

# The Silver Sevigne

Women's Track



## Smith outduels NU's Ingram in two-day meet

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For certain, Trecia Smith isn't one for theatrics.

The Pittsburgh senior jumper owns Bob Devaney Sports Center records in the triple jump and long jump. She's got the Frank Sevigne Husker Invitational records, too. Smith has won both events at the Sevigne meet for the past three years.

The accolades extend on and on, and yet, Smith nary bats an eye when the questions come.

Instead, she shrugs her shoulders, gives a few glib answers and tells people that she wasn't even running half-speed on her takeoffs.

"I'm really not ever worried," Smith said after winning her third consecutive Sevigne triple jump competition on Saturday afternoon. She jumped 43 feet, 7 1/4 inches — almost a full foot more than her closest competitor, junior Dalhia Ingram of Nebraska.

"When I put my full run with my full speed together, I'm going to jump even better," Smith said. "My teammates told me, 'Trecia, you look like you're jogging down the runway.' But that works for me. It's getting me back in the flow."

With her jump, Smith automatically qualified for the NCAA meet. Ingram met an NCAA provisional qualifier with her mark of 42 feet, 8 inches.

On Friday in the long jump, Smith

Despite her difficulty in eclipsing Smith's marks, Ingram said it was a good meet for her, especially in the face of such premium competition.

"This was good experience," Ingram said. "I feel very ready for the Big 12s and the other meets."

Husker Coach Gary Pepin agreed.

"Dalhia will come back, one way or the other," Pepin said. "She's a competitor, always has been."

Elsewhere around the meet, the NU women's team was keyed on by several winning performances on the track and in the infield.

In the women's 800-meter run, Husker junior Stella Klassen ran her way into a NCAA provisional qualifying mark with a time of 2 minutes, 7.92 seconds.

In just her third time running the 800 this season, Klassen was less than half a second off the NCAA automatic qualifying time.

"That mark helps me a lot," she said. "It helps me to better myself. I'm really excited about it."

Going into the last lap, Klassen found herself in a neck-and-neck battle for position with Chantee Earl of Pitt. But down the backstretch, Klassen said, she felt a surge of energy that put the race solely into her possession.

"As soon as I got to the straightaway with one lap left, I felt I had it," Klassen said. "I felt strong and I was ready to work for those last 100 meters."

Klassen also ran in the anchor position on NU's 4x400 meter relay team that won the Sevigne meet championship on Saturday in a time of 3:40.41.

Fueled by sophomore sprinter Lesley Owusu, who had faltered on Friday in her 400-meter race, the NU team held off Kansas State to win by almost four seconds and gain an NCAA provisional mark.

"I was angry when I didn't finish my 400 on Friday," Owusu said following her performance in the 4x400. "But I knew I had to come back strong, and in the 4x4, it's very important for everyone to work together. I'm very happy with our performance."

Yet another bright spot in the Husker women's rotation was a comeback by freshman Becky Beachler, who finished second in the shot put.

After nearly a year on the sidelines following surgery to relieve patellartendinitis, Beachler put up a throw of 50 feet, 11 inches — an NCAA provisional qualifying mark.

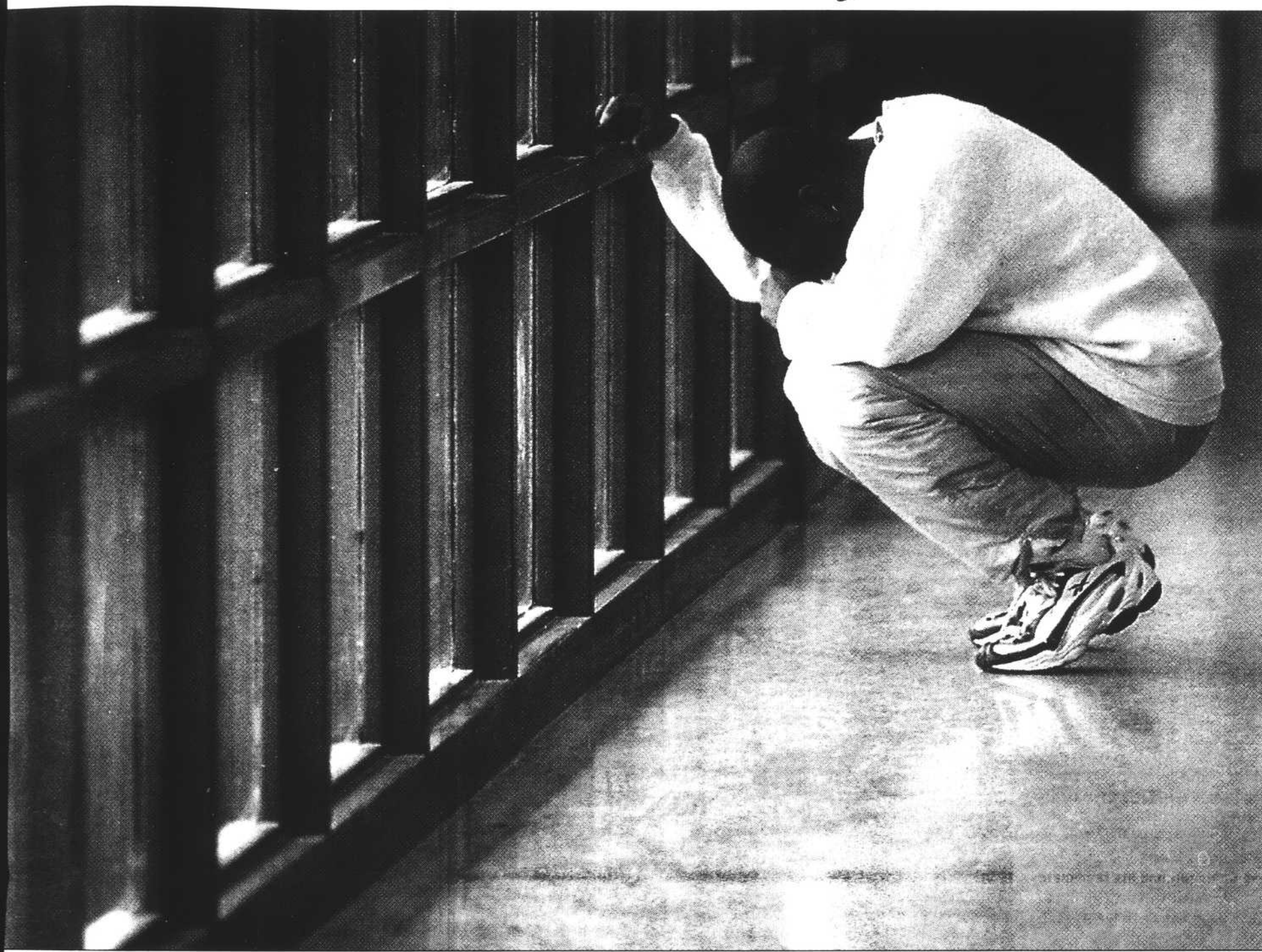
"That's the best she's looked since she was healthy and throwing well in high school," said NU Assistant Coach Mark Colligan. "She worried that maybe she'd forgotten what it was to be a competitor, but she hasn't."

Beachler said that while she was happy with her performance, she knows she can do better. Her throw fell just 2 1/4 inches short of the meet best by Cherre Hicks of Syracuse.

"I'm starting out kind of slow," she said. "I've got some room to grow. But this was a very big boost in confidence for me."

On the whole, Pepin said the Husker women put together a solid meet, especially in preparation for the Big 12 Conference meet on Feb. 19-20.

"It was pretty positive," Pepin said. "You have some good things happen and some not so good things happen. Overall, there were more positive than negative and now we've got a couple weeks to improve before the conference meet and we're making inroads into doing just that."



MATT MILLER/DN  
**RUNNERS CLEAR their first obstacle in the 60-meter hurdle finals on Saturday. Washington State's Arend Watkins soon pulled ahead to set the meet record.**



LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN  
**NEBRASKA'S WOMEN'S 4x400 meter relay team of Cheryl Harmon, Seneik Saavedra, Lesley Owusu and Stella Klassen embrace after rocking the competition by more than four seconds in the finals of the Frank Sevigne Husker Invite on Saturday.**

practiced the same routine and netted similar results, though this time she had to withstand a final charge from Ingram that just fell short.

With Ingram leading after the preliminary rounds, Smith, who owns the longest jump in the nation this year, went back and forth with Ingram in the finals until finally landing a leap of 20 feet, 9 3/4 inches. Ingram scratched on her final attempt but still gained an NCAA provisional mark with a jump of 20 feet, 3 3/4 inches.

"I just got kind of tired," Ingram said. "I was ready, but Trecia was just jumping very well in the last round and I was just ... tired."

Once again, Smith, running at half speed with only half of the runway in front of her, hit the NCAA automatic qualifying mark for the national meet.

Smith said that while warming up for the long jump, she felt a twitch that told her to take it easy instead of running at full speed.

"I'm very happy," Smith said. "But I didn't really feel like I was doing my all to compete out there. (Ingram) was the competitor. She did well."