

KEARNEY — All it took for the University of Nebraska at Kearney men's track team to win its fifth straight Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference indoor track championship was a lot of personal bests.

A whole lot.

"We had a lot of PRs in this meet," said UNK coach Andy Meyer, who was named the conference coach of the year for the third time. "We found out this week Jesse Kruger had a stress fracture in his leg. He's been in a boot all week, then came out and high jumped 6-6 today and got second place. ... Chris Gannon wasn't even going to jump this year. He started jumping a month ago because he missed it, and came out and got second in the triple jump.

"THINGS LIKE that are the reason we won this meet."

The Lopers scored 118 points, while runner-up Western State had 97 1/2.

"The last few years ... we knew it was going to be close. But we knew if we did some good things, we were going to come out on top,"

Meyer said. "On paper we were an underdog coming into this meet. But we knew it was at home, and we knew it was going to help us a lot."

Mike Ford won the pole vault (15-2), John Laux the triple jump (46-7 1/2), Brian Meade the weight throw (57-11) and Allen Burrell the 200-meter dash (21.87).

Burrell also placed second in the 60 and was named the meet's Freshman of the Year.

"OUR MAIN goal was to win the team title. We had to get that to keep the tradition going," Burrell said. "There was a lot of pressure on us ... just to get it done."

The Lopers scored in every event shorter than a mile and in all the field events. And, they led from wire to wire, wrapping up the title well before the last few events.

By the end, all that was left was to cheer for the Loper women who came oh so close to making it a UNK sweep.

"We seniors, we talked about it a lot. We wanted it bad," said Leah Lewis, who won the triple jump (38-10 1/4), placed second in the high jump and placed third in the long jump. "We've seen us get second place a lot. But we came out and scored the highest point total the women have ever scored, and

we came as close as we ever have been to win it."

The Lopers, who have finished second three years in a row, led until the second-to-last race of the day, the 3,000, where Adams State scored 22 points. In the final score, Adams State won by 17 1/2 points.

"ADAMS STATE probably should have beaten us by 40. But we narrowed that down and beat Western, and Western is a good team," Meyer said.

Besides Lewis, Jessica Reinsch won the 60-meter hurdles (8.87) and the long jump (18-11 1/4). Timmery Nielsen won the shot put (43-8 3/4) and Megan Holmes won the weight throw (54-6 1/4).

"Honestly, I didn't even think we would get in the top two," Lewis said. "We knew that getting third would be hard, and to get second is a Godsend."

RMAC INDOOR TRACK

WOMEN

Team Scores

Adams State 132 1/2, Nebraska-Kearney 115, Western State 110 1/2, Fort Hays State 94, Chadron State 18, CU-Colorado Springs 16, Colo. Mines 7.

Individual results

60-METER DASH — 1, Erica Kuhn, FH, 7.77. 6, Amanda Maryott, UNK, 7.96. **200** — 1, Holly Fehrenbach, FHS, 25.96. **400** — 1, Deborah Borne, AS, 58.82. 6, Kate Semin, UNK, 1:01.01. **800** — 1, Victoria Martinez, AS, 2:18.48. 4, Kathryn Alt, UNK, 2:20.76. **MILE** — 1, Zoila Gomez, AS,

5:01.35. **3,000** — 1, Zoila Gomez, AS, 950.96. **5,000** — 1, Rebeka Mackie, WS, 17:25.52. **60-METER INT. HURDLES** — 1, Jessica Reinsch, AS, 8.87. 3, Torri Walford, UNK, 9.21.

4x100 — 1, Western State 4:02.89. 3, UNK 4:05.58. **DISTANCE MEDLEY** — 1, Adams State 11:51.12. 4, UNK 12:56.48.

HIGH JUMP — 1, Reidon Daily, WS, 5-6. 2, Leah Lewis, UNK, 5-4. 4, Lesley Liebig, UNK, 5-0. **POLE VAULT** — 1, Kollisa McVay, FH, 10-0. **LONG JUMP** — 1, Jessica Reinsch, UNK, 18-11 1/4. 3, Leah Lewis, UNK, 18-11 1/4. **TRIPLE JUMP** — 1, Leah Lewis, UNK, 38-10 1/4. 3, Kate Semin, UNK, 35-11. 5, Amanda Kreikmeier, UNK, 34-7 1/2. **SHOT PUT** — 1, Timmery Nielsen, UNK, 43-8 3/4. 4, Karen Koch, UNK, 40-11 1/2. **WEIGHT THROW** — 1, Megan Holmes, UNK, 54-6 1/4. 3, Amber Tiefenthaler, UNK, 52-1 1/2. 4, Timmery Nielsen, UNK, 50-8 1/2. 5, LeAnne Fritche, UNK, 47-4.

MEN

Team Scores

Nebraska-Kearney 118, Western State 97 1/2, Fort Hays State 86 1/2, Adams State 85, Colorado Mines 65, Chadron State 38, CU-Colorado Springs 6.

Individual results

60-METER DASH — 1, Mike Appelhans, FH, 6.81. 2, Allen Burrell, UNK, 6.82. 4, Garth Mine, UNK, 6.93. **200** — 1, Allen Burrell, UNK, 21.98. 4, Scott Schukar, UNK, 22.56. 5, Casey Marsh, UNK, 22.61. **400** — 1, Ben Lengerich, CSM, 49.16. 2, Casey Marsh, UNK, 50.26. **800** — 1, Ben Lengerich, CSM, 1:55.29. 6, Shannon Stenger, UNK, 1:58.60. **MILE** — 1, Rubin McRae, WS, 4:17.31. **3,000** — 1, Josh Eberly, WS, 8:29.40. **5,000** — 1, Michael Ash, WS, 14:18.24. **60-METER HIGH HURDLES** — 1, Tim Reetz, AS, 8.12. 4, Kris Schaaf, UNK, 8.62.

4x400 — 1, Colorado Mines 3:23.46. 4, UNK 3:30.17. **DISTANCE MEDLEY** — 1, Adams State 10:20.90. 6, UNK 10:40.28.

HIGH JUMP — 1, Tyson Parrott, CSM, 6-8. 2, Jesse Kruger, UNK, 6-6. **POLE VAULT** — 1, Mike Ford, UNK, 15-2. 5, Will Hood, UNK, 14-2. **LONG JUMP** — 1, Andrew Batten, AS, 23-2 1/4. 4, Clark Spanel, UNK, 22-9 1/2. **TRIPLE JUMP** — 1, John Laux, UNK, 46-7 3/4. 2, Chris Gannon, UNK, 44-11 1/4. 5, Nate Harms, UNK, 43-4. **SHOT PUT** — 1, Casey Seyfert, FH, 56-5 1/2. 2, Nate Wheat, UNK, 55-7. 3, Kurt Nielsen, UNK, 54-2. 6, Dave Smith, UNK, 50-4. **WEIGHT THROW** — 1, Brian Meade, UNK, 57-11. 5, Dave Smith, UNK, 56-1 1/2. 6, Nate Wheat, UNK, 54-1.