

NU sweeps Big Eight titles, shines at championships

By Todd Cooper
Staff Reporter

After the Nebraska track teams second consecutive sweep of the Big Eight outdoor titles, the only thing left was to shine at the NCAA track and field championships.

At the May 19 to 21 Big Eight outdoor meet in Norman, Okla.,

Nebraska's women won an 11th straight outdoor title, matching their string of titles indoors, with 161 points. The men scored 159 points for a third outdoor title in four years.

Later, 17 Cornhuskers qualified for nationals at Durham, N.C., May 30 to June 2, with 13 (eight men, five women) returning All-Americans. Both teams scored 17 points with the

men tying for 15th place, while the women placed 16th.

Actually, Nebraska's total of All-Americans was 10 as four Husker men shared one title. Finishing in the top eight makes an All-American.

Husker sophomores Mark Jackson, Ken Waller, Jerry Marsee and Tamas Molnar combined for a 1,600-meter relay time of 3:04.20, which placed

them third.

"That just shows that we have a lot of depth in that area," said Nebraska distance coach Jay Dirksen. "Next year, we'll really count on the sprints."

A fourth-place finish in the 400 made Molnar, from Nyiregyhoza, Hungary, a two-time All-American. His time of 45.68 set a school record,

and a Hungarian national record.

"If he stays healthy and continues to run well, he'll be one of the better quarter milers in the nation," Dirksen said. "He has a lot of experience for as young as he is."

Rick Schweiger, another sophomore, from Grand Island, became the Huskers first ever All-American in the decathlon with 7,331 points and eighth place.

Junior Jeff Hooper, whose discus throw of 177-feet, 8-inches, placed him eighth, and senior Harald Graham, who placed fifth in the steeplechase at 8:44.11, also were All-Americans.

In the steeplechase, Nebraska had the pre-meet favorite in senior Joe Kirby, but the senior from Jefferson City, Mo. tumbled and dropped out of the race.

On the women's side, Nebraska had two All-Americans in the javelin as seniors Nora Rockenbauer, of Hungary, and Sabrina Eames finished third and ninth. Eames, of Chehalis, Wash., was made All-America because she finished among the top eight U.S. athletes.

Junior Ximena Restrepo, of Medellin, Colombia, placed fourth in the 400, and her time of 51.64 was good for a Columbian national record.

"Restrepo ran a brilliant race," Dirksen said. "She's really a hard worker, and probably is the best woman athlete we have."

Senior Sammie Gdowski, after leading most of the race, finished fifth in the 10,000, and junior Meredy Porter's leap of 5-11 1/4 tied for sixth in the high jump.

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Deadline nears for sixth annual state games entries

Deadlines are nearing for participation in this year's sixth annual Cornhusker State Games, which will run July 16 to 22.

The First Tier Torch Run, the Games' opening event, starts June 29. Nebraska citizens of all ages and abilities interested in carrying the torch must register by June 20.

The deadlines for soccer, basketball, bowling, softball, tennis and volleyball have passed, and July 2 is the last day to register for all other sports. No late entries are accepted.

Those other sports include: aquatics, archery, badminton, boxing, chess, cycling, equestrian, fencing, golf, gymnastics, horseshoe pitching, martial arts, pocket billiards, racquetball, road race, roller skating, sailing, shooting, table tennis, track and field, triathlon, volkswalk and wrestling.

Each sport has its own entry fee requirements.

Entry information for the Torch Run and other events can be obtained by calling the Cornhusker Games office.

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when it comes to nicknames. If "Cornhuskers" was strange when you first heard it, surely the "Horned Frogs" of TCU or the "Owls" of Rice would elicit the same sort of reaction.

● On a similar note, Nebraska would be paralleled in its agricultural prowess. The addition of Texas A&M (Agriculture and Military) would provide a peer-relationship when it comes to agriculture, as well as some needed troops or military logistics

when it came to combating free-running Buffaloes or a certain Sooner Schooner.

● In the incrimination department, or those caught with their hands in the NCAA cookie jar, teams could share the same cell block, or, at least, the same probation officer. Maybe an All-Probation team could be named for the unfortunate ones.

● The merger would probably result in the most environmentally conscious conference in the nation. Texas A&M's military department could provide protection for Colorado's once-endangered Buffaloes. The Owls of Rice would certainly give a hoot, and of course, the Cornhuskers would keep the lands fruitful. If the conference could only find a way to keep the Cyclones (Iowa State) out of the air, the EPA would be forever grateful. The above ulterior motives for forming such a conference only undermine the true importance of the merger.

As the NCAA becomes bigger and bigger business through the 1990s, such alliances will be widespread.

The only problem with such unions will be in naming them. A proposed "Eleven is Enough" conference after Penn State joined the Big Ten probably won't catch on.

Who knows what this confederation should be properly named.

For now, let's just call it "Favorable."

Cooper is a Daily Nebraskan sports writer and columnist and will be a freshman news-editorial major this fall.



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