

# Jelks says headphones aid in running

JELKS from Page 9

Saturday marked the first time Jelks had competed in the 200 this year. He said he was surprised that the fourth lane was reserved for him instead of the Wildcats' Ray Hill, who entered the meet leading the conference in the event.

Jelks overcame Hill at the high jump pit area located inside the track on the final curve, a place where he likes to accelerate, he said.

"I expected to run this well," Jelks said. "I set my goals ahead of time of what I plan to run and what I ran today was exactly what I planned to run."

Jelks also competes in the 300, which was run in the Cornhuskers' first two meets. He said "the pit" has always been the marker to make his

move so he can finish the final stretch driven by the cheers of the crowd. The 300, which was never a national event, was replaced by the 200 as a conference event this year.

Jelks, who also holds the sports center record in the 300, said he prefers it over the 200. He led the nation in the 300 as a freshman, but never got to prove it at nationals. Last year, he was the Big Eight runner-up in the event.

Jelks said his goals for this season are to remain healthy, win the Big Eight and qualify for the NCAA meet in Indianapolis.

Jelks said he's especially excited about competing at nationals because of the meet's proximity to his hometown of Decatur, Ill. He said he told all his friends last summer to save their money because he was confi-

dent he would qualify for the national meet.

"I know my dad will have it put in paper and so a lot of people are going to come up for that meet," he said.

He also said he wants to make a national name for himself.

"When they say Big Eight, my name pops up a lot," Jelks said. "But nationally I'm not really that well known. I want to make that crossover this year so next year when all the big names are mentioned nationally, mine will be also."

Jelks said he doesn't like to let his followers from Nebraska and Illinois down, so he is going to continue preparations to improve.

"I have to work hard, keep training, stay away from injuries and keep my faith in God and I'll be okay," he said.

# NU ends losing streak, silences doubters

A thorn which hurt worse than the wicked winds generated by a recent cold front was finally lifted when the Nebraska basketball team defeated

Kansas 74-70 Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The most pleasing aspect about the victory was not only that Nebraska snapped a nine-game, Big Eight losing streak, but also silenced the growing number of fans who were beginning to doubt if the Cornhuskers could ever win in the conference.

were not doing their part on offense or defense. Still others blamed it on Nebraska Coach Danny Nee for a questionable substitution policy and a supposed lack of ability to instill confidence in his team.

While the plays of Nebraska guards Clifford Scales and Eric Johnson have been less than spectacular since early in the season and King and van Poelgeest are far from finished products, the real reason for the Huskers' tough times is the quality of play in the Big Eight. With teams like Oklahoma, Kansas State, Missouri, and even Oklahoma State locked in the same conference, it is tough to win anywhere.

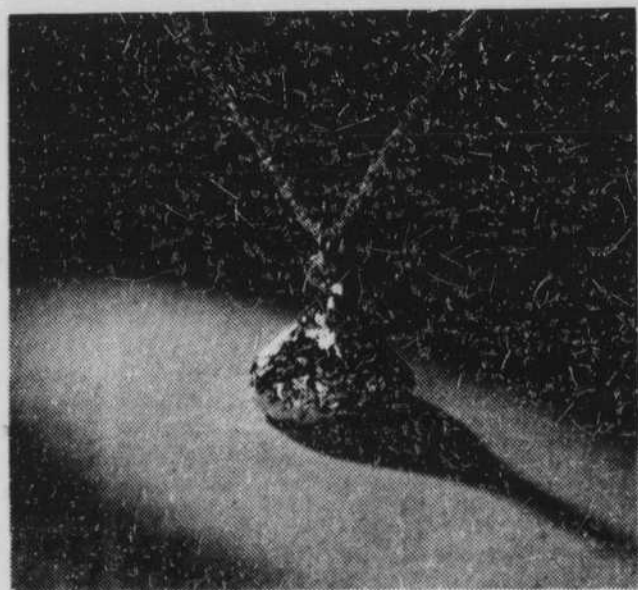
Now the challenge for Nebraska is to try and build a two-game conference winning streak by defeating Colorado Wednesday night in Boulder, Colo. That feat would be quite an accomplishment as Colorado has used a multitude of new and returning talents to become a fair team. Fair, that is, in the sense that the Buffaloes are improved over last year's 7-21 squad, but certainly not good enough to earn any national respect or to save Coach Tom Miller's job.

Since the start of the Big Eight season, media members and other people associated with Nebraska have been treated to opinions from self-appointed experts who generally had less-than-rational explanations for the Huskers' string of losses.

"Nebraska doesn't have a true point guard," one expert said, who later admitted that he had not gone to a game all season.

Another "expert" blamed the losses on Rich King and Richard van Poelgeest, saying the two centers

Apel is a senior news-editorial major from Lincoln and is the Daily Nebraskan sports editor.



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34 Nebraska Union