

FSU track athletes bask in Sunshine

By GERALD ENSLEY

Democrat sportswriter

The Florida State men's track team was an inhospitable host Saturday, winning two events in meet-record times and qualifying three athletes for the NCAA meet in the first day of the Sunshine Relays.

FSU's two-mile relay team of Walter McCoy, Scott Lowe, Robb Gomez and Phillip Rolle won in a meet and track record time of 7:28.47. But the most impressive victory came from FSU's Herb Wills, who won the 10,000-meter run with a school, meet and track record time of 29:13.7 — also a national qualifying time.

Teammate Larry Greene also qualified for the nationals with a third-place time of 29:20.5. Wills, who alternated in the lead with Clem-

son's Julius Ogaro for most of the race, shook off Ogaro in the home stretch with a strong finishing kick.

"I just wanted to run a good time," said Wills, who dropped more than 10 seconds off his previous best in the event. "I was hoping it wouldn't take a kick to hold him off. That has never been my strong point.

"It was not a real good kick today, but it did the job."

Ogaro, 27, from Kenya, was chagrined after the race, although he also qualified for nationals with a time of 29:14.5.

"I'm so disappointed. I thought the finish line was way back up there," he said. "I was strong. I think I could have beat him if I knew (where the finish line was)."

Ogaro's coach, Sam Colson, had perhaps a better explanation.

"He told me he played a full game of soccer this morning," said Colson. "Plus he's run 200 miles this week. On his own. You can't stop him. He's a stud.

"I think he got confused at the end today."

While Wills and Ogaro turned the meet's longest race into a riveting battle, FSU's Rohn Stark created some excitement in the meet's toughest event, the decathlon.

Finishing second to Eastern Michigan's Gary Bastien, Stark turned in a personal-best, NCAA-qualifying point total of 7,449. Stark, a junior punter on the FSU football team who sat

out last track season with a medical redshirt (pulled stomach muscle), led by more than 100 points going into the last of the 10 decathlon events, the 1,500 meters. Stark ran the event in 5:10.2 to gain 464 points. Bastien ran a 4:35.8 to earn 684 points. Bastien's final total of 7,561 points set a meet record.

"I'm real satisfied; I had some good events," said Stark, who broke his school record of 7,081 while setting personal records in seven of the 10 events. "I'm not a real good 1,500 runner. The thing that hurt me was the discus and the javelin. I threw the disc 124 feet today and I usually do about 150. And my javelin was only 171, and I usually throw in the 190s.

"But this (NCAA qualifying total) is good. It takes the pressure off getting it in the first meet of the season. I won't have to stay fresh for every event. I can bust my tail where I need to."

In addition to the two-mile relay, 10,000 meters and decathlon, finals were staged in two other events. Oscho Ruffy of Appalachian State won the hammer throw with a heave of 178 feet 6½ inches. Indiana's Kevin Higdon topped FSU's Doug Overfelt in the 3,000-meter steeplechase, winning with a time of 8:58.88.

The meet, sponsored by Domino's Pizza, continues today with finals in 22 events. Among the notable quali-

fiers for today's events were FSU's Eric Riley (110-meter high hurdles and 400-meter intermediate hurdles), Harry Glenn (discus), Don Frost and Chip Wells (100 meters). Former FSU stars Brad Cooper (discus) and Vesco Bradley (100 meters) also qualified for the finals.

The meet does not record team scores, although squads from FSU, Indiana and Athletic Attic dominated Saturday. Today at 2:25 p.m., the meet's premier event, the 100-meter invitational, will include four of the world's top 10 sprinters. Former Olympian Willie Smith will compete in the 200 meters at 3:30.

Events begin at noon. Admission is free to FSU students with a validated

ID, \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and students.

FINALS

Hammer — 1. Oscho Ruffy (Appalachian State) 178-6½; 2. Eoin Walshe (Lafayette) 169-6; 3. Carl Wallin (Dartmouth T.C.) 145-6½.

Decathlon — 1. Gary Bastien (Eastern Michigan) 7,561 (meet record); 2. Rohn Stark (Florida State) 7,449; 3. John Whyte (Southern Illinois) 7,017.

3,000-meter steeplechase — 1. Kevin Higdon (Indiana) 8:58.88; 2. Doug Overfelt (Florida State) 9:05.09; 3. Darryl Eastman (South Alabama) 9:10.04.

Two-mile relay — Florida State (McCoy, Lowe, Gomez, Rolle) 7:28.47 (meet record); 2. East Tennessee State 7:31.34; 3. Indiana 7:35.70.

10,000 meters — 1. Herb Willis (Florida State) 29:13.7 (meet record); 2. Julius Ogaro (Clemson) 29:14.5; 3. Larry Greene (Florida State) 29:20.5.

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Sunshine meet ends in a cloud of controversy

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The final day of the Sunshine Relays began with rain and ended with a storm.

In between, under bright skies, there were a passel of brilliant performances.

Drizzling rain gave way to sunshine about an hour into the program Sunday as seven meet and four track records were set. Coupled with Saturday's preliminary totals, 10 meet and six track records were established.

As the first meet of the NCAA outdoor season, the event was a bang-up inaugural for 12 athletes in eight events whose performances met the qualifying standard for competing in the NCAA championships in June.

But some of the biggest excitement came from a pair of invitational races and the day's final event, the 4 x 400-meter relay. The race

closed the meet's curtains with a storm of protest.

The tempest began on the final lap. Florida State's Walter McCoy was carrying the baton and leading Indiana's Sunter Nix by a couple of strides on the backstretch. Fifty yards from the turn, Nix attempted to pass McCoy, who was in lane No. 1, on the inside. Nix appeared to run into McCoy's elbow. McCoy appeared to shove Nix back with that elbow.

McCoy remained in the lead, no foul was called and FSU finished a two-stride winner. McCoy and Nix exchanged words immediately after passing the finish line.

After the race, McCoy was, at first, incredulous.

"He tried to come inside just as we were fixing to go into the curve," McCoy said. "You

don't pass inside when a man's in No. 1. My elbows were just swinging as I was running. I had to speed up just to keep from hurting him."

Indiana coach Sam Bell saw it differently.

"That was a flagrant foul," Bell shouted at meet officials. "That was a terrible call. Their man forearmed our man. All it did was cost us the race."

"This is the second week in a row that he (McCoy) has forearmed our man and held him back."

Bell was referring to an incident two weeks ago at the NCAA indoor nationals. McCoy and Indiana's Tommy Hughes were involved in a shoving match during a one of the 600-yard heats that disqualified Hughes and caused McCoy, a former record-holder in the event, to fail to qualify for the finals.

Sunday, McCoy, normally easy-going, exploded as he approached and heard Bell's charges. McCoy jumped up and down in front of the officials and was adamant about his position.

"That's crazy. He's the one that fouled me," McCoy said. "I'm running in lane one, right on the edge so I can see him on both sides. He came under my arm. I didn't shove him."

Dick Robuino, the lane judge who let the bump stand, left the track quickly. Dave Rogers, supervisor of lane judges, supported his official's decision.

"We teach them not to call every tap or touch an infraction," said Rogers. "There's always going to be some jostling. From where I was (on the other side of the field) I saw

some tapping. But McCoy's a smart enough runner that he's not going to be running in lane two going into the curve. The guy tried to pass him inside. You can't do that."

Even with that semi-sour note, the meet was everything its promoters hoped it would be. It so impressed Tom Monaghan, president of sponsoring Domino's Pizza, that he promised "next year, we're going to bring in all the top stars. I'm getting pretty excited about this."

Included in the record-setters were the meet's most valuable performers, Herb Wills of FSU (track) and Marvin Mays of Kentucky (field). Both athletes' schools will receive \$500 awards from Domino's for their performances.

Saturday, Wills set a school, meet and track record with a time of 29:13.7 in the 10,000 meters. Mays high jumped 7 feet 4 1/4 inches Sunday to set meet and track records. Both qualified for nationals.

Other record-setters were Athletic Attic's James Walker in the 400-meter intermediate hurdles, Indiana's Dave Volz in the pole vault, Athletic Attic's Mike Roberson in the 200 meters, Duke's Bryan Alif in the 5,000 meters, FSU's 4 x 400-meter and two-mile relay teams, Indiana's four-mile relay team and Florida A&M's sprint medley team.

Few races were as exciting as the invitational 100- and 200-meter races, both won by Roberson, a former FSU All-American. Roberson out-chested two-time Olympian Harvey Glance at the wire of the 100 meters, and pulled away from two-time Olympian quarter-miler Willie Smith in the 200 meters.

"I started my lean before him," Roberson said after his victory over Glance. "Any time you go against a good runner, it pumps you up. It was a decent race."

Roberson, who said that he had

stepped up his distance running and started lifting weights this year to prevent the return of hamstring pulls that have bothered him in the past, was equally modest after his victory over Smith.

"All quarter-milers have good strength at the end; sprinters like me go out fast," he said. "I kept waiting for Willie to come on my back and pass me."

Roberson won the 100 meters in 10.1 and the 200 meters in 20.74. Both times were hand-held measurements because of the failure of the electronic timing device. The 200-meter time was recognized as a meet record.

Both runners-up were gracious.

"I kind of stumbled coming out of the blocks," said Glance, who, along with Roberson, turns 24 Saturday. "But he's a good runner. He didn't surprise me."

Smith, a consultant for Puma and part-time English teacher in Auburn, Ala., was pleased with his effort.

"Mike was the favorite, easy," said Smith. "I just wanted to get some sprint work in so I can determine how I'm coming, and adjust my training schedule."

Like his former Auburn teammate,

Glance, Smith's thoughts are set on the 1984 Olympics. Smith said he figures to close out his track career with a shot at making the U.S. team.

"I may lay off next year to let my body come down," said Smith, "but I'm very optimistic about making the team."

FINALS

110-meter high hurdles — 1. Nat Lundy (Indiana) 14.3; 2. Ron Daily (Seminole C.C.) 14.7; 3. Eric Riley (FSU) 14.7.

Distance medley relay — 1. East Tennessee State 9:52.25; 2. Indiana 9:56.30; 3. Dartmouth 10:05.13.

800 meters — 1. Wybo Lelieveld (Clemson) 1:49.04; 2. Palmer Simmons (Athletic Attic) 1:49.16; 3. Don Burns (unattached) 1:50.15.

Shuttle hurdle relay — 1. FSU (Hodges, Nugen, Burshtein, Riley) 1:04.4.

High jump — 1. Marvin Mays (Kentucky) 7-4 1/4; 2. Ron Jones (Indiana) 6-10; 3. Selby Andrews (Troy State) 6-10.

Long jump — 1. Mike Lee (FAMU) 24-5 1/2; 2. Vesco Bradley (Athletic Attic) 24-5 1/2; 3. Calvin Cook (FAMU) 23-10 3/4.

4x100-meter relay — 1. FSU (Wells, Taylor, Nelson, McCoy) 39.34; 2. FAMU 40.65; 3. East Carolina 41.06.

400-meter intermediate hurdles — 1. James Walker (Athletic Attic) 50.06; 2. Nat Lundy (Indiana) 50.65; 3. Bob McKay (East Tennessee State) 51.96.

Discus — 1. Brad Cooper (Athletic Attic) 195-7; 2. Pat McCulla (Kentucky) 188-5; 3. Jack Harkness (Clemson T.C.) 180-4.

100-meter dash — 1. Chip Wells (FSU)

10.40; 2. William Haynes (FAMU) 10.45; 3. Vesco Bradley (Athletic Attic) 10.45.

100-meter dash invitational — 1. Mike Roberson (Athletic Attic) 10.1; 2. Harvey Giance (Athletic Attic) 10.15; 3. Don Merrick (Athletic Attic) 10.3.

400-meter dash invitational — 1. Charles Oliver (Philadelphia Pioneers) 46.21; 2. Sunder Nix (Indiana) 46.84; 3. Reggie Ross (Athletic Attic) 46.88.

Pole vault — 1. Dave Volz (Indiana) 17-6; 2. Brian Slane (Ohio T.C.) 16-0; 3. Jim Lotan (Eastern Michigan) 16-0.

Sprint medley relay — 1. FAMU (Sancho, Sims, Wynn, Williams) 3:17.19; 2. FSU 3:17.23; 3. Indiana (3:27.03).

Triple jump — 1. Leon Hutchins (FSU) 50-4½; 2. Duane Bibbie (unattached) 49-2¾; 3. Robbie Mosely (Appalachian State) 48-1.

4x1-mile relay — Indiana (Shelton, Winkle, Spivey, Wellman) 16:34.76; 2. East Tennessee State 16:42.47; 3. FSU 17:07.66.

4x200-meter relay — 1. East Carolina (Cephas, Frazier, Watkins, Harris) 1:25.53; 2. Indiana 1:25.59; 3. Clemson 1:26.21.

200-meter dash invitational — 1. Mike Roberson (Athletic Attic) 20.74; 2. Willie Smith (Athletic Attic) 21.02; 3. Charles Oliver (Philadelphia Pioneers) 21.49.

Shot put — 1. Clarence Boone (Indiana) 56-5¾; 2. Jack Harkness (Clemson T.C.) 54-9; 3. Pacey Pet (Dartmouth) 52-5¾.

5,000 meters — 1. Bryan Alif (Duke) 14:06.42; 2. Terry Goodenough (Clemson) 14:06.64; 3. Jim Haughey (Clemson) 14:16.18.

Javelin — 1. Al Rigg (Indiana) 235-11½; 2. Mike Brown (Athletic Attic) 232-7; 3. Mike Hartle (Clemson) 225-8.

4x400-meter relay — 1. FSU (Nelson, Riley, Taylor, McCoy) 3:08.00; 2. Indiana 3:08.61; 3. FAMU 3:08.65.