

# Huskers Go For Gold



Courtesy of UNL Photographic Services

Husker senior distance runner Fran ten Bensele (front) and senior middle distance runner Lisa Graham (back).

## Nebraska athletes hope New Orleans leads to Spain

By Jill O'Brien  
Staff reporter

This week, while the Midwest experiences the trials of summer storms and heat, some University of Nebraska-Lincoln track and field athletes are experiencing the storms and heat of the Olympic trials in New Orleans.

In preparation for the Summer Olympics at Barcelona, Spain, U.S. trials began June 19 and will continue through June 28.



Gary Pepin, head coach of track and field, said several Husker athletes in track and field met the qualifying standard to enter the Olympic trials and were flown to New Orleans by the U.S. Olympic committee to compete in this week's trials.

Assistant Coach Steve Rainbolt, who coaches multi-events and women's sprints and hurdles, went to New Orleans with the Husker athletes.

Rainbolt said there is not as much team spirit among the athletes this year as he has seen in the past.

The athletes were very tense, he said, more so than in other Olympic trials he had attended.

Rainbolt said the controversy surrounding sprinter Butch Reynolds, the suspended world-

record holder, could be the source of some of the strain.

Athletes walk around, watching and waiting, just "taking it all in," Rainbolt said.

On Tuesday though, the International Amateur Athletic Federation, the world governing body for track and field, waived its "contamination rule" to allow runners to compete against Reynolds.

Pepin said out of the top eight qualifying athletes, three will make the Olympic team. Students who don't advance to the next round shouldn't be discouraged.

"It's a significant accomplishment," Pepin said, "just to make it to the trials."

"It is very, very difficult for a collegiate to make the U.S. Olympic team, for a lot of reasons," Pepin said.

Pepin said one of the reasons it is difficult is that collegians have already gone through a long season—a long season that isn't necessarily conducive to an athlete who wants to make the Olympic team.

The students are really at a disadvantage, Pepin said.

"Not only do they have to go through that whole season, but they also had school and/or work to contend with," Pepin said.

For non-collegians, their daily lives are centered on preparing for the trials and games, but for students, life is centered on school.

"Academics first, and then track and field," Pepin said.

But the Husker athletes are doing well, in any case, Pepin said, although it is too early to anticipate any results.

●Kevin Coleman, a junior majoring in health,

physical education and recreation, will be throwing the shot put on Friday.

●Ken Waller, a senior in economics, already ran two rounds of the 400-meter, Rainbolt said.

The first round of the 400-meter was postponed several times while Reynolds brought his case to court in an effort to get clearance to compete.

●Rick Schwieger, a UNL senior in speech communication, will compete in the decathlon. Schwieger earned All-America honors in the decathlon for the second consecutive season at the NCAA outdoor meet in 1991.

●Lisa Graham, a senior in elementary education/early childhood education, ran the 1500-meter on Wednesday.

●Fran ten Bensele, a senior in advertising, finished seventh in the women's 3000-meter run and was named the top collegian.

"(She was) a red-shirted collegian," Pepin said, "which means she didn't compete for the University of Nebraska outdoors this year."

Ten Bensele is also scheduled to run in the 1500-meter.

●Shanelle Porter, UNL sophomore general studies major, ran in the 400-meter dash.

Porter ran in three rounds, Pepin said, but didn't make it in the final round.

●Cris Hall, a junior in pre-physical therapy, finished 10th in the heptathlon and was named the number one collegian. Hall will also be competing in the high jump.

●Susan Hedrick Rehm, a senior in health, physical education and recreation, ran one round in the 400 intermediate hurdles, but failed to advance, Pepin said.

●Kwani Stewart, a sophomore in pre-medi-

cine, is scheduled to run the 100-meter hurdle this week.

●Denise Lucas, a senior in human development, ran the 100-meter dash, but failed to advance. Lucas will compete later in the 200-meter dash.

Kathy Travis, Kim Walker and Andy Meyer, also in track and field, met the qualifying standards, but did not go to the trials.

A number of former UNL athletes are also competing in the trials. They include Linetta Wilson, who ran two rounds of the 400-meter hurdles; Stephanie Thomas, who took time off from the Army to compete in the 100-meter hurdle; and Harald Graham, who ran in the 3000-meter steeplechase, but did not advance.

A number of former UNL foreign students are also participating in the trials.

Stephen Golding and Merlene Ottey will be in the Jamaica trials.

"(Ottey) is probably the number one ranked sprinter in the world," Pepin said.

Other UNL foreign competitors include: Dieudonne Kwizera, for Central Africa; Karen Kruger, Jacques van Rensburg, Jean Verster and Craig Aiken for South Africa; Roddy James and Craig Duncan for Scotland; Tamas Molnar and Nora Rockenbauer for Hungary; Patricia Nadler and previous Olympian winner Denise Theimard for Switzerland; Yvonne van der Kolk for the Netherlands; Mark Jackson for Canada; Laura Wight for England and Prema Govindan for Singapore.

Ximena Restrepo will be in the Columbian trials. Pepin said Restrepo's husband, Grant Weil, will be competing in the shot put for Chile.