



Michelle Paulman/DN

Nebraska sprinter Kathy Travis lunges for the tape in the 200-meter dash at the Frank Sevigne Husker Invitational Saturday. Travis, a freshman, was edged out by Zundra Feagin, but won the 55-meter dash earlier.

## Nebraska freshman sprinting to success

By John Gardner  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska sprinter Kathy Travis has come into her own as a collegiate athlete, and she's only competed in four meets.

But Travis said she was just glad to be running for the Huskers.

"The feeling of this team is so great," Travis, a freshman from Lincoln Christian, said. "Everyone helps each other out all the time."

After a brilliant high school career, Travis pretty much could have gone anywhere to run. But being close to home appealed to her, she said.

"When the decision came of who to sign with, there was no doubt in my mind whatsoever to come to Nebraska," Travis said. "The competition on this team alone is incredible. This is definitely one of the best teams in the country."

So far in the indoor season, Travis has qualified for the NCAA meet in both the 55-meter dash and the 200. Her time of 6.86 in the 55 ranks her third in the entire nation. In the 200, Travis ran a 24.1, a personal best time, for a provisional qualifying mark.

Provisional means that if there aren't enough automatic qualifying marks at the end of the season, the top provisional times will be taken.

Travis achieved both of these marks last Saturday at the Frank Sevigne Husker Invitational, which is considered one of the top indoor meets in the country.

In that 55-meter race, Travis edged out Zundra Feagin of Nevada-Las Vegas, who was the top sprinter coming out of high school last season. Feagin came back to nip Travis at the tape in the 200.

Travis said all of the success hadn't really gotten to her yet.

"Whenever I might feel even a twinge of pride, I feel so lucky to be blessed by the Lord and to be able to run at a school like Nebraska," she

said.

Travis was never pushed in high school. Over her four-year high school career, Travis won 15 Class C Championships in the four events she ran in. She holds the All-Time Nebraska state records in the 100 (11.7), the 200 (24.5) and the 400 (55.78).

Over those four years, Travis also won nine All-Class gold medals and in 1991, was named the Female Athlete of the Year by The Omaha World-Herald and The Lincoln Journal.

Travis said she realized even then, however, that track was more fulfilling as a team sport.

"The biggest highlight in high school was when our mile-relay team won the All-Class gold when I was a senior," she said. "Track is mostly looked at as an individual sport, but when you can win as a team, it's really great."

"Running a relay is the only way you can do that."

Nebraska women's sprints coach Steve Rainbolt said he watched Travis quite a bit her senior year. At first glance, Rainbolt said, he thought she would be strongest in the 400. But, he said, that feeling has changed somewhat.

"Right now, she's really running strong in the short sprints," Rainbolt said. "Who knows, though. She could still do well in the 400."

Now that she is settled at Nebraska, Rainbolt said, Travis is a real joy to coach. Not only is she a great sprinter, but she is a great person in general, he said.

"Kathy is a very spirited runner," Rainbolt said. "It's a challenge in a lot of ways to coach her, but she runs with so much heart, it's just great to have the privilege to be a part of it."

The feelings are definitely mutual, Travis said.

"Coach (Rainbolt) is really great," she said. "He has really taught me a

See TRAVIS on 8

## South African swimmer says U.S. sport intense

By Susie Arth  
Staff Reporter

Since arriving at UNL, Seddon Keyter has grown accustomed to a slower lifestyle and faster swimming.

Keyter, a senior swimmer from Capetown, South Africa, said he found that swimming in the United States was more scientific and intense than in his homeland.

Weightlifting and two-a-day workouts, he said, were an adjustment for him.

Keyter, a two-time All-American, said he was pleased with the results of his new work ethic.

"I feel like an improved swimmer," he said. "I'm in a lot better shape, I'm stronger and I've been more consistent with my workouts."

Right now, Keyter said, he is concentrating on doing well in the Big Eight Championships and qualifying for the NCAA Championships.

Keyter said he needed to cut about seven-tenths of a second off his 50-meter freestyle, 1.5 seconds off his 100-meter freestyle and 1.0 second off his 100-meter backstroke to qualify for the championships in Indianapolis. The NCAA championships will be March 26-28.

After the Big Eight Championships, Keyter said he would return to South Africa for 2 1/2 weeks for the Olympic trials.

Keyter holds the national record in South Africa in the 100-meter backstroke.

Keyter said he was confident

about his upcoming challenges.

"The Big Eight Championships will be my first shave and taper meet this season," he said. "I think I have a pretty good chance of doing well."

Keyter said he would continue his taper until after the NCAA championships. The team members taper, or reduce workouts, so they can swim their best times of the season during the championships.

Keyter, who started swimming in grade school, said he participated in many sports in high school but did not specialize in swimming.

"I never made a commitment to swimming until arriving in the United States," he said.

Keyter, a senior architecture major, said he was recruited by Arizona State University and UNL after high school. He chose UNL, he said, because six swimmers from South Africa already were on the swimming team.

"I wanted to go where the transition would be easy," he said. "I don't think I could have made a better decision."

Keyter said he was recruited by UNL to swim the backstroke but now concentrated mainly on the 50-meter and 100-meter freestyle.

"I'm happy with the decision because I still get to work hard on the backstroke," he said.

Keyter said he hoped to stay in the United States and work for a

See KEYTER on 8

## Magic returns to sports realm

"Do you believe in miracles?" It seems like only yesterday, but it was 12 years ago when I heard Al Michaels screaming that question.

It happened in Lake Placid, N.Y., site of the 1980 Winter Olympics. I was only 10 years old, and I was transfixed as I sat in front of the television, watching the U.S. hockey team pull off an unbelievable upset of the powerful Soviet team.

I had never watched hockey before, but somehow, I understood the action, but didn't really understand the full effect of what the American team was actually achieving.

All I knew was that they won a game that they weren't supposed to. Two days later, I was once again anchored in front of the television, this time watching the United States defeat Finland to win the gold.

I can remember the chills that ran up my spine as the crowd chanted "U.S.A., U.S.A." It was a great day, and I was surging with national pride as I watched goalie Jim Craig, draped in an American flag, search for his father in the crowd.

You could read Craig's lips as he continually inquired "Where's my dad? Where's my dad?" his eyes scanning the crowd. It was the stuff that dreams are made of. One of those events you remember for the rest of your life.

All those memories were racing through my mind Sunday as I watched the first full day of Olympic competition. The same thing happens every four years. Especially during hockey.

Watching the United States' opening-game victory over Italy, I couldn't help but have a flashback to Lake Placid.

Maybe it had something to do with the fact that Mike Eruzione, one of

the stars of that 1980 team, was doing commentary for the game.

Eruzione will be covering the hockey team throughout the Olympics, so it's possible that I'll be mak-



Nick Hytrek

ing a lot of trips through time back to my living room back home.

But the chance of a repeat miracle this year is slim, or so the expert analysts say.

I guess that remains to be seen. Meanwhile, Eruzione said on Sunday's late-night Olympic roundup show that the 1980 team faced similar criticism.

Who knows? A break here or there and a little luck, and the United States might find itself witnessing another miracle.

That might be the reason the Olympics can be so enjoyable. Every four years, some athlete or team pulls off the improbable and becomes forever etched in our minds.

It's the stuff from which legends are born.

Speaking of legends, and magic for that matter, one can't help but be happy for Earvin "Magic" Johnson.

For 12 years, Magic was a mainstay for the Los Angeles Lakers, redefining the position of point guard along the way.

Never before had someone with his 6-foot-9 frame been given the job of running a team, but Johnson made it look easy, guiding the Lakers to five world championships in the 1980s.

An NBA highlight film isn't complete unless it includes a few of Magic's passes, which could make up a highlight film themselves.

All that came to an end last fall, when Magic announced his retirement because he had tested positive for HIV.

Fans didn't forget him, however, and he was voted in as a starter for Sunday's NBA All-Star Game in Orlando, Fla.

Magic expressed his desire to return to basketball for that one game to suit up for the Western Conference.

League Commissioner David Stern granted him that wish, and let Magic play.

Although he hadn't played competitively since his retirement, Magic said he had spent a lot of time just shooting baskets, usually by himself.

Sunday, he wasn't shooting alone. The televisions of America, if not tuned to the Olympics, were tuned to NBC to see if Magic still had it.

He still does.

By the end of the game, another chapter had been added to Magic's storybook career. He scored 25 points, dished out nine assists and was named the game's Most Valuable Player.

Rumors of his return to the Lakers have surfaced, but they should be treated as just that — rumors.

Magic's desire to return to the court is obvious. He already has stated that he plans to play in the Summer Olympics in Barcelona, Spain. Nothing other than that is known for sure.

One thing was obvious after Sunday, though — the basketball world misses Magic.

You can have your Michael Jor-

See HYTREK on 8