

3 Huskers qualified for 200-meter finals

By Kelly Anders
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's Mark Perry, James Cobb and Bobby Jelks met their expectations during the Big Eight Championship: this weekend at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Perry, Cobb and Jelks all qualified for the 200-meter final during the meet's preliminary competition on Friday. Cobb won his heat with a time of 21.62 seconds, while



Cobb

Perry finished with a 21.63 clocking. Jelks finished in 21.66.

The trio of Nebraska athletes raced together in the finals on Saturday against Kansas State's Ray Hill, Oklahoma State's Harrold Greene and Iowa State's Pat Cadichon.

Hill won the race by finishing with a time of 21.29. Perry finished 2nd with a time of 21.36, while Jelks was 4th in 21.65. Cobb finished 5th with a 21.69 clocking.

Perry, who hasn't won an individual title in the 200 dash this season, said the race is never decided until close to the end.

"Anyone can win, depending on the last curve," Perry said.

He said he was well-prepared for the race; he spent two weeks training for it.

Perry said although the competition at the Big Eight championships was good, the opponents he faced during the Frank Sevigne-Husker Invitational earlier this year were more challenging. He said the competition at the Husker Invitational was better because it drew athletes from a wider range of geographical areas.

"More of the country came to the meet, which made it more competi-

tive," Perry said. Cobb agreed.

"The Big Eight is competitive in its own right, but it's only the Midwest," he said. "They're fine athletes, but the nationals offer more variety."

Cobb said he wasn't surprised by his 5th-place finish. He said he didn't expect to win the 200 because of a lack of experience.

"Being a freshman, I need a lot more training and experience," Cobb said. "Mark and Bobby are fine athletes, and I've got a long way to come to be like them. I hope to gradually get better and better."

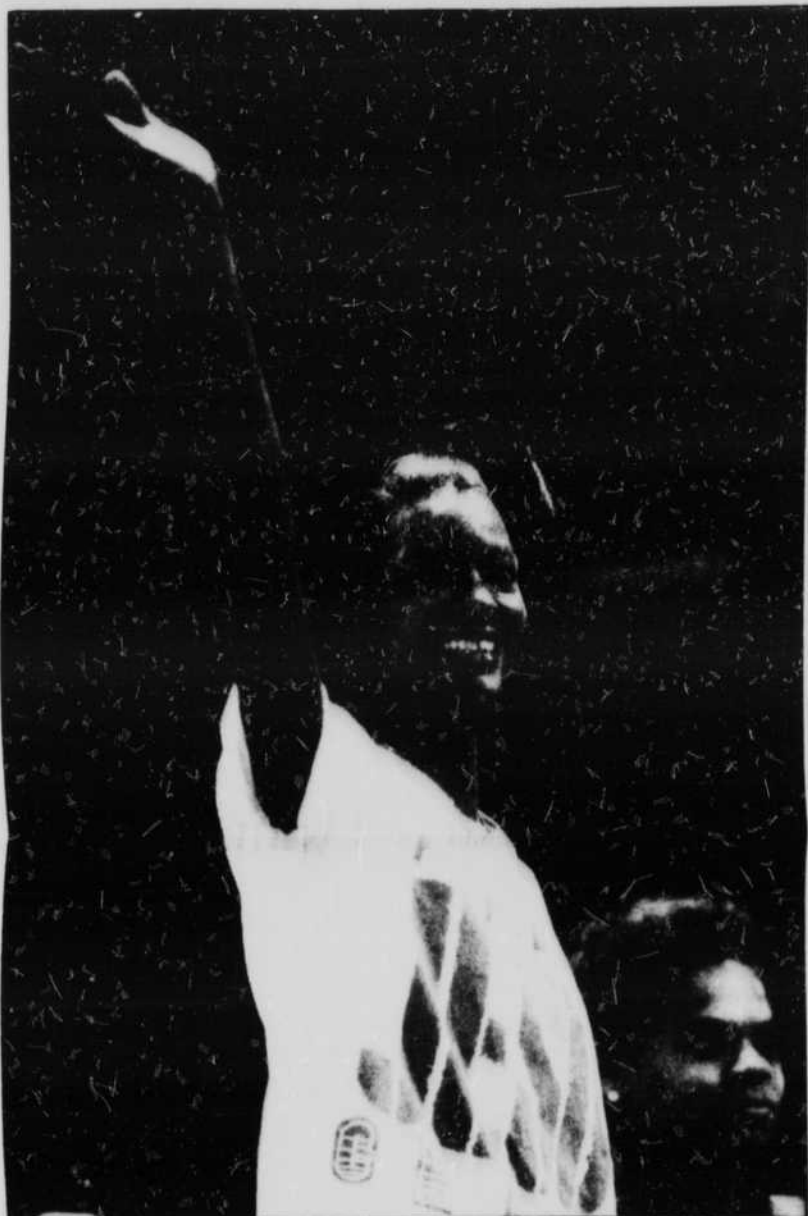
After Friday's preliminary competition, Jelks said he wasn't nervous about the finals even though he was suffering from an irritated right heel and his parents drove from his hometown of Decatur, Ill., to watch him compete.

Jelks said his heel became irritated in late August. He said the injury occurred because his heel constantly rubs against his shoe. The injury still bothers him, he said.

Jelks said his parents presence was a boost.

"They're helping me push a lot," he said. "Friends help, but my parents driving here gives me an extra incentive to win."

Cornhuskers continue championship reign



William Lauer/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Renita Robinson waves to the crowd after winning her Big Eight triple jump title Saturday.

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"I spent two hours in the training room, but the only thing I could do afterwards was jog," van der Kolk said. "I wanted to run so badly. I've beaten all those girls by 10 seconds."

Van der Kolk said she had never experienced problems with cramps in the past. She said because of stomach pains earlier in the week, she was unable to stick to her normal diet and that may have contributed to her woes.

Van der Kolk said she was glad to see her teammates compete well and score points in her absence.

Junior Juliet Prowse and freshman Fran ten Benschel each picked up points by finishing 2nd for Nebraska. Prowse finished 2nd in the mile, while ten Benschel was the runner-up in the 800.

"With van der Kolk out, they became doubly important to us," Dirksen said.

Gomez, an NCAA qualifier in the triple jump, failed to place, but freshmen Patricia Nadler and Maureen Dunn picked up the slack. Nadler, who Pepin said had never competed in the triple jump, finished 3rd with a jump of 38-feet, 7-inches, while Dunn placed 4th with a distance of 38-6 3/4.

Nebraska three-time All-American Renita Robinson won the triple jump with a NCAA qualifying mark and meet record leap of 42-1 1/4.

Teammates Toyia Barnes and Angela Edwards finished 1st and 2nd in the shot put competition. Barnes' best throw of 47-5 1/4 captured her a second conference indoor shot put title.

"I came into this meet just wanting to repeat as Big Eight champion," Barnes said. "I didn't care how far I threw as long as I won."

Nebraska also swept the top two spots in the high jump. Sophomore Meredy Porter qualified for NCAA

championships with a winning jump of 5-11 1/4, while Nebraska's Shanta McGlothlin placed 2nd with a leap of 5-9 3/4.

"I didn't plan on winning the Big Eight," Porter said. "I was just hoping to place, because I didn't last year."

Pepin said Porter's victory will help restore the confidence she lost during a frustrating season last year.

"Last year was really tough for her because she didn't jump as well as she did in high school," Pepin said. "This year I thought it would be very hard to get her confidence back up. So she not only helped the team out, but helped out herself as well."

Nebraska All-American Linetta Wilson won the 400, placed 2nd in the 200 and anchored Nebraska's 1,600-relay team to a 3rd-place finish. Her time of 52:98 in the 400 set a meet record.

Wilson said she was tired after her eventful day. She said her performance in the 400 run was "nice and easy."

"After running in all the other events I couldn't give a lot in the relay," she said. "I'm disappointed with my performance in the relay."

Although the Nebraska men entered Saturday's competition with the most qualifiers, tallying 16, Pepin said he was concerned. He said he was worried about the Husker men's chances of repeating after he scored the men's meet in the same manner as he did the women's.

"I saw it as a three-team race between us -- Kansas, Kansas State and Iowa State," Pepin said. "Kansas State in particular scared me because I saw a lot of 10-point 1st-place finishers."

Nebraska ended the meet with just one individual champion compared to six for the Wildcats. Kansas had five champions and Iowa State had four.

Pepin said the difference was in

the number of quality athletes.

"We had so many who came through for us," Pepin said.

Nebraska's only champion was sophomore Dieudonne Kwizera in the 1,000. He won the title with a time of 2:30.17.

Kwizera said he was confident about his chances of winning.

"I was ready to win it," Kwizera said. "It's exciting to win my first Big Eight championship. Also, the fans were great. I think they enjoy watching me run."

Kwizera, a Bujumbura, Burundi native, said Nebraska's lack of individual champions may have been due to the pressure coaches put on the athletes.

"They concentrate too much on winning and scoring points," Kwizera said. "But I guess the conference is the most important thing in college and that's why there's so much pressure."

Nebraska assistant and middle distance coach Dave Harris said senior Regis Humphrey cost the Huskers a second individual title when he suffered a "mental lapse" while competing in the 800. Humphrey finished 3rd in the event with an NCAA-qualifying time of 1:50.39.

Harris said Humphrey spent too much time circling the track in the lane 2 -- a mistake he didn't expect from such an experienced runner.

"He wanted to win another championship and he just fell asleep at one point in the race and lost his concentration," Harris said.

Nebraska's Mark Perry qualified for his second NCAA event this season. Perry finished 2nd in the 200 with an NCAA-qualifying time of 21.36 seconds, and finished 2nd in the 55. Perry qualified for nationals in the 55 earlier this season.

Perry said his concentration was mostly on the 200.

"I was keyed up for this one all last night," Perry said. "I couldn't stop thinking about it."

NU jumper shines, breaks meet record

By Mike Andreasen
Staff Reporter

The beat goes on.

That was an appropriate theme for Nebraska triple jumper Renita Robinson, as she shined at the Big Eight Championships this weekend at the Bob Devaney Sports Center by winning her third consecutive triple jump title. The senior from Los Angeles, Calif., broke her own meet record with a leap of 42-feet-1/2.

Robinson's feat propelled the Nebraska women to their 10th-consecutive Big Eight indoor championship. The Nebraska men, behind a victory by Dieudonne Kwizera in the

1,000-meter run, also claimed their third-consecutive title.

Robinson said she would have liked to have had tighter competition. Her performance easily outdistanced that accomplished by Kansas State's Carla Shaanon, who finished 2nd with a leap of 40-feet, 5-inches.

"I wasn't that enthusiastic going into the final round," Robinson said. "I even called one of my friends over to talk to me and get me pumped up."

Robinson said a motivational speech by Nebraska track coach Gary Pepin also didn't hurt her cause.

"It's always good to know you have a coach backing you," Robinson said. "Sometimes you start feel-

ing like this is a job and you're not appreciated."

Pepin said Robinson's record-setting performance was not a shock to him.

"She's one of those people who you think will always come through for you," Pepin said. "I've felt she's been one of the best triple jumpers not only in the conference, but in the country as well for the last three years."

Nee says victory keeps hopes alive

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1:37 left.

The Huskers then had to withstand missed free throws down the stretch to hold off Iowa State. Johnson's six free throws in the game's closing seconds sealed the win for Nebraska.

Scales led Nebraska with 18 points. Van Poelgeest added 12 points, while King and Pete Manning contributed 11 and 10 points respectively.

King pulled down a game-high nine rebounds for Nebraska.



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