

## --- 'Top Accomplishment by a Seminole' --- **FSU Hurdler: 'Proved They're Human'**

Now that he is a co-holder of the world 50-yard high hurdles record, Florida State's Danny Smith has a goal in mind — work harder.

"When you're tough," he says, "you have to work harder to stay tough."

So when Smith returned to the Florida State campus Monday after equalling the 5.8 world mark and defeating such standout performers as U.S. Olympians Willie Davenport and Rod Milburn enroute, he was back at his old routine with the Seminole track squad.

"No, I don't think it changed me any," said Smith upon his return. "The only thing I did was to prove to myself that those other people (Davenport, Milburn et. al.) are human, just like me."

Smith explained that when he ran in last summer's Munich Olympic Games for the Bahamas, that he had placed the leading runners "on a pedestal" and that it hurt his own performance.

"Last weekend at the Toronto Star Maple Leaf Indoor Games though I just went into the meet to see how well I could do. I wasn't really worrying about the competition."

The Miami - Dade North Junior College transfer drew a heat that included Davenport, Hal Bostick of Florida and "two locals". He qualified easily, placing second behind Davenport.

"In the finals everything seemed normal," said the 6-2, 170 - pound native of Bimini.

"Usually my heart would start to beat fast, but this time I was relaxed. I figured that if I placed third or fourth in this field, it would be a good night."

The starter's gun misfired the first time and the runners were recalled. But Smith said he did not think it had much effect. "When the gun fired the second time I was ready and got off well."

He does not know when he moved in front, but "knew" when he hit the tape that he was first.

"I was just coming out of the tunnel after hitting the finishing wall when the announcer said something and the crowd gave a great big cheer. I guess it was about my time. I really

don't know, I was still happy just from winning."

It was not until a few minutes later when a TV interviewer came up that Smith was aware that he had tied the world record.

Seminole Coach Mike Long did not accompany his new star on the trip to Toronto but was extremely pleased when he heard the news. "I guess this is just about the greatest accomplishment ever attained by a track athlete at Florida State."

"I could not feel better about it. It is a great achievement."

Smith's feat was ever more remarkable in as much as he has been running the high hurdles for just 13 months, and it was almost an accident he got started.

"I thought it was a mistake," the 20 - year - old graduate of Miami Jackson High School said of the move made by his coach at Dade North, Roosevelt Richardson.

"I was just out messing around with the hurdles one afternoon when Coach Richardson saw me and came over. He asked me to go back and run them again."

"I was just hopping over them, but he felt I could run the hurdles, so I started running the hurdles. That was just last January (1972)."

Smith did not run his first competitive hurdles race until mid - February last year.

As a junior high athlete in Miami, he was primarily a jumper. In high school at Miami Jackson he became a

sprinter. He is working in both the sprints and hurdles for the Seminoles.

Although he was born in Bimini, Smith has lived with an aunt in Miami since he was five. His parents are still in the Bahamas and he is a citizen of that country. He won a spot as a hurdler and relay runner for his country's Olympic squad last summer.

It did not take him long to establish himself as an up - and - coming hurdler and he had offers from nearly a dozen colleges, including Southern Cal and Florida.

"Danny is really a quality person," said Seminole Coach Long. "He is very coachable and is doing an outstanding job."



Democrat Photo by Earl Warren

**Sets Hard Work as His Biggest Goal**  
... ace hurdler Danny Smith