trudeau said. "Obviously, I'm not happy with the way I played, but the quarterback isn't the whole story. The only way to correct it is to practice. I don't know the answer, it can't get worse. For some reason things weren't clicking."

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