

FSU's Roberson hangs on for relay win

Special to the Democrat

NEW YORK — Mike Roberson, Florida State's sensational junior sprinter-hurdler, shrugged off a strained hamstring injury and limped home with a victory in the one-mile relay in the Millrose Games Friday night.

Roberson had suffered the injury in the trials for the 60-yard hurdles, his specialty event, and FSU coach Dick Roberts said he instructed him to "just take the baton and get off the track."

"Mike usually runs the leadoff leg," said Roberts, "but I told him to run the anchor lap and just get out of the way. The trainer at the meet told us not to let him run on it anymore."

But instead, Roberson took baton with a big enough lead to limp around the track and finish ahead of the field with a winning time of 3:20.1. Walter McCoy ran the leadoff leg of the relay, followed by Ron Nelson, John Walker and Roberson.

"He told me 'I had to do it for the other guys . . . they just ran a heck of a race and I couldn't let them down,'" said Roberts. "His leg just got worse and worse as he went around . . . we had to pick him up and carry him off the track when it was over, that's how bad he was hurting."

Roberts said there was no way of knowing how long Roberson would be out, but he definitely won't be in action when the Tribe runs in a six-way meet tonight in Baton Rouge.