

McCoy hurt; Roberson, Gomez set FSU track marks

By TOM COAT

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JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. — In its first meet of the season, Florida State set two indoor track school records and qualified for the NCAA indoor championships in four events.

However, defending NCAA 600-yard run champion Walter McCoy reinjured an ankle Saturday night in the second day of the East Tennessee Invitational Indoor track and field meet. He'll be examined today to determine the extent of the injury and whether he'll be forced to miss any meets, FSU track coach Dick Roberts said Sunday.

Before his injury, McCoy qualified for the NCAA finals in the 600 by running a 1:10.01, less than a second off his 1978 championship time. The time came in a qualifying heat and

was a Memorial Center Minidome track record. The record stood up through the final, but McCoy didn't.

"While winning the preliminary heat, he reinjured, to some degree, the ankle that troubled him in the past. We didn't try to run him anymore because we don't know the extent of the injury. We'll meet with the head trainer early tomorrow (today)," Roberts said.

If McCoy is unable to run next Saturday, FSU may be forced to pull its mile relay team out of the nationally televised U.S. Olympic Invitational meet in Madison Square Garden.

"If Walter can't run, there is a chance they (invitational officials) would accept the mile relay team we ran in Tennessee, based on its time there. If not, it would mean just Mike

(Roberson) would go in the 60-yard dash," Roberts said.

Roberson, a senior sprinter, got one of the FSU records. The other was set by freshman Robb Gomez, running the first track event of his FSU career.

Roberson ran a 6.19 electronically timed 60-yard dash and Gomez a 2:10.3 in the 1,000-yard run.

The record-setting performances highlighted a meet in which Roberson, McCoy, Gomez and a FSU mile relay team qualified for the NCAA championship meet in Detroit March 9, 10.

Roberson got his record in a photo-finish

with Olympian Harvey Glance of Auburn. The photo indicated Glance won by two hundredths of a second.

"I'm particularly happy and impressed by Mike's performance because this is the first 60-yard dash since he ran the event once as a freshman. He's been running the hurdles the other years," Roberts said.

Gomez broke Tommy Curtis' school record, while finishing sixth in the featured 1,000-yard run.

"Robb's time isn't a national placing time, but it was his first meet and he had to qualify to run in the finals. With a lap to go Robb was three seconds behind the leaders. At the tape he was only one second behind the winner.

"He used his kick to catch up and didn't have the wide turn that you have on an out-

door track, but he was right there. When he gets the confidence to run with the leaders for the body of the race, he'll be capable of doing some big things," Roberts said.

FSU's mile relay team of Mike Roberson, Ron Nelson, Palmer Simmons and Don Citroon (who substituted for the injured McCoy) qualified for the NCAA in 3:13, only one second off the school record. Roberson got FSU off to a fast start with a 47.6 quarter, Nelson ran a 47.6 and Simmons a 48.4 as FSU was locked in a duel with teams from Tennessee, Villanova and Nebraska.

"Citron is an intermediate hurdler and he did an excellent job, but he couldn't run with the anchor men from those teams. We would have had an excellent chance to win if we had

had to substitute him for one of the other runners and had Walter to run the anchor," Robert said.

FSU also got a notable performance from Leon Hutchins, a transfer from Valdosta State who must sit out this year. He competed unattached and triple jumped 51-11. That would have set an FSU school record by two inches.

Freshman Herb Wills ran a personal best of 14:04.5 in the three mile — only a week after finishing third in the Savannah Marathon in 2 hours 22 minutes.

Tallahassee's Hilmar Skagefield tied his personal best with a 15-6 pole vault, and Nelson just missed the

NCAA qualifying standard for the 440 with :48.74.

✓ **ALSO IN THE** East Tennessee meet, Margaret Groos of the University of Virginia set a collegiate record of 4:43.37 in the women's indoor mile. Groos, of Nashville, Tenn., bettered the mark of 4:52.51 set by

Kathy Twomey of Minnesota on a one-sixth-mile track.

✓ **OLYMPIAN** Todd Scully of Blacksburg, Va., tuning up for the 1980 games, broke his own meet mark in the mile walk with a time of 6:12.3 in the East Coast Invitational track and field meet.