Humphrey named male MVP at Husker meet

By Paul Domeier Staff Reporter

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Nebraska All-American selection Regis Humphrey was at the heart of the action Saturday at the Frank-Sevigne Husker Invitational at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

during the 1600 relay. For his efforts, Humphrey was named the meets most valuable male performer.

Missouri's Natasha Kaiser, who used a late rally to defeat Nebraska All-American Linetta Wilson in the 400 run, was named the women's

Humphrey won the 800 meter run and caught an elbow in the mouth qualifying and Husker Inivitational

Lincoln's Own

Famous

record time of 1:49.68 in the 800, even though he did compete against

two of the events top competitors.
Paul Ereng of Virginia, a Kenya native, who earned a gold medal in the 800, at the 1988 Olypic games, in Seoul, South Korea, skipped the meet after coming down with the flu earlier in the week

Teammate Ben Kurgat made up for Ereng's absence Friday night when he recorded a time of 1:50.39

that led all competitors after the conclusion of the preliminaries. But, Kurgat's time was under the NCAA qualifying mark of 1:50.40, so he pulled out of the

Humphrey "We need him too much next weekend," Virginia coach Fred Binggeli said. "We have our conference meet next weekend. We have had so much flu that I didn't want him to take a chance getting hurt or sick with his immunity down.

Injuries had a definite impact on

the 800, as they forced Nebraska's Dieudonne Kwizera to drop out of the race. Kwizera, a sophomore from Bujumbura, Burundi, made his longawaited Cornhusker debut Friday and reached the finals with a mark of 1:50.45.

But an ankle injury forced Kwizera to drop after he completed two of the events four laps.

Kwizera said his right Achilles tendon kept him from training in November and December, but that injury did bother him Friday night.

The finals were a different matter. Pointing to his ankle after the race, Kwizera said, "I had the feeling something was going up and down in the first lap. It continued in the second lap so I pulled out."

That left Humphrey, the Big Eight's three-time outdoor champion in the 800, to take the lead on the first turn and hold on the rest of the way.

Humphrey a senior from Denver, was not completely pleased with his performance.

"I was hoping it would be a bit faster," Humphrey said.

Humphrey said that he learned Kurgat had dropped out early in the lation."

Pettit praises letter of intent signers

afternoon. He said he didn't know Kwizera had pulled out until after the

Humphrey's closest competition came from Russ Muir of Brigham Young, who also qualified for the NCAA in 1:50.33. Humphrey de-

feated Muir in their preliminary heat. Humphrey, saw more excitement running his leg of the relay. He closed on the front-runners in his first lap, and going into the third turn he was bunched for the lead with two other runners. Then arms started flying, and Humphrey ended up in lane four. The Husker team ended up placing third in the event.

Humphrey, who was wiping blood from his lip 15 minutes after the conclusion of the relay, said he didn't know what happened.

"Someone was getting pushed on me, he said. "Then all of a sudden, I got an elbow in the face.

"I was a little disappointed in the relay," he said. "Winning the award is great, but I'm more of a team player. If the team doesn't win, I don't win. The award is small conso-

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Nebraska volleyball coach Terry Pettit was full of praise when he announced the signing of three athletes to national letters of intent.
Pettit said this year's class is "one

of the best" he has recruited during

his 12-year coaching career at Ne-

braska. The recruits who signed with the Cornhuskers include Eileen Shannon, a 6-foot outside hitter from Immaculate Conception High School in Elmhurst, Ill., Stephanie Thater, a 6-2 middle blocker from Union (Mo.) High School, and Valerie Ver-

meulen, a 6-1 setter/hitter from Wantagh (N.Y.) High School. Pettit said he is excited about all

three players because they posses enough junior program experience to make their transition to collegiate volleyball a smooth one.

Shannon has enough training and experience to make an immediate contribution to the Nebraska program, Pettit said. In addition to having a 30-inch vertical jump, Shannon was named a first-team Reebok All-America selection, was named the Illinois volleyball player of the year and was listed as the nation's top leftside high school recruit by Volleyball Monthly magazine.

Shannon chose Nebraska over Southern California, Illinois, Texas and Notre Dame.

'She is experienced and talented as anyone we have ever recruited, Pettit said.

Pettit said Thater has the physical tools to make an immediate contribution. Thater, who also earned firstteam All-America honors from Reebok and was a two-time all-state selection, chose Nebraska over Illinois, Texas, Kentucky and Oklahoma.

"She is an extremely gifted ath-lete," Pettit said. "She has the arm swing and vertical jump to play any front-line position, but we will train her as a middle blocker."

Vermeulen will likely serve as a backup setter for All-Big Eight selection Val Novak next season, Pettit said, but she could see action as a hitter. Vermeulen turned down recruiting visits to Colorado State and Hawaii after visiting Nebraska. She helped lead Wantagh High School to four Nassau County Championships the equivalent of state titles -- during her five-year career.
"She has an excellent jump

serve," Pettit said.

Weightlifting meet to be held at union

The Nebraska state collegiate powerlifting championships will be held on Saturday, March 11.

Mike Kros, one of the meet's organizers, said the competition is open to anyone with a two- or four-year student ID. The championships will be held in the Nebraska Union beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Kros also announced that the collegiate Mr. and Ms. Nebraska competitions will be held on Saturday, April 15. The event, which is sponsored by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's weightlifting club and powerlifting team, also will be staged in the Nebraska Union.

The prejudging for the Mr. and Ms. Nebraska competitions will begin at 1:30 p.m. The show will begin

Persons interested in entering either competition should contact Kros at 474-7710 or Larry Tewell at 477-



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