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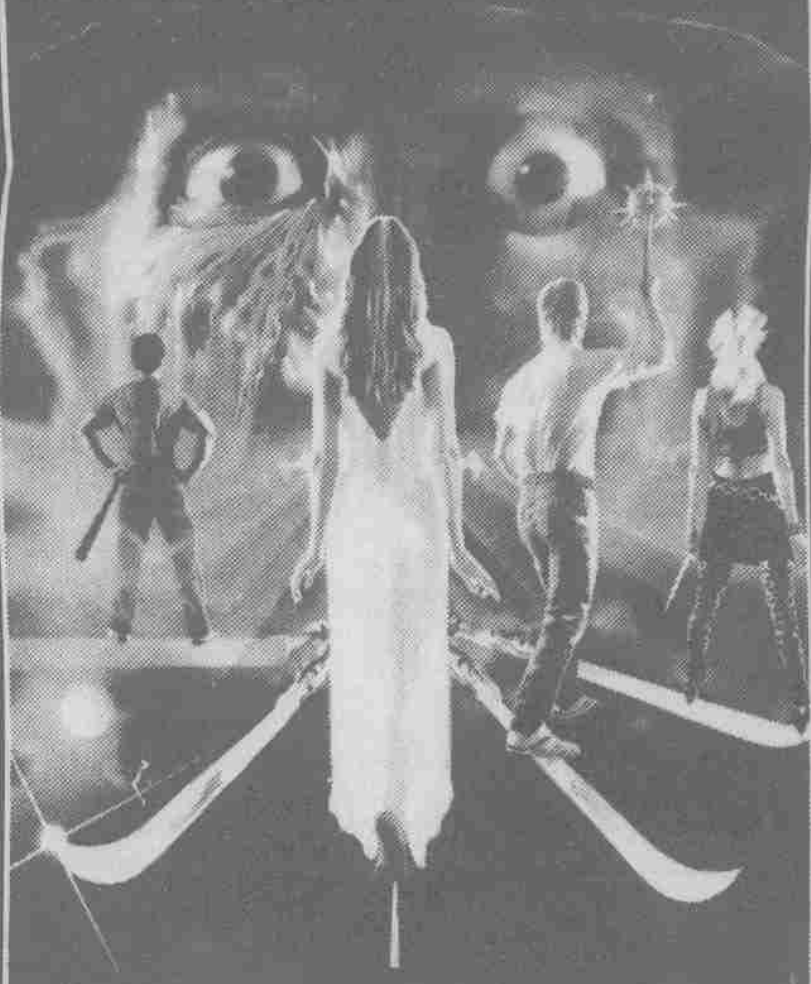


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## 'Speedy' paces track team

# Huskers favored

By Jeff Korbek  
Editor

His teammates call him Speedy. . . Speedy Gonzales, and he just may be faster than the famous animated mouse.

At least Robert Gonzales showed his speed at the Frank Sevine Husker Invitational two weeks ago. He was named the meet's outstanding men's performer.

Gonzales ran the second leg of the Huskers' 880-yard relay that won a gold medal, qualified for nationals and set a new school, invitational and Bob Devaney Sports Center record. Gonzales also won the 600-yard run and ran the second leg of Nebraska's fourth-place 440-yard relay team.

After winning the 600, Gonzales said he was happy to "pop" a good time. He said he was in a slump early in the season.

"I saw everybody else doing it all year long and I was getting really depressed and really down," Gonzales said. "I told myself I would use this week and last week to pick myself up and it happened."

Gonzales, a junior-college transfer from Long Beach, Calif., Community College, is one of several new additions to Nebraska that have placed the men's team as the pre-meet favorite to win the Big Eight indoor track meet Friday and Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Dave Harris, the Husker assistant coach who recruited Gonzales, said Gonzales is part of the best men's

recruiting class ever at Nebraska. "We brought in a few very talented junior-college people that we knew would be good scorers," Harris said. "Our freshman recruits



Gonzales

have come along much quicker than we expected."

Other newcomers who have contributed include junior-college transfers Bill Trott and Terry Goods and freshmen Bob Jelks, Terry Rodgers, Dwight Mitchell and James Morris. Trott broke the school record in the 60-yard dash. Jelks broke the school and Husker Invitational record in the 300-yard dash, and Goods has helped in the middle-distance events, Rodgers in the sprints, and Mitchell and Morris in the jumps.

Gonzales acknowledged Harris's assessment and said Nebraska has a chance to win this year's Big Eight

meet. The men finished third last year behind Iowa State and Oklahoma.

"Iowa State won last year, and it's time for us to challenge," Gonzales said. "Guys like Regis Humphrey, John Hastings, (Jean) Verster and (Anthony) Small, they haven't had help over the years. I'm not saying the Nebraska team hasn't been good, because they have, but this year we have people who want to win, who are not used to losing."

The Nebraska women's team is again favored to win the indoor title. The team has won the Big Eight meet the last seven years. Harris said the women are favored because of their reputation.

"The other schools get up for this meet and they have that feeling in the backs of their minds because we have won so many times," he said.

The makeup of the women's team is little different than in years past. Gone are the superstars like Merlene Ottey, Angela Thacker and Rhonda Blanford. But, Harris said, this year Nebraska has a conference-level scorer in every event.

"We have a national scorer in Linetta Wilson, but it's too early to say if we have any superstars," he said.

On Friday, women's preliminaries will begin at 9 a.m. The only final events on Friday for the men and the women are the long jump and the 3-mile run. The men's running events begin about 5 p.m. Saturday field events begin at noon, and the final running events are scheduled for 1 p.m.

## Coach says Huskers must stop Manning to upset Jayhawks

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and senior guard Cedric Hunter will be difficult for the Huskers.

"We don't want to let Danny Manning get going," he said. "They have an inside-outside game with him and Cedric Hunter, and if they can't go to one, they'll go to another. They're like Oklahoma in that regard."

Reid said Nebraska will have to keep Kansas off the offensive boards and stay in its offensive flow against Kansas' pressure defense. He said the crowd also could help Nebraska.

"We're hoping the students get out here," he said. "When we went to Kansas their students were really into it and they came out very aggressive. We would like to come out with that same enthusiasm and aggressiveness."

The game is almost a sellout, with just standing-room tickets remaining. Tipoff is scheduled for 3:08 p.m. at the sports center.

Kansas has been led all season by Manning, an All-American and Player-of-the-Year candidate. Manning is averaging 23 points and nearly 10 rebounds a game. He has led the Jayhawks in scoring in 24 or their 29 games.

Hunter is the only other Kansas player averaging more than 10 points a game, scoring 12.4 per contest.

## Take pride in UNL, not just Huskers

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"We do have a nice indoor practice facility, though," the Nebraska recruiters tell the player.

"Oh, that's OK," the player replies. "I'll just go someplace that has a dentistry college and warm weather."

So the kid goes to Oklahoma and beats Nebraska for four years. Starting to get the picture?

For years, the university and, indeed, the state, has had a football team they could be proud of. Maybe now it's time to give the football team a university it can be proud of.

Green is a junior news-editorial and criminal justice major from Lincoln and is the Daily Nebraskan sports editor.

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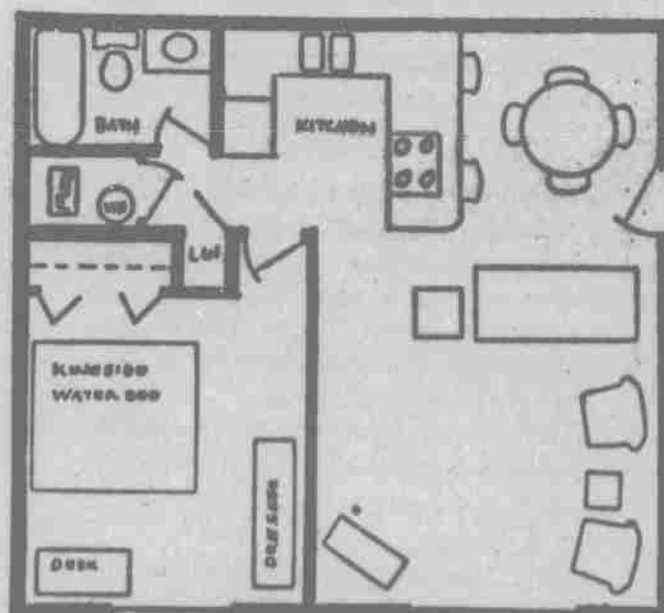
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