

Chandler finding his top gear

CHANDLER from page 16

knows exactly what to he has to do to win the race.

He possesses a special set of gears that very few sprinters carry. He said he gets a feel for the competition and just does enough to win the race.

Maxwell knows Chandler has yet to reach his top gear.

"He has the ability to change gears when he is ready," Maxwell said. "Great sprinters can do that."

"Great sprinters can be running along and all of a sudden, they can move one meter to two to three meters ahead of the competition, and (Chandler) has the ability to do that."

In Chandler's 200-meter final at the Big 12 Conference meet, his abil-

ity was very evident.

Brandon Coutts of Baylor was the top-ranked 400-meter runner in the nation. As the 200-meter final began, Chandler fell behind to Coutts. Before the first 100 meters were up, Chandler had caught Coutts. By the end, he had a 10-yard lead.

"My strategy was to just run up on him quick because I knew he was strong, but I had more speed on him," Chandler said. "If I caught him early there wasn't any way he was going to catch up with me."

"I didn't know I beat him that bad until I watched the tape the day after."

And when Chandler wins a race, he does what many sprinters do - he taunts.

Sometimes he might taunt even

before he crosses the finish line.

Chandler's traditional head turn, which he calls "grillen," is becoming a more common sight to the rest of the nation.

It is something Chandler started during his junior college days in Alabama. His friends would sit in the bleachers behind the finish line and they would always tell him to do something for them.

When Chandler runs at the NCAA Indoor National Championship on March 10 and 11, he said the audience may see some "grillen."

"If I come through at the time I want, I will," Chandler said. "Its like a habit now, once I get to the line it's like I don't feel anybody."

Pepin, Chandler win Big 12 titles

From staff reports

After winning the men's and women's Big 12 Conference Indoor Championship, Nebraska took home two of the top honors in the conference as selected by the coaches.

Junior sprinter Chris Chandler was named the conference's top male performer while Coach Gary Pepin was named Big 12 Indoor Women's Coach of the Year.

Huskers 16th after first day

From staff reports

After one day of competition at the University of Texas-San Antonio Invitational, the Nebraska men's golf team is in 16th place, shooting a team score of 612 - 46 shots behind the tournament leader Baylor.

At the Southwest Classic, freshman Marty Smith is tied for 43rd after shooting a two-round total of 151, just 14 shots short of first place Brandon Sanders of Baylor.

Other Huskers performing well in the tournament are Rob Arthur and Seth Porter, who are both tied at 56th after firing a score of 154.

Training injuries sideline pitchers

(AP) It was a bad day for catchers at spring training, with Brook Fordyce of the Chicago White Sox and Tom Lampkin of the Seattle Mariners learning injuries will sideline them for four to six weeks each.

Fordyce broke a bone on the top of his left foot during an intrasquad game Tuesday in Tucson, Ariz., feeling it crack when he tried running from first base to second on a pitch in the dirt.

"I don't know what happened," Fordyce said. "I felt a crack and then it felt like my foot split in half."

The 29-year-old catcher, who signed a \$1.5 million, two-year contract with the White Sox on Nov. 17, is the team's No. 1 catcher.

"I can't say I'm frustrated because things happen," Fordyce said. "I just need to think about what I need to do to get back on the field as soon as possible."

Lampkin, Seattle's backup, needs arthroscopic surgery to repair torn cartilage in his right knee.

"This is a minor item they'll fix, and then I'll be ready for the rest of the season," he said in Peoria, Ariz.

He felt the pain this spring, but assumed nothing serious was wrong - until the team's first sliding drills on Sunday.

"I didn't hurt it during sliding drills, but I noticed it then," Lampkin said. "I already had blocked balls, caught pitchers and run after that. It was a full workout. I couldn't sleep that night and then I got up yesterday morning and knew something was wrong with it."

Los Angeles Dodgers reliever Mike Fetters, impressive in the early days of spring training, strained a left quadriceps muscle during a rundown in an intrasquad game in Vero Beach,

Fla.

"I'll be all right in a couple days, I think," said Fetters, a 35-year-old right-hander who signed a minor-league contract with the Dodgers in December. "I'll know more in the morning. I'm trying to make the ball club; I came into camp in the best shape of my life. This thing ain't going to stop me. I won't let it. I came here for one reason - to be a Dodger. I won't settle for anything less."

Dodgers manager Davey Johnson initially said he thought Fetters might be out for a couple of weeks. When informed of Fetters' appraisal, Johnson smiled and said, "What would you expect him to say? I hope it's not as severe as we thought."

After skipping his throwing program two days in a row because of shoulder stiffness, Philadelphia Phillies pitcher Curt Schilling felt well enough to continue his rehab Tuesday in Clearwater, Fla.

Schilling, who had arthroscopic surgery Dec. 13 and probably will miss at least the first six weeks of the season, played catch for 13 minutes with bullpen catcher Ramon Henderson.

"There was some tightness, but not enough to not throw," Schilling said. "It's just really kind of like a pinball. I have to bump and roll here, and whatever happens, happens and I've got to accept it."

Schilling lobbed 100 throws in the outfield grass at the Carpenter

Complex, the first 75 from 60 feet and the rest from 90 feet.

"Throwing 100 pitches at 20 percent was certainly better than no throws, but I want to keep pushing to start getting the workload that matters," Schilling said.

In nearby Dunedin, Toronto Blue Jays catcher Darren Fletcher started rehabilitation of his right knee less than 24 hours after arthroscopic surgery to repair a slight tear.

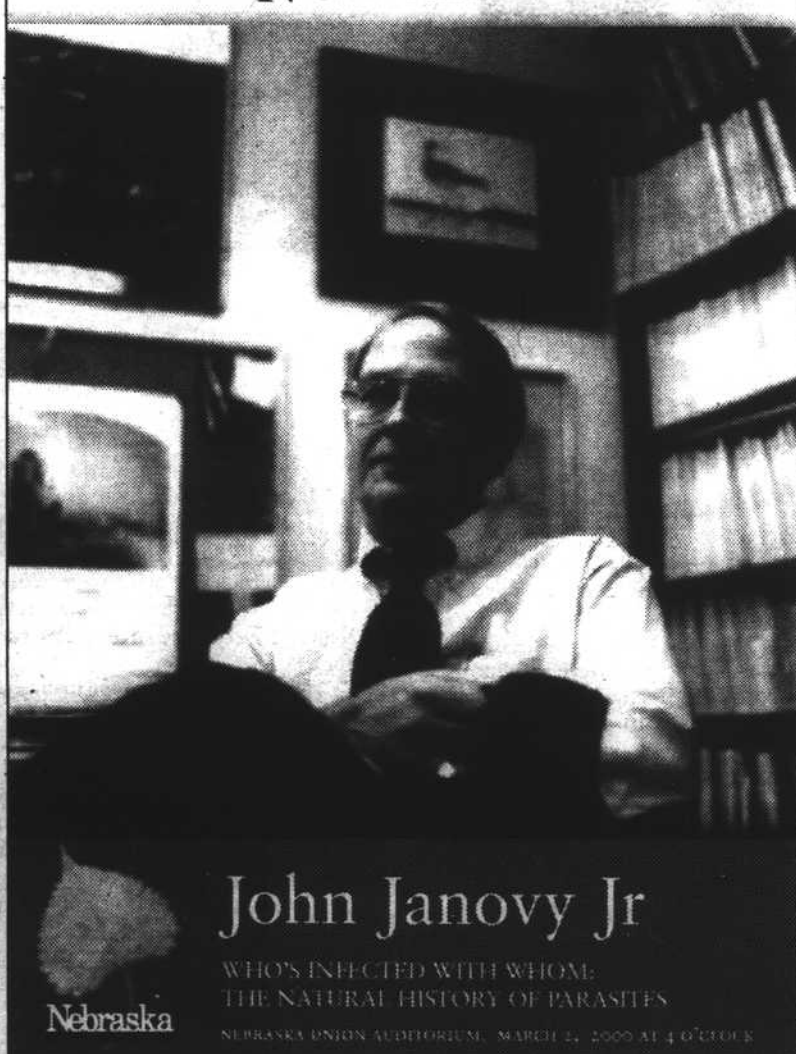
"I'm ready to go," Fletcher said. "I am shooting for two weeks. I want to be as close to game ready as I should normally be at that point. Today, I'm going to do some range of motion and lift some weights. Obviously, since I had the surgery less than 24 hours ago, the knee is going to be a little stiff."

Jason Dickson, who missed all of last season due to shoulder surgery, gave up three runs and five hits in just one third of an inning in the Anaheim Angels' opening intrasquad game.

In Jupiter, Fla., Montreal manager Felipe Alou said he expects Dustin Hermanson to pitch the regular season opener against Los Angeles on April 3.

At Port St. Lucie, the Mets said Al Leiter and Bobby J. Jones will remain behind when they open the season in Japan against the Cubs, then pitch the first two home games against San Diego the following week. John Rocker, suspended until May 1, agreed to a one-year contract with the Atlanta Braves.

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