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NU sprinter Small recovers from illness, has set big goals for his senior season

By Kyle Schurman
 Staff Reporter

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of stories featuring foreign students who are currently athletes at Nebraska.

Anthony Small, one of Nebraska's top returning sprinters, will attempt to return to his 1985 form following an off year in 1986 due to illness. Men's head coach Gary Pepin said he feels that Small can return to his earlier form.

"He (Small) is a very, very talented sprinter who had an off year last year due to injury and sickness, and he hasn't even come close to tapping his potential," Pepin said.

Small, from Scarborough, Ontario,

was one of the top sprinters for Nebraska in 1985, helping the Cornhuskers to a third-place finish in the Big Eight Outdoor Championships with a pair of fourth-place finishes in the 100- and 200-meter dashes. Small also competed on the third-place 4 x 100-meter relay team. His fifth-place finish in the 300-yard dash helped Nebraska to the 1985 Big Eight indoor championship.

In 1986, Small's illness caused him to slip two places lower in the Big Eight Championships. During the indoor meet, Small was sixth in the 300. In the outdoor meet, Small placed sixth in the 100 and seventh in the 200. He added two more sixth-place finishes as a member of the 4 x 100- and 4 x 400-meter relay teams.

For the upcoming season, Small is attempting to add the 400-meter dash to his repertoire of spring events. He would have run the 400 individually last season, but his illness threw his training schedule off. The virus caused him to remain ill for two months, Small said.

Small has placed five individual marks on the Nebraska all-time charts during his career. He holds the sixth- and eighth-place times in the 60-yard dash and is third in the 300-yard dash, both indoor events. His all-time marks in outdoor competition include a third (10.37 seconds) in the 100 and a sixth (21.10) in the 200.

"I would like to qualify for nationals," said Small, "but my biggest goal would be for us to win the Big Eight Indoor Championship."

Small has higher individual goals for the 1987 outdoor season.

"I want to win the 200 (at the Big Eight meet)," he said, "and qualify for nationals. However, I especially want to stay healthy for this season."

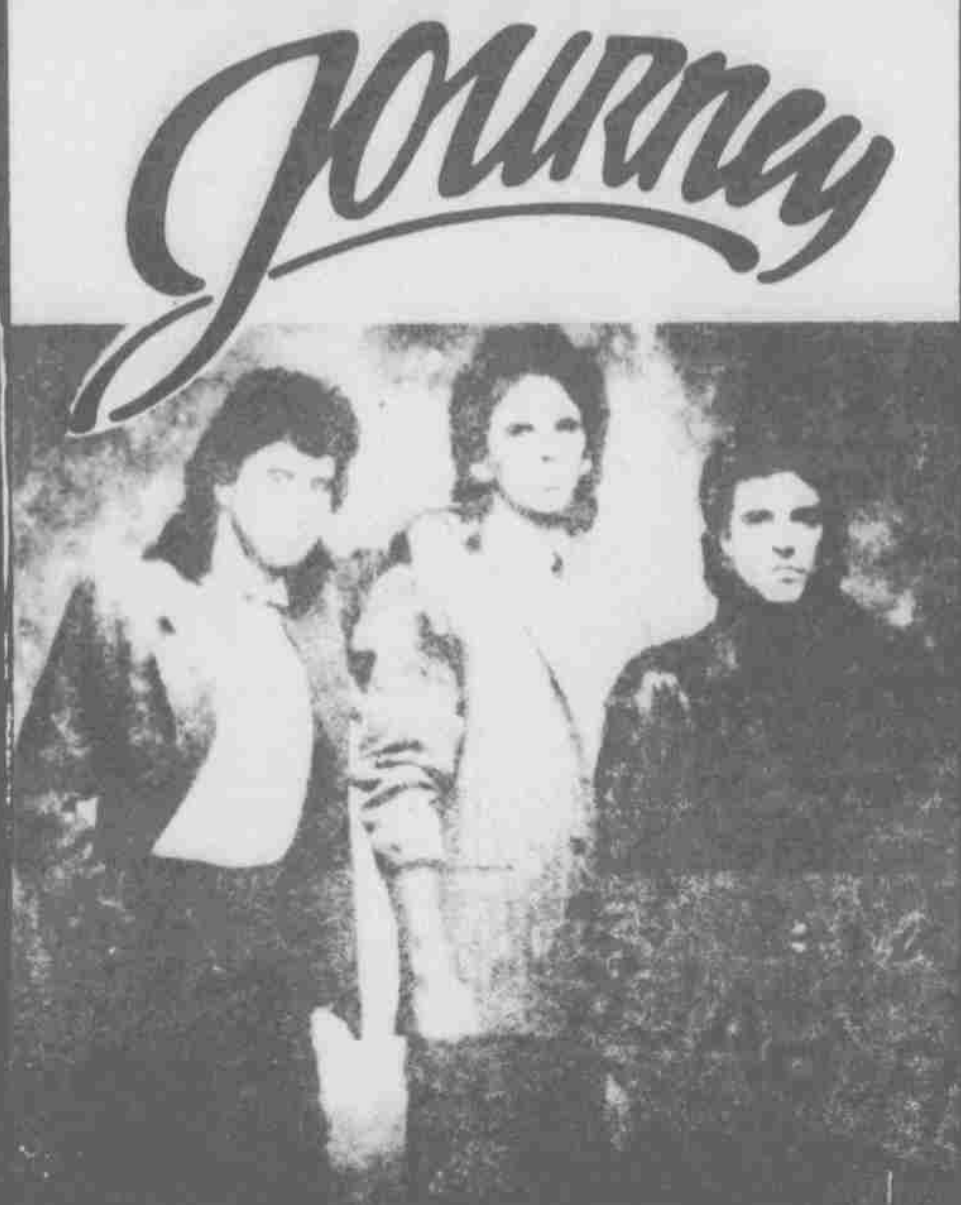
Nebraska was the only school that heavily recruited him, Small said, and he liked the university when he came down for a weekend visit. Since he felt he could get more work done in a smaller city, he decided to attend Nebraska. Scarborough is a city of 300,000, and his school, Central Tech, is one of Canada's largest.

Still, Small enjoys the university.

"I really like the way the people support the teams, especially in the big meets, screaming and yelling," he said. "I've met a lot of nice people and I like the smaller city. However, it is kind of boring during the holidays when everyone goes home and I can't, because I live so far away."

"He is a nice guy to work with, and he is fun to coach," Pepin said. "He has a good attitude, and I know he has better races in him than he was able to show last year."

Following school, Small, a business major, plans to return home and find a job. Small is also hoping to run sprints for Canada in the 1988 Summer Olympics.



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