

Cornhusker wins all-around title

KIRKSEY from Page 6

During Friday night's team competition, Illinois captured the national title with a 283.40 score, beating defending champion Nebraska by 1.10 points. Minnesota was 3rd with a 280.55 score.

Kirksey said that competing in the all-around after finishing 2nd in the team race wasn't difficult, because he was performing compulsories.

"That was a big factor," he said. "I've been working the compulsories very hard. I knew with the lead I had (from Thursday's optional competition) -- which wasn't very much -- if I could just go out and have a halfway decent meet and hit my routines, then I would be able to claim the title."

The top-two all-around finishers from last season -- Miguel Rubio and Alfonso Rodriguez of Houston Baptist University -- did not com-

pete in the all-around competition because of injuries. Rubio has been slowed by a wrist injury, while Rodriguez has a sore shoulder. Houston Baptist coach Hutch Dvorak kept them from competing in the all-around to concentrate on Saturday night's individual competition.

"To be honest, I think that had a lot to do with me winning," Kirksey said.

All three previous Nebraska all-around winners captured the title during their junior seasons and then won the Nissen Award the following year. The Nissen is annually awarded to the nation's top senior collegiate gymnast. Kirksey, though, isn't concerned about that -- at least not now.

"Maybe it hasn't hit me yet that I actually won," he said. "I don't feel that much different."

Kirksey looked down at the floor and smiled.



Allen Schaben/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Mark Perry battles Missouri's Peter Ifeduba in the 200-meter dash. Perry won the event in 21.48 seconds, while Ifeduba finished 3rd.

Robinson surprises herself, sets two track records at Ed Weir

By Darran Fowler
Staff Reporter

Without much effort, Nebraska All-America triple jumper Renita Robinson established two records at Saturday's outdoor track meet at Ed Weir Stadium.

Robinson bettered stadium and school records in winning the triple jump with a distance of 42-feet, 9-inches on her final jump. The jump was also under the NCAA qualifying standard of 41-4 1/4.

Robinson, who held the previous school record of 42-5 1/2 set in 1987, surpassed the stadium record of 40-1 1/2 set in 1985 by Wisconsin's Sharon Dollins.

Robinson said her performance was a surprise because she was not as excited as she usually is when competing in the triple jump.

"I'm real pleased considering I felt very lachrymose going in," Robinson said. "I was real excited about my performance today."

Robinson's record-setting performance contributed to Nebraska's winning in the four-team women's standings with 81 points. Big Eight Conference rivals Kansas State and Missouri finished in 2nd and 3rd place with 49 1/2 and 43 1/2 points respectively. Wyoming had 11 points.

Nebraska won the men's five-team competition by scoring 104 points. Kansas State was 2nd with 81 points and Minnesota 3rd with 55 1/2 points. Missouri was 4th scoring 30 points and Wyoming 5th with 14 1/2 points.

Nebraska coach Gary Pepin said he was pleased because the Cornhuskers were competitive despite being without some key performers in the meet.

"We had a lot of people who didn't compete, so I was real pleased we did as well as we did," Pepin said.

After a back injury that slowed her training during the indoor season, Robinson said she is still trying to increase her speed.

"Speed-wise I'm not quite there yet," she said. "I really haven't put speed and strength together and used them effectively yet."

Pepin said he was not surprised by Robinson's jump.

"That's essentially where she was a year ago, so that's not surprising that she jumped what she did," he said.

The Cornhusker women also picked up wins from Michele Marthaler in the 10,000-meter run with a time of 35:45.15, Beth Webster in the 400 with a time of 56.00 and Sammie Resh in the 1,500 with a time of 4:25.62.

Also winning for the Huskers were Toyia Barnes in discus with a toss of 163-5, Tanya Lidy in the long jump with a leap of 20-5 and Linetta Wilson in the 400 hurdles with a NCAA qualifying time of 58.43.

In addition, the Husker 1,600 relay team consisting of Ximena Restrepo, Webster, Lidy and Wilson were victorious with a clocking of 3:43.56.

Webster's win in the quarter was only the second time she had run the open 400 at the collegiate level, she said.

Webster said she did not want to run the race, adding that her lack of experience in the event had her skeptical about her strategy going into the race.

"It felt pretty good," Webster said. "I was kind of scared going into it... should I go out

fast or should I save it for the end? ... I just ran my race."

Barnes said her win in the discus was pleasing because she defeated Kansas State's Angie Miller, who had registered the second-best throw in the conference coming into the meet. Miller placed second in the discus with a throw of 159.3.

"It's always an incentive to compete against someone in the conference who is leading," Barnes said.

Senior Dale Burrage was a three-time winner for the Cornhusker men winning the 110 and 400 hurdles in 14.13 and 52.42 respectively. He also teamed with Mark Jackson, John Gerber and Dieudonne' Kwizera in the 1,600 relay for a winning time of 3:11.87.

Also earning first place finishes for the Cornhuskers were Devin Kosmicki in the pole vault with a height of 16-6, Mark Perry in the 200 with a time of 21.48 and Joe Kirby in the steeplechase in 8.55.

Roddy James won the javelin with a distance of 208-8 and James Morris claimed the triple jump with leap of 52-8 1/4.

Nebraska's James Cobb, Morris, Gerber and Perry ran solo in the 400 relay for a time of 41.12.

Burrage said he was impressed with his performance in the 110 hurdles, adding that the 400 hurdles have always been his specialty.

Burrage said his recent times in the 110 hurdles have him thinking about the 13.87 NCAA qualifying time in the event.

"I've never thought about it (qualifying)," Burrage said. "This is just something I did for the team. Now I might have to reconsider. The 110's always just been a fun race for me."

Perry won the 200 by defeating Missouri's Peter Ifeduba, who came into the meet leading the conference in both 100 and 200. Ifeduba, who ended up 3rd behind Cobb in the 200, had edged Perry at the tape earlier in the 100.

"I knew it would be a pretty good show-down," Perry said. "In the 100 I felt pretty good in the first part of the race, but in the second part I tightened up at the end."

Perry said his strength compared to "In the next couple weeks we're going to do a lot of downhill running and that speeds up the leg frequency and the arm movement and the whole body has to work a lot harder," Perry said.

After missing the national qualifying standard in the steeplechase by an eighth of a second last year, Kirby said he has his sights on qualifying this season.

"It's still fairly early in the season right now," he said. "All I have to do is tone up and I should be able to hit the standard. I also need a little more competition and I'll be getting that real soon."

James, who is a freshman from Montrose, Scotland, said the outdoor season back home never began until June.

He said the disparity in season starting times means he is going to have to peak twice this year, because he wants to compete in next January's Commonwealth Games held in New Zealand. He said the qualifying time for the games is June through September.

"I'm just trying to peak for the Big Eight," James said. "Next year I hope to throw in the Commonwealth Games. So when I go home I want to peak again."

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