

◆ Loper men repeat as track champs; women take second

By **BUCK MAHONEY**

Hub Sports Editor

KEARNEY — The Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Indoor Track Championships came down to the last race, the 4x400 relay.

And it didn't look good for the two-time defending champion University of Nebraska at Kearney men's team.

The Lopers trailed Western State by five points. To win, UNK's relay team, which had the worst time in the conference, had to finish three places in front of Western State.

"**WE WERE** last coming in, and we knew we wanted to get higher than that," said Joel Janecek, who ran the second leg. "We were all ready to run out of our minds and get something done."

Joel Brandt, Janecek, George Washington and Joe Cooper did run out of their minds. They were never farther back than third and Western never got any higher than second-to-last. The result was a 131-130 win for the Lopers in the team standings.

"We dug deep, did what we could and

came out on top. We knew what we needed for the team and that was all that mattered," said Washington, who admitted he had kept an eye on Western State "every event, every point; I was here last night watching them racking up their long-distance points. And I was watching them today."

While Western was scoring its points in the distance races, the Lopers tallied points in the field events and occasional track events.

JANECEK WON the hurdles and Joel Farrand won the triple jump for the Lopers' only gold-medal performances in Saturday's competition. But many UNK athletes scored their personal bests, picking up points here and there.

"I didn't think it would be that close," said UNK coach Andy Meyer, who was named the conference men's Coach of the Year. "I thought if we were going to win it, it would be by more than that. And, if we were going to lose it, it would be by more than that."

"It was a very exciting meet and our ath-

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letes competed outstandingly."

Nothing was more exciting, though, than the last race. Athletes from UNK and Western State stood around the track cheering on their teams and knowing what was at stake.

"We won by one point in a race where I figured us for one point and we scored eight," Meyer said. "Those guys ran just like they knew what they were running for. They ran three seconds faster than they did all year, and I think every single one of them except one (ran personal records) on their splits."

While the men were celebrating their third straight indoor championship, the UNK women picked up their trophy after finishing second to Adams State, which won its eighth straight title.

"This is the best finish we've ever had on the women's side, and it was a pretty commanding second," Meyer said. "We knew coming into the meet the women had a good shot. It was the same case as the men. The

women had a huge meet."

Janet Boettcher completed her second straight double-gold performance by winning the shot put after winning the weight throw on Friday. She won both events last year as well.

In the triple jump, Renee Bergmeier had a personal best mark of 39 feet, edging teammate Leah Lewis, who has been bothered by a stress fracture in her foot. UNK took four of the top five spots in the triple jump with Jana Marco fourth and Marla Sharp fifth.

UNK also scored points in the hurdles and 55-meter dash to claim the runner-up trophy.

RMAC INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

WOMEN

Team Scores

Adams State 200, Nebraska-Kearney 111, Western State 81, Fort Hays State 77, Chadron State 16, Colorado School of Mines 9, Colorado-Colorado Springs 1.

Individual Results

55-METER DASH — 1, Deborah Borne, AS, 7.27. 4, (TIE) Renee Bergmeier, UNK, 7.46. 6, Sabrina Jensen, FHS, 7.51.

200 — 1, Deborah Borne, AS, 26.19.

400 — 1, Deborah Borne, AS, 59.35. 4, Katie Kienow, UNK, 1:01.46.

800 — 1, Sarah Parkey, AS, 2:16.00.

MILE — 1, Sarah Parkey, AS, 4:59.87.

3,000 — 1, Kim Bosen, AS, 9:59.13.

5,000 — 1, Kim Bosen, AS, 17:21.34.

DISTANCE MEDLEY RELAY — 1, Adams State. 5, UNK (Lynsey Liebig, Kristin Wane, Lesley Liebig, Kelly Johnson)

4x400 — 1, Adams State 4:04.01. 4, UNK (Torri Walford, Jana Marco, Sara Farrand, Katie Kienow) 4:10.43.

55-METER HURDLES — 1, Lori Harris, AS, 8.43. 4, Torri Walford, UNK, 8.71. 6, Jessica Reinsch, UNK, 8.91.

HIGH JUMP — 1, Janet Eck, FH, 5-5 $\frac{3}{4}$. 5, Leah Lewis, UNK, 5-1. 6, Sandy Lewandowski, UNK, 5-1.

POLE VAULT — 1, Lisa Davies, FH, 10-8. 2, Sandy Lewandowski, UNK, 10-8. 3, Jana Marco, UNK, 10-2. 4, Lea Jurgens, UNK, 8-8.

LONG JUMP — 1, Lori Harris, AS, 18-9 $\frac{1}{4}$. 2, Leah Lewis, UNK, 18-2 $\frac{3}{4}$. 3, Jana Marco, UNK, 17-11 $\frac{1}{4}$. 4, Renee Bergmeier, UNK, 17-10. 5, Jessica Reinsch, UNK, 17-6 $\frac{3}{4}$.

TRIPLE JUMP — 1, Renee Bergmeier, UNK, 39-0. 2, Leah Lewis, UNK, 38-4 $\frac{1}{2}$. 4, Jana Marco, UNK, 35-9. 5, Marla Sharp, UNK, 35-7 $\frac{1}{2}$.

SHOT PUT — 1, Janet Boettcher, UNK, 46-8. 4, Karen Koch, UNK, 42-1 $\frac{1}{2}$.

WEIGHT THROW — 1, Janet Boettcher, UNK, 58-8 $\frac{1}{2}$. 4, Timmerly Nielsen, UNK, 48- $\frac{1}{2}$.

MEN

Team Scores

Nebraska-Kearney 131, Western State 130, Fort Hays State 92, Colorado School of Mines 69, Adams State 53, Chadron State 19, Colorado-Colorado Springs 2.

Individual Results

55-METER DASH — 1, Mike Applehans, FHS, 6.30. 2, Christian Screen, UNK, 6.47. 4, (TIE) Dave Poparad, UNK, 6.54.

200 — 1, Mike Applehans, FHS, 21.91. 5, Joel

Janecek, UNK, 23.05.

400 — 1, Dayven Johnston, CSM, 49.63.

800 — 1, Ben Lengerich, CSM, 1:55.44. 4, Joe Cooper, UNK, 1:57.20.

MILE — 1, Michael Aish, WS, 4:13.85.

3,000 — 1, Michael Aish, WS, 8:22.96.

5,000 — 1, Michael Aish, WS, 14:28.21.

55-METER HIGH HURDLES — 1, Joel Janecek, UNK, 7.67. 3, Derek Bailey, UNK, 7.90. 4, Chris Schaaf, UNK, 8.07.

DISTANCE MEDLEY RELAY — 1, Western State 10:13.32. 4, UNK (Tony Neels, Kimble Traupe, Scott Haug, Scott Schneider) 10:46.30.

4x400 — 1, Colorado Mines 3:21.54. 2, UNK (Joel Brandt, George Washington, Joel Janecek, Joe Cooper) 3:25.43.

HIGH JUMP — 1, Kelly McCormack, WS, 6-9. 3, Jesse Kruger, UNK, 6-7. 5, Derek Bailey, UNK, 6-7.

POLE VAULT — 1, Jay Simpson, FHS, 15-7. 5, Brandon Zaruba, UNK, 14-7.

LONG JUMP — 1, Jeremy Chancellor, UNK, 23-4.

TRIPLE JUMP — 1, Joel Farrand, UNK, 47-4 $\frac{1}{4}$. 3, Jeremy Chancellor, UNK, 45-8 $\frac{1}{4}$.

SHOT PUT — 1, Chad Manning, FHS, 56-2 $\frac{1}{4}$. 2, Tyson Bertrand, UNK, 54-7 $\frac{1}{2}$. 3, Andy Williams, UNK, 54-2. 5, Kevin Edgren, UNK, 51-8.

WEIGHT THROW — 1, Tyson Bertrand, UNK, 54-10 $\frac{1}{2}$. 2, Kevin Edgren, UNK, 52-11 $\frac{1}{2}$. 3, Andy Williams, UNK, 49-8 $\frac{1}{2}$. 4, Jim DeLaet, UNK, 48-1 $\frac{1}{2}$. 5, Cody Goodrich, UNK, 47-8 $\frac{1}{2}$.