

Loper track teams second in RMAC

CHADRON — The University of Nebraska at Kearney men and women finished second Saturday at the 2006 Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships at Chadron.

The women scored 163 points to finish behind just Adams State (188) in the eight-team field. The Grizzlies won the title for the fifth straight year and the 14th time overall.

The Loper men tallied 131.66 points with Adams State tallying 159 points in the seven-team field. This is the Grizzlies' third straight men's indoor title and ninth overall.

UNK ended the two-day meet with eight first-place finishes by seven athletes.

The double winner was senior Randi Furman-Kuhn, who won the 55- and 200-meter dashes in times of 7.07 and 25.87 sec-

onds. In the 55, she edged ASC speedster TiaNecia Mosley (7.19) while teammate Amber Burke finished second in the 200 (25.88).

Other gold medalists for the women were Shauna Birchard in the shot (47-5) and Cali Cordes in the pole vault (11-8). In the shot put, they had to go to the second-best throw where Birchard edged out Chadron's Jacqueline Wells. A three-time NCAA runner-up, this is Birchard's first-ever RMAC indoor title.

Cordes won the vault for the second straight year and picks up her third RMAC indoor individual title.

IN INDIVIDUAL awards, Kearney High graduate Kelli Dring was named the Female Freshman of the Meet. She placed second in the long jump, fifth in the triple

jump and was seventh in the 55-meter dash. Dring also ran the second leg on the Lopers' 4x400 relay that finished fifth.

FOR THE LOPER men, Al Stahlnecker won the 55-meter high hurdles, Lance Pfeiffer the shot put and Dakota Cochrane the pole vault.

Stahlnecker ran a season-best 7.65 to beat out Chadron's Brandon Harrington (7.81) for the gold. Pfeiffer, in his third attempt, tossed the shot a school-record 60-0 $\frac{3}{4}$. Also an RMAC meet and facility record, it's the second best throw in Division II this year. Nate Wheat held the Loper indoor shot record with a mark of 58-11 $\frac{1}{4}$ thrown in 2004.

Cochrane cleared 16-0 $\frac{1}{4}$, the second-best mark in school history.

UNK had 18 athletes earn first-team All-RMAC honors (top three finish) and another 13 earn second-team accolades (fourth-sixth place).



Kelli Dring



Lance Pfeiffer