

McCoy star of the meet for Tribe

Special to The Democrat

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — "He was the class of the meet," said Florida State track coach Dick Roberts of freshman Walter McCoy. "Nobody could believe it."

McCoy, a former Florida high school champ in the 440-yard dash, had the best meet of his short college career Friday and Saturday at the Illini USTFF Classic, leading the Seminoles to national qualifying times in the mile and two-mile relay and running the fastest 600-yard dash in the nation this year.

McCoy started on Friday, running a 1:52.1 half-mile split (his first half mile in competition) as the two-mile relay team of Glenn Kettenacker, McCoy, Earl Carruthers and Lynn Brown finished second to Illinois with a time of 7:33.0.

Saturday, he set a meet and field house record of 1:08.9 in the 600, and an hour later anchored the mile relay team of Ron Nelson, Lynn Brown and John Walker to its fastest time of the season. The 3:12.3 was the third fastest run in the nation this year.

The mile relay team was running without Mike Roberson, sidelined with a minor kidney infection.

Kevin Walker finished second in the 60-yard dash in 6.2, after a photo finish with Michigan State's Randy Smith, and then placed third in the long jump at 23-9¼. Donnie Cook placed third in the three mile (13:53); Earl Carruthers placed fourth in the 1,000 (2:13.2); and John Walker missed qualifying for the March 10-11 NCAA nationals in Detroit by .2 seconds in both the 440 (5th in 48.6) and 600 (5th in 1:10.7).

The meet was FSU's last indoor competition before the nationals.