

Runner still searching for some competition

By Darran Fowler
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's Yvonne van der Kolk came into the Frank Sevigne-Husker Invitational expecting to find some competition.

But after the conclusion of the meet Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center, the freshman from Hilversum, Netherlands, was still looking.

Van der Kolk, who was competing in her first mile this season, finished nearly seven seconds ahead of the closest competitor while establishing a meet and a sports center record with a NCAA qualifying time of 4:38.91 minutes. She also qualified for nationals in the 800-meter run earlier this season with a margin of victory that was just as wide.

Van der Kolk's achievements were part of a two-day meet that recorded 45 NCAA qualifying marks, set 13 meet records, nine sports center records and one collegiate record.

Nebraska track coach Gary Pepin said the level of competition was up compared to past years.

"I thought it was a great meet," Pepin said. "I thought it was one of the best we've ever had."

Van der Kolk said with all the quality athletes participating in the meet, she expected her first challenge of the season from one of the 13 entrants in her heat.

But after pulling away from the rest of the pack, she said she was surprised no one challenged her.

"I'm still looking for competition," van der Kolk said. "There was no competition at all."

Van der Kolk said she took the lead because the start and finish have always been her strengths. She said the smaller size of an indoor track also makes it difficult to maneuver around other runners.

"I like to take leads," van der Kolk said. "But it's nice if there's someone there to push you."

Van der Kolk, who is used to large international competitions, said it

was exciting to compete in her first Husker Invitational.

Two other Cornhuskers also surpassed NCAA qualifying marks as Regis Humphrey set a meet record while winning the 800 with a time of 1:49.68. Linetta Wilson also qualified when she finished 3rd in the 400 with a time of 53.45.

Humphrey was voted the meet's most valuable male performer. Missouri's Natasha Kaiser, who set a collegiate record in the 400, was awarded the women's MVP.

Kaiser's record of 52.39 beat Wilson's collegiate mark of 52.52. That mark was set last year when Wilson defeated Kaiser at the finish.

**'I just thank God
for my strength
and no injuries.'**
--Wilson

The women's 400 featured six runners, all of whom finished under the national qualifying time of 54.08.

Wilson said her competition may have had an advantage because she began the staggered start in the sixth lane.

But, she said, she doesn't make excuses, she just has to run the best race she can run no matter what the circumstances are.

"I've seen people run in the first lane and win and people run in the sixth lane and win," Wilson said. "You get out there and run a good race and you win or lose. That's all that matters."

Wilson said she should have used a different strategy so she would have conserved more energy for her final kick.

"I think I got out a little too hard," she said. "If I would have relaxed and let someone come up with me and then just ran with them I would have had a better chance."

Wilson said the race did not cost her any faith.

"I'm running OK. I'm just gonna stick with it," she said. "I just thank God for my strength and no injuries."

Nebraska freshman Angela Edwards earned her first collegiate victory by winning the shot put with a throw of 47-feet, 8 1/2-inches. All-America teammate Toyia Barnes finished 2nd with a throw of 47-6 1/2.

Edwards said she didn't expect to win. She said her victory can lead to better things.

"I'm working toward qualifying for NCAAs," Edwards said. "It'll be tough indoors, but this will be a big lift."

Nebraska's Jacques van Rensburg placed 3rd in the mile, while Dale Burrage also finished 3rd in the 400. Bobby Jelks and Mark Perry finished 2nd and 3rd place in the 200.

James Morris placed 2nd in the long jump and 3rd in the triple jump, while freshman Kevin Coleman placed 3rd in the shot put. Susan Hedrick placed 2nd in the 600. Nebraska's Mark Jackson, Ken Waller, Humphrey and Burrage teamed for 3rd place in the 1,600 relay.

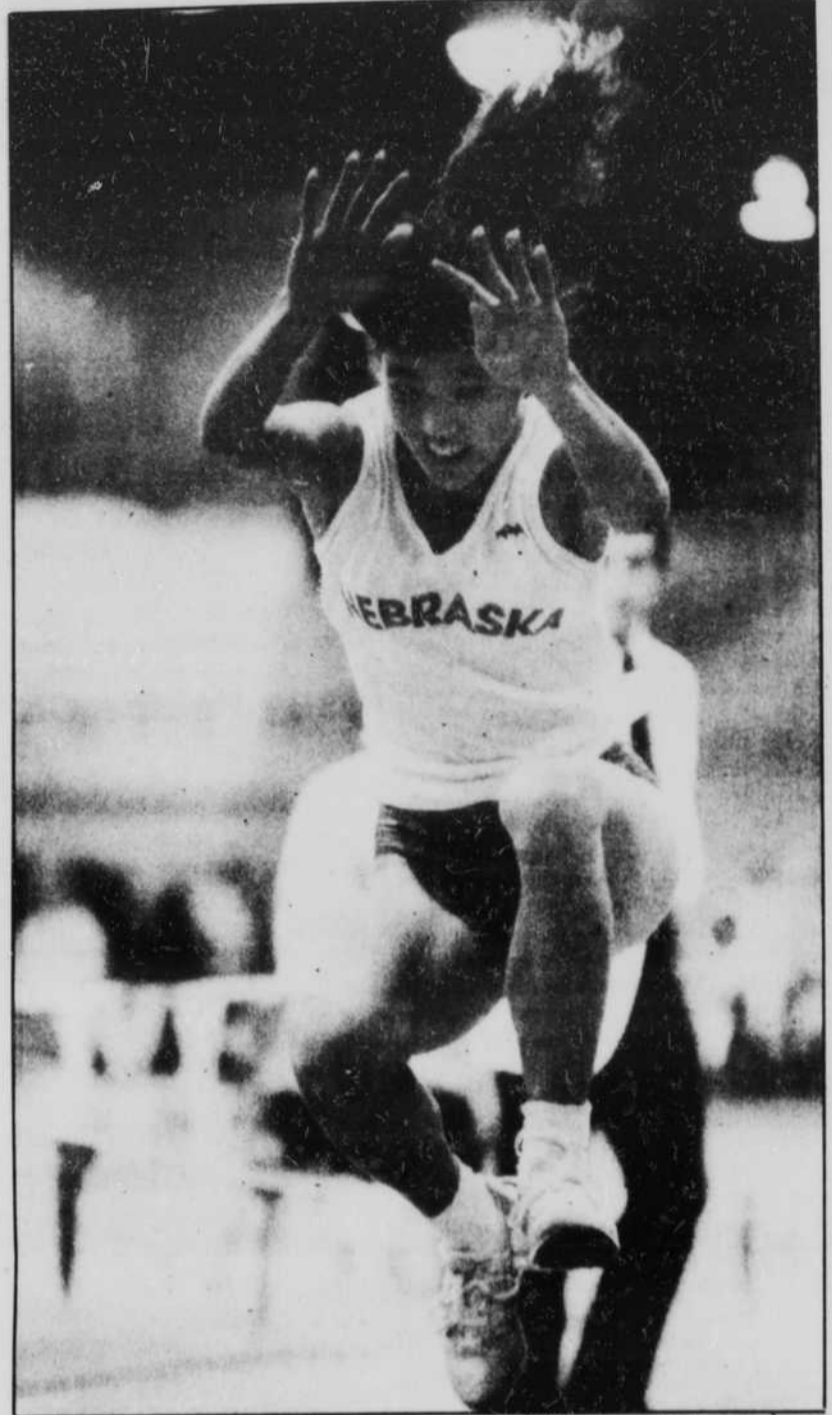
Pepin said Nebraska covered all ranges of performance. He credited Humphrey, Burrage and van der Kolk for their strong performances.

"We had some people who did well and some that did better than expected," Pepin said. "Some people ran some really good marks, but some also had sub-par performances and yet there was some who didn't run very good at all."

Pepin said Nebraska is still looking forward to the conference meet. He said he needs to restore the confidence of those performers who had bad weekends.

Pepin said both teams have legitimate chances at defending their conference titles. But he said he is not as confident about the women's title as in past years.

"I say normally I've gone into the women's meet with a little more confidence than maybe I have right now," he said.



William Lauer/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Maureen Dunn competes in the triple jump.

Guard tandem leads KSU past Nebraska

By Mark Derowitsch
Senior Reporter
and Steve Sipple
Staff Reporter

MANHATTAN, Kan. -- Junior guards Steve Henson and LaKeith Humphrey were down right rude to Nebraska in its first visit to Bramlage Coliseum.

Henson and Humphrey scored 25 points apiece to lift the Kansas State men's basketball team to an 80-66 Big Eight win against Nebraska before a crowd of 12,891 in the Wildcats' new arena.

"I thought the key to the game was Steve and LaKeith," Nebraska coach Danny Nee said. "I thought those two guards were domineering

in their play at both ends of the court."

Kansas State coach Lon Kruger agreed.

"I thought they had an outstanding game," said Kruger, whose team raised its record to 14-7 overall and 5-4 in the Big Eight. "This might be the best game they played. Both of them stepped it up today."

Henson scored 16 of his points in the second half. That was the time the Wildcats needed him, though, as Nebraska led 32-31 at halftime.

He hit four second-half, three-point baskets to help hold off Nebraska, which dropped to 13-11 overall and 1-7 in the Big Eight.

Humphrey added seven assists and seven steals. He said he's been taking advantage of opponents' emphasis on stopping Kansas State's

other guards, especially Henson.

"Other teams look to stop Steve," Humphrey said. "Coach (Kruger) wanted me to step up when they try to shut Steve down."

Nebraska contributed to its own woes, as it allowed Kansas State to complete a four-point play with 6:21 remaining.

Kansas State's Tony Massup made the front end of a one-and-one opportunity, then missed the second free throw, but the Wildcats' Mark Dobbins snagged the rebound.

Lance Simmons then got a bucket and was fouled by Nebraska's Rich King. Simmons' free throw gave Kansas State a 62-56 lead, completing the four-point swing.

"That's when Kansas State took over," Nee said.

Nebraska never got closer than five points the rest of the way. The loss was the Huskers ninth-straight road setback in Big Eight games.

Nee said Nebraska played well -- except during the game's final seven minutes.

The Huskers trailed 58-56 with 7:06 left, but Kansas State outscored the Huskers 22-10 the rest of the way.

"I'm not disappointed in our players," Nee said. "We played as hard as we could and as well as we could for 33 minutes."

The Huskers, who made nine free throws compared to Kansas State's 23, were led by Ray Richardson, who scored 15 points, including three three-point goals. King added 13 points and eight rebounds.

Kelly Lively, a redshirt freshman

from Torrington, Wyo., started his first game for the Huskers. He replaced Richard van Poelgeest, who is recovering from a bruised shoulder he suffered during Nebraska's 83-80 loss to Colorado last Wednesday.

Lively scored two points and blocked one shot in 15 minutes of action.

"I thought for the first time out that he did a nice job," Nee said.

Nebraska's next game is on Tuesday, when the Huskers face the Oklahoma State Cowboys. The game begins at 7:35 p.m. at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Kansas State's next game is on Wednesday, when the Wildcats face the Colorado Buffaloes. That contest begins at 7:35 p.m. at the Conference/Events Center in Boulder, Colo.

Borrowed theory helps NU bag Wildcats

By Nick Hodge
Senior Reporter

Nebraska women's basketball coach Angela Beck's bags are packed.

Beck used a motivational theory employed by North Carolina State basketball coach Jim Valvano to build confidence in her Cornhuskers prior to their 68-56 win against Kansas State Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Beck said Valvano's father told the North Carolina State coach that he believed in the Wolfpack and that his bags were packed for the Final Four after they finished 4th in the 1983 Atlantic Coast Conference standings. That strategy paid off, as North Carolina State de-

feated Houston to win the national championship.

Beck said she wanted her team to know that she still has faith in them.

"I told them that I believe in them and my bags are packed," Beck said. "We can go as far as you want to go. My bags are packed and we're still in the conference race. Second place is still a viable place for us to go. We just have to get our act together."

With the win, the Huskers improved to 13-10 overall and 4-5 in the Big Eight. Kansas State fell to 16-7 and 6-4. The Huskers, last year's conference champions, entered Saturday's game in 6th place.

Beck said Nebraska struggled through

much of the first half against the Wildcats, but came together in the second half.

The Huskers made 23 of 52 field goal attempts for 44.2 percent, while Kansas State made 21 of 60 attempts for 35 percent. Nebraska made 45.8 percent of its second half shots compared to Kansas State's 35 percent.

Nebraska guard Amy Stephens led the Huskers by scoring 34 points -- 22 of which came in the first half. Her scoring rampage was aided by six, three-point shots -- a sports center record.

Stephens gave Nebraska a 33-32 lead at halftime when she scored the Huskers' final eight points of the half.

Nebraska then overcame almost five min-

utes of cold shooting to start the second half before pulling away.

Beck said Nebraska's defensive pressure did an excellent job of shutting down Kansas State in the second half.

"They had the fire in their eyes," Beck said. "We looked at the lead and attacked it down the stretch."

In the game's final eight minutes, the Wildcats scored 10 points -- six on free throws. In the meantime, Nebraska was building its lead.

In addition to Stephens, center Kim Harris scored in double figures by tallying 10 points. Harris also hauled in a game-high 10 rebounds.

Kansas State was led by guard Nadira Hazim's 24 points and forward Diana Miller's 12 points.