

Nebraska's Kathryn Handrup, Ann Gaffigan and Amie Jorgenson hug after finishing the Woody Greeno Invitational on Saturday at Pioneers Park.



Josh Wolfe/DN

uphill downhill

By Josh Wolfe

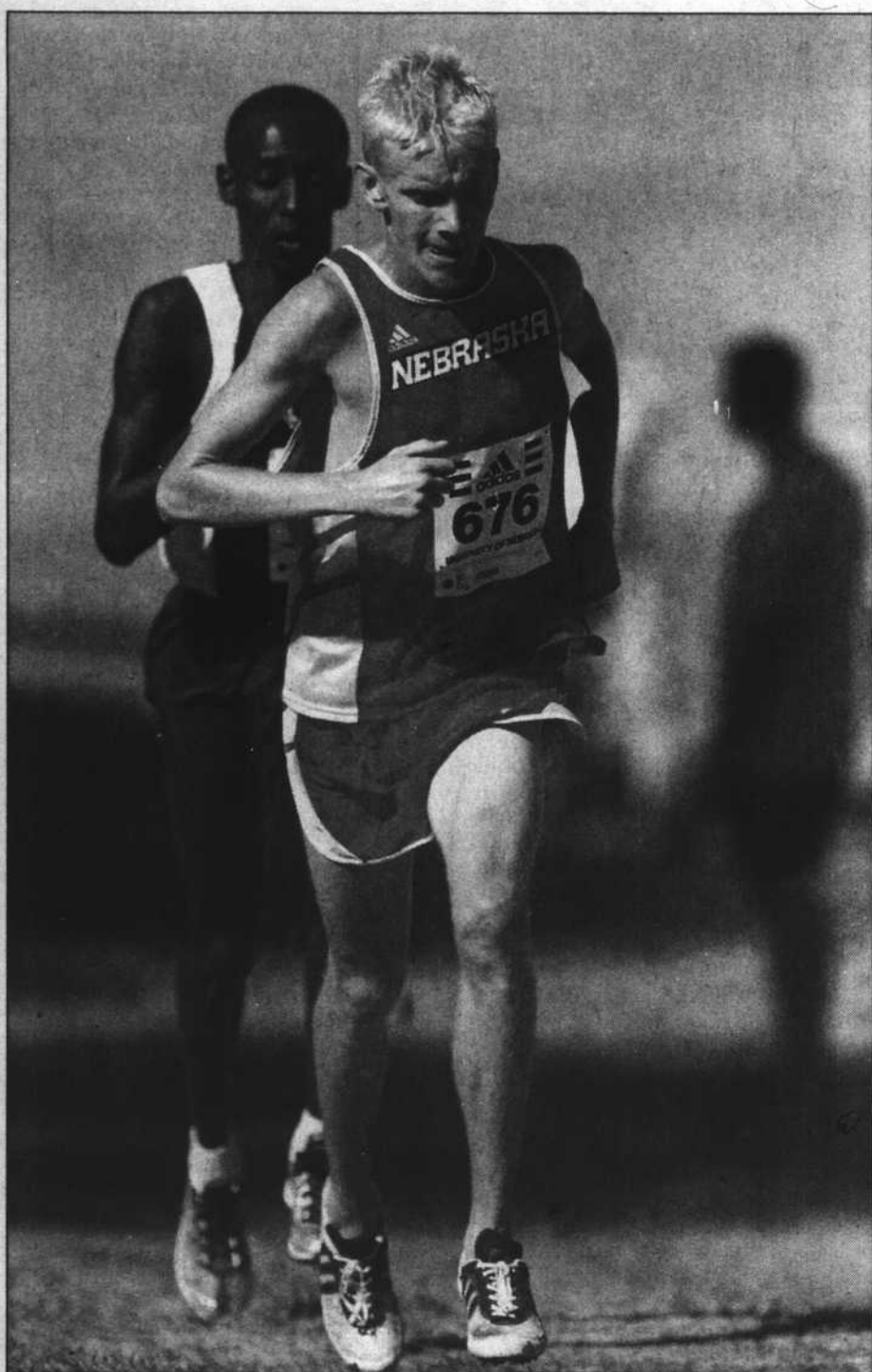
Saturday wasn't the typical day at the park. More than 600 competitors descended onto the park to take part in Nebraska's only home cross country meet of the year. The park was transformed into a maze of paths, beat down in the days prior to the meet by runners practicing the course. Many of the park's most scenic places lay along the course, but site-seeing wasn't on the agenda. Although the race turned out to be less of an endurance test and more of a scramble at the start. About

300 runners per race forced their way onto a path less than 20 feet across. NU senior Marcus Witter, who was favored going into the meet, attributed his No. 4 finish to the start, where he couldn't get the position he wanted. He was hoping to win his last home meet. The day turned out to be dominated by K-State, who won both the men's and women's individual titles. But as the season progresses, the Husker's physical conditioning will intensify, Husker Coach Jay Dirksen said. They should be primed for late-October competition.

Husker Melissa Drozda battles to the finish line on Saturday. The Nebraska women's team took second place out of 32 teams.



David Clasen/DN



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ABOVE: K-State runners lead the way through the foliage at Pioneers Park on Saturday. The team won first place in women's and placed second in the men's competition.

LEFT: NU runner Marcus Witter fights to hold his position on Saturday. Witter was in first place at the 5,000 meter mark but was unable to hold his position, taking fourth in the meet.