

Florida Relays bring mixed luck to two Florida State relay teams

By RALPH DIAZ
Special to The Democrat

GAINESVILLE — Florida State's 400-meter relay team of Bobby Butler, Kelvin Johnson, Mike Roberson and Walter McCoy qualified for today's championship run by winning their heat in the Florida Relays Saturday.

The quartet's performance was the best Seminole showing in the relays, which conclude today at the University of Florida's Percy Beard Track.

The relay team's 40.09 run eased the disappointment FSU's sprint-medley team was feeling after being disqualified for a zone infraction. The Seminoles were leading in the first heat until Roberson and Johnson had problems passing the baton.

Roberson had put FSU in front and was trying to hand the baton to Johnson. However, Johnson already had accelerated and the baton fell to the ground.

"Our coach (Dick Roberts) told us not to run too hard because it was only a preliminary," Johnson said. "But Mike came in so hard that our timing was off. I was pulling away and he had to accelerate to catch up with me. He tried to catch up but I was out of the zone."

Florida and Florida A&M sprint-medley relay teams had better luck, as both qualified for today's finals. The Gator relay team of Floyd Brown, Hugo Miller, Ken Gray and Chuck Broughton clocked a time of 3:23.9 for the fastest run of the day.

In other events, FSU's four-mile relay team placed sixth in a time of 17:20.3. Herb Wills placed eighth out of 26 runners in the 10,000-meter run while FSU's Larry Greene placed 11th in the 5,000-meter run in a time of 14:54.6. UF's John Rogers finished fifth in that race in a time of 14:21.6.

FSU's Johnson, FAMU's Darrell Hayes and UF's Miller all qualified for today's 100-meter dash. UF and FAMU's 400-meter relay teams also qualified for today's championships.

In the pole vault competition, UF's Mark Bradley placed second with a vault of 16 feet, 3 inches. Teammate John Stewart placed third with a jump of 15-9 while FSU's Dusty Harmon placed sixth with a 15-3 leap.

Diego, 229 feet, 3 inches. 2, Stan Podoiski, St. Louis, 206-4. 3, Ed Healy, New York Athletic Club, 193-11½.

Steeplechase (Unseeded section) — 1, Doug Moreland, Pennsylvania, 8:58.9. 2, Joe Kaufman, Georgia, 9:07.6. 3, Darryl Eastman, Seminole Community College, 9:12.6.

5,000-meter run (Unseeded section) — 1, Jim Dougherty, unattached, 14:15.2. 2, Gary Siriano, Pittsburgh, 14:16.7. 3, Dennis Carmody, St. Johns, 14:18.5.

400-intermediate hurdles — 1, Brian Burn, Auburn, 52.33. 2, Julius Shine, Alabama, 52.34. 3, Dennis Watts, VMI, 52.48.

110-meter high hurdles — 1, Cliff Still, Lowell, 14.40. 2, Gene Miller, Auburn, 14.44. 3, Andy Walker, Florida, 14.52.

Pole vault — 1, Jim Lotan, Eastern Michigan, 16-3. 2, Mark Bradley, Florida, 16-3. 3, John Stewart, Florida, 15-9. 4, Paul Carpanini, Toronto, 15-9. 5, Tom Law, South Carolina State, 15-9.

4-mile relay — 1, Oregon TC, Jim Peterson, Rudy Chapa, Don Cleary, Matt Centrowitz, 16:24.01. 2, Auburn, 16:25.0. 3, Manhattan College, 16:30.8. 4, Murray State, 16:33.3. 5, East Tennessee 16:34.9.

Discus — 1, Mike Van Winkle, Georgia, 180-6. 2, Steve Dobson, Iowa, 172-11½. 3, Greg Martin, Alabama, 172-11. 4, Joseph Brice, Lowell, 171-1. 5, Bruce Washington, Arkansas State, 169-11.

10,000 meters — 1, Rudy Chapa, Oregon TC, 28:50.6. 2, Dick Buerkle, New York AC, 28:52.8. 3, Steve Foster, Athletic Affic, 28:58.7. 4, Gary Cohen, Feet First TC, 29:01.4. 5, Tony Bateman, Florida TC, 29:06.3.

Open Division

800 meter relay — 1, Athletic Affic, Don Merrick, Ray Robinson, Ronnie Taylor, Larry Myrick, 1:24.0. 2, Athletic Affic "B", 1:27.1. 3, Bermuda Striders, 1:28.7.

Oerter and Seminoles shine at Florida Relays

Florida relays

GAINESVILLE (AP) — The top three finishers, with results and affiliation, in Saturday's events of the Florida relays:

High School Division II

Four-mile relay — 1, Largo 17:33.9. 2, Astronaut 17:41.8. 3, Lato 18:00.7.

300-meter intermediate hurdles — 1, Lembia Kinsler, Vanguard, 37.9. 2, Erik Riley, Fort Myers, 37.9. 3, Robert Brown, King High School, 38.6. 4 (tie), Willie Gaines, Twin Lakes, 38.7; Kim Allens, Miami Carroll City, 38.7.

Open University Division

Hammer Throw — 1, Peter Galle, San

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GAINESVILLE — Al Oerter is experiencing what could best be called a second-wind in his life or, as Oerter prefers to say, it's "one of his life's magic moments."

The four-time Olympic gold medal discus thrower is making a comeback after retiring from competition 12 years ago. After his first performance of this year Sunday at the Florida Relays, Oerter showed he's not getting older, he's getting better.

Oerter, the only man to win a gold medal in four different Olympic games (1956, '60, '64, '68), placed second out of 11 competitors with a throw of 202 feet. Athletic Attic's Stan Cain won the event with a Relays record heave of 204-1 1/4.

While Oerter was on the comeback trail, Florida State was blazing some trials of its own by dominating the university division competition. The Seminoles won the 400-meter and mile relays and placed second in the two-mile relay.

Florida State track coach Dick Roberts said his team came to the relays Sunday to win three events. But the Seminoles had to settle for two as Auburn University barely edged the Seminoles in the two-mile relay. FSU finished in 7:35.9.

However, the Seminoles came back to win the 400 relay on the strength of Bobby Butler, Kevin Johnson, Mike Roberson and Walter McCoy, who won in a time of 40.28.

The Seminoles were favored in the mile relay and won as expected. FSU's foursome clocked 3:10.7 to finish two seconds in front of FAMU. In addition, Johnson placed third in the 100-meter dash in 10.84 seconds.

"I was happy with the performance of our team," Roberts said. "They came down here to run and did an excellent job."

Roberts had special praise for Roberson and McCoy.

"As long as Roberson and McCoy are healthy and we have other people to go with them, then you're in the ball game. They're a franchise between them," he said.

Another franchise, and a man who is used to winning, had an excuse for finishing second.

"Today I am an absolute rag," Oerter said. "Eastern Airlines did me in. They took 13 hours to get me here from New York. I need my rest at age 43."

But don't let his age or the fact that he has two daughters in college fool you. With a full head of brown hair and a muscular frame devoid of any bulges of fat, Oerter still looks like the man who was throwing the discus in the Olympics when most of his relay competitors Sunday were throwing toys in their cribs.

Oerter scoffed at those who say he

is too old to make a comeback. "I'll be around another 15 to 20 years," said Oerter, who refuses to compete in master's events because he "feels bad" about whipping the competition.

Oerter recently threw the discus for a personal best of 228 feet. He said his Relay appearance is the earliest start of his life. He wants to get to the point where he can consistently throw the discus 225 feet.

Strong winds and unaccustomed sunshine plagued Oerter Sunday.

"This is weather-shock for me. Two weeks ago I was throwing in snow," he said. "If this wind had turned around, we would have had several guys throw over 220."

Florida Relays

Open — Pre-Olympic Division

400 intermediate hurdles — 1, James Walker, Auburn Track Club, 50.1 (meet record; old record 51.75 set by Barry Alexia, Central Michigan, 1978). 2, Mike Shine, U.S. Army, 51.3. 3, Tim Hanlon, St. John University, 51.4. 4, Russell Holloway, Florida T.C., 51.9. 5, Wayne Angle, Florida T.C., 52.5.

Shot put — 1, Sam Walker, Athletic Attic, 65-0, (19.8 meters), (meet record; old record 63-8 1/4 set by Doug Price, Tampa Bay Track Club, 1975). 2, Gary England, Athletic Attic, 60-9 1/2 (18.52m). 3, Hal Miller, Knoxville T.C., 51-1 1/2 (15.58).

3,000 meter steeplechase — 1, Bill McCullough, Santa Monica T.C., 8:49.8. 2, Richard Charleston, Murray State, 8:55.8. 3, Eddie Wedderburn, Murray State, 8:56.3. 4, Charles Haulau, U.S. Navy, 9:12.9. 5, Dennis Fikes, Athletic Attic, 9:17.7.

100-meter dash — 1, Stanley Floyd, Auburn, 10:33. 2, Ray Robinson, Athletic Attic, 10:61. 3, Stanley Harris, Athletic Attic, 10:68. 4, Ernest Ross, Florida T.C., 10:71. 5, David Taylor, unattached, 10:97.

110-meter high hurdles — 1, John Long, unattached, 14.41. 2, Robert McGee, unattached, 14.62. 3, Tony Campbell, U.S. Marine Corps, 14.79. 4, Miguel Williams, unattached, 14.89. 5, Nate Robinson, Houston Athletics, 15.00.

University — Open

2-mile relay — 1, Auburn, Joe Toles, Larry Brooks, John Tuttle, Bob Hicks, 7:33.2. 2, Florida State 7:35.9. 3, Eastern Michigan, 7:36.1. 4, Pittsburgh, 7:39.1. 5, East Tennessee, 7:41.9.

4x100 relay — 1, Florida State, Bobby Butler, Kevin Johnson, Mike Roberson, Walter McCay, 40.28 (meet record; new event). 2, Auburn, 40.50. 3, Alabama, 40.56. 4, Georgia, 40.58. 5, Southeastern Louisiana, 41.0.

100 meter dash — 1, George Enchill, Southeastern Louisiana, 10.71. 2, Jeff Larkin, Georgia Tech, 10.76. 3, Kevin Johnson, Florida State, 10.84. 4, Samson Oyeledun, Southeastern La., 10.85. 5, Alfred Apee, Kentucky, 11.02.

University-Invitational

1,500 meters — 1, Jody Weatherwax, VMI, 3:51.8. 2, Ronnie Carroll, East Tennessee, 3:53.1. 3, Steve Housley, Bowling Green State, 3:55.5. 4, Greg Herzog, Auburn, 3:55.8. 5, Kevin Johnson, East Tennessee, 3:58.5.

110-meter high hurdles — 1, Kendrick Guild, 14.3. 2, Ken Williams, Penn., 14.4. 3, Gene Miller, Auburn, 14.4. 4, Andy Walker, Florida, 14.6. 5, Mike Bruce, 14.6.

University — Open Division

Long jump — 1, Andre Kernes, Middle Tennessee, 24-11 1/4. 2, Ricky Smith, Alabama State, 24-7 1/4. 3, Ike Levine, Alabama, 24-6. 4, Keith Burton, Eastern Kentucky, 24-3 1/4. 5, Richard McCants, South Carolina State 24-0 1/4.

High jump — 1, Ken Glover, Eastern Kentucky, 7-0. 2, Jeff Woodard, Alabama, 7-0. 3, Rick Diwees, Arkansas State, 7-0. 4, Milton Goode, Santa Fe Community College, 6-10. 5, Jay Gonzalez, Auburn, 6-10.

Shot put — 1, Tony Harlan, Manhattan College, 57-8 1/2. 2, Carlos Tandron, Georgia Tech, 56-0. 3, Russ Schaffstall, Auburn, 55-9 1/4. 4, Cosmo Tocci, Citadel, 54-7 1/4. 5, Steve Dobson, Iona, 54-2.

Javelin — 1, Barry Darling, Alabama, 241-2 1/2. 2, Jeff Roseme, VMI, 229-2. 3, Christopher Stone, Drexel University, 226-11. 4, Tony Persico, Iona, 213-1. 5, Mike Nees, Alabama, 212-2 1/2.

Distance medley relay — 1, Bowling Green, John Anich, James Well, Steve Housley, Kevin Ryan, 9:44.6. 2, Eastern Michigan, 9:53.4. 3, Iona College, 9:57.1. 4, Alabama, 9:59.2. 5, Florida State, 10:00.6.

880-meter relay — 1, Georgia, Melvin Lattany, Ricky Campbell, Darryl Simmons, Bill Breeding, 1:22.6; meet record, old record 1:22.9, North Carolina Central 1972, Auburn 1977. 2, Alabama, 1:23.0. 3, Penn., 1:25.2. 4, Howard University, 1:26.3. 5, Tuskegee Institute, 1:27.5.

Triple jump — 1, Byron Franklin, Auburn, 51-1. 2, Amp Brown, Georgia, 50-10 1/4. 3, Dave Zorin, Kentucky, 50-8. 4, Eugene Scott, VMI, 50-2 1/4. 5, Keith Burton, Eastern Kentucky, 50-1 1/4.

Open-Pre-Olympic

High jump — 1, Jim Pringle, Florida, 7-4 1/4 (2.28m) new meet record, old record 7-4 set by Bill Hansen, 1978. 2, James Barincan, Athletic Affic, 7-2 (2.185 m). 3, Bruce McDaniels, Athletic Affic, 7-2 (2.185m). 4, Mark Branch, unattached, 6-10 (2.08m). 5, Marvin Mays, Kentucky, 6-10 (2.08m).

Long jump — 1, Larry Myricks, Athletic Affic, 26-8 1/2 (8.17m), new meet record, old record 25-10 1/2 (7.885m) set by Tom Haynes, U.S. Army, 1976. 2, William Rea, Chicago T.C., 26-3 (8.00m). 3, Greg Artis, Middle Tennessee State, 25-10 3/4 (7.88m). 5, Stanley Holmes, Athletic Affic, 25-2 (7.67m).

200-meter dash — 1, Mike Roberson, Athletic Affic, 20.7. 2, Otis Melvin, East Carolina, 21.0. 3, Floyd Brown, Florida, 21.3. 4, Robert McGee, unattached, 21.4. 5, Russell Bailey, Eastern Michigan, 21.4.

Triple jump — 1, Robert Cannon, Indiana U., 55-3 3/4 (16.86m) meet record, old record 54-9 set by Tom Haynes, U.S. Army, 1976. 2, Paul Jordan, Houston Athletics, 54-8 1/4 (16.67m). 3, Tom Haynes, U.S. Army, 53-1 1/2 (16.19 m). 4, Jimmy Washington, Houston Athletics, 53-0 1/4 (16.15m). 5, Chris Goodwin, Eastern Kentucky T.C., 53-0 1/4 (16.15m).

Javelin — 1, Bruce Kennedy, San Jose All-Stars, 271-3 (82.68m) meet record, old record 267-6 set by Anthony Hall, Bruce T.C., 1976. 2, Robert Sing, Reading A.A., 258-1 (78.66m). 3, Len Gosza, unattached, 252-9 (77.04m). 4, Bill Schnedl, Athletic Affic, 248-8 (75.80m). 5, Jim Kirby, New York A.C., 247-8 (75.48m).

Discus — 1, Stan Cain, Athletic Affic, 204-1 1/2 (62.22 m), meet record, old record 201-1 set by John Powell, U.S. Army, 1976. 2, Al Oertler, New York A.C., 202, (61.74 m). 3, Arthur Swarts, Shore A.C., 200-9 1/2 (60.20 m). 4, Bradley Cooper, Athletic Affic, 196-6 (59.90m). 5, Pat McCulla, Kentucky, 181-3 1/2 (55.26m).

5,000 meters — 1, Alberto Salazar, Oregon Track Club, 14:04.3. 2, Louis Ostolaza, Manhattan College, 14:12.8. 3, Dick Buerkle, Athletic Attic, 14:23.1. 4, William Krohn, Manhattan C., 14:30.8. 5, Chase Van Valkenburg, Auburn, 14:40.6.

800 meters — 1, Sam Somerville, Manhattan C., 1:50.5. 2, Joe Coombs, D.C. International T.C., 1:51.4. 3, John Anich, Bowling Green State, 1:51.7. 4, Keith Francis, G. B. Track Club, 1:51.8. 5, Byron Dyce, Florida T.C., 1:52.0.

1,500 meters — 1, Craig Masback, not available, 3:47.2. 2, Kevin Ryun, Bowling Green, 3:47.3. 3, Ross Donoghue, St. Johns, 3:48.2. 4, Gene McCarthy, Athletic Attic, 3:51.1. 5, Michael Fussell, Georgia T.C., 3:53.5.

400 meters — 1, Willie Smith, Auburn T.C., 46.3. 2, Charles Oliver, Florida T.C., 46.3. 3, Stan Curry, East Carolina, 46.9. 4, Ronnie Harris, Athletic Attic, 48.7. 5, Noel Gray, Athletic Attic 49.1.

University Open

Shuttle hurdle relay — 1, Auburn (names not available), 56.8. 2, South Carolina State, 56.9. 3, Citadel, 58.3. 4, Arkansas State, 60.5.

1-mile relay — 1, Florida State, Ron Nelson, Melvin Boodie, Palmer Simmons, Walter McCoy, 3:10.7. 2, Florida A & M, 3:13.5. 3, East Carolina, 3:13.4. 4, Iowa, 3:13.5. 5, Middle Tennessee, 3:14.6.

Sprint medley relay — 1, Florida A&M, 3:24.4. 2, Florida, 3:25.3. 3, Arkansas State, 3:25.3. 4, Catholic Univ., 3:27.8. 5, Georgia Tech, 3:27.9.