

FSU wins half-mile relay event

Special to The Democrat

DES MOINES, Ia. — Florida State's half-mile relay team, shattering its six-week-old school record, breezed to victory in the Drake Relays here Friday. The 400 meter relay team qualified for today's finals as well.

Meanwhile, Bradley Cooper placed third in the discus with a toss of 182-feet, 4 inches, and in the process surpassed the Drake record of 180-2 set by Parry O'Brien in 1968. Mac Wilkins won the event Friday with a record toss of 211 feet.

The 800 meter relay of Ron Nelson, Walter McCoy, Kevin Johnson and Mike Roberson — running the event as a team for the first time ever — clocked 1:23.23 in beating LSU's crack half-mile foursome with ease. LSU, which had beaten FSU in a cold and rainy preliminary, ran it in 1:24.50 in the final to finish second.

"We were ultra conservative with the exchanges in the prelims," said Coach Dick Roberts. "We didn't want to take any chances handling the baton. . . We knew our speed would qualify us.

"Then, in the finals we went after it."

Nelson, leading it off, ran his split in 21.0 seconds, followed by McCoy in 20.7, Johnson in 20.5 and Roberson in 20.6.

Nelson, Johnson and Roberson had teamed earlier this season with John Walker to set the school record with a time of 1:23.8.

The Seminoles' used the same conservative baton tactic in qualifying in the 400 meter relay, finishing second to Texas A&M in their heat.

However, all is not good news for the Seminoles. Jesse Forbes, who replaces McCoy on the 400 relay, has come down with a sore leg.

"I'll wait and see how he reacts," said Roberts, who added that his hands were tied as far as using McCoy in the 400 relay.

While many of the South's superstars are away at the Drake Relays this weekend, the Southeastern Collegiate Track and Field Classic at Florida State today figures to offer some of the lesser stars a chance to become super for a day.

A total of 16 teams have filed entries for the meet that opens with trials and preliminaries at 4 p.m. Finals start at 7:15 p.m. with the last event scheduled for 9:50.

A highlight of the late afternoon session will be an open age-group mile run for both men and women. The men's race starts at 4:30 and the women's run at 4:40 in age groups 24-under, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39 and 40-over. The winners get T-shirts. An entry fee of \$1 will also admit the contestants to the night session.

Florida State and Auburn, which are expected to duel head-to-head in at least three events at Drake today, are expected to also have the strongest contenders here.

However, the field here also includes a long list of entries from Georgia, Georgia Tech, LSU, South Carolina, Alabama, Florida, South Alabama, Troy State and Valdosta. Also a number of state junior colleges have entered their top athletes in preparation for next week's state championships which will be run in conjunction with the FSU-UF meet in Gainesville.

The Seminoles, who have seven members of their team at Drake, will still have Ken Lanier in the shot, Eric Allain in the javlin, Earl Caruthers, Donnie Cook and Lynn Brown in the distances and Larry Sayers in the high jump. Allain is the defending Metro javlin champ, while Cook and Sayers placed in last year's conference meet.

FSU's Roberson tops Glance in Drake Relays

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DES MOINES, Iowa — Swift and poised Walter McCoy and Mike Roberson of Florida State won the Drake Relays special invitational events here Saturday, sweeping to victory in impressive fashion.

McCoy, a freshman in command all the way, won the 400-meter invitational in FSU record time of 45.72, while Roberson beat Harvey Glance in a burst of speed at the finish.

Running into a five-to-seven mile-per-hour head wind in the 100, Roberson leaned at the tape to cover the distance in 10.33 seconds to Glance's 10.44.

The double Seminole victory here Saturday over shadowed the "negative fact" that the Seminoles' crack 400-meter relay team finished fourth in 40.5. The hobbled Seminoles, with

both Ron Nelson and Jesse Forbes running on tender hamstrings, were still less than a second off Auburn's winning pace of 39.32. Texas A&M finished second in 39.7 and Georgia third in 40.4.

"McCoy's victory was never in doubt," said FSU Coach Dick Roberts. "He was in the lead at the last turn and led all the way home.

"He showed exceptional composure. . . You'd never know he was a freshman," Roberts added. "Not only was it his best time, he also looked his best. . . very smooth."

Roberson, who won the 100 meters here a year ago, won again under very similar circumstances in beating Glance, his friend and foe, in their second head-to-head meeting this season.