

Hurdler sets FSU record in women's hurdles race

By TOM COAT

Democrat executive sports editor

BATON ROUGE, La. — Florida State freshman Tonja Brown won the long jump and set a school record in the 60-yard hurdles Saturday in the Pepsi Invitational Indoor Track Meet.

Florida State's Mike Roberson, Robb Gomez, Walter McCoy and the Seminoles' mile relay team were to compete in the meet's invitational meets Saturday night.

The FSU men's and women's teams complete a weekend of track in Louisiana today with scored team meets.

Brown was well off her form in the long jump, but still managed to win with a 17-5 leap. In the hurdles, her 8.1 tied for first, but she was given second by the judges. Brown also placed sixth in the quarter with a 59.0.

Nancy McCormac was another FSU winner, running a 2:17.9 half mile. Kathy Moore placed third in 2:21.0 and Darien Andreu fifth in 2:25.7.

OTHER FSU placers Saturday were: Nancy Townsend, 3rd in the high jump at 5-4 (which ties the FSU indoor record); freshman Eleanor Majors, 2nd in the shot put at 13.17 meters; Mary Kelly, 6th in the 60-yard hurdles at 8.5; and Andreu, 3rd in the mile with a personal best of 5:16.7.

Also in the afternoon session, FSU's John Citron placed second in the 60-yard hurdles at 7.4, and Brett Hoffman, a sophomore red-shirt running unattached, won the two-mile run in 9:05.6.

In today's men's meet, FSU faces four teams, LSU, North Texas State, Georgia Tech and Mississippi State. But Roberts is focusing on LSU.

The Seminoles suffered a rare loss to LSU last year, and while Roberts acknowledges the Tigers are tough at home, he has pointed his team for this meet, the first scored team meet of the year.

"WE'LL TAKE 33 athletes, everyone who we think can score in this meet," said Roberts, who added the performances today will go a long way in determining the squad for next week's Metro Conference championships in Lexington, Va.

"LSU, well they are close to invincible at home, but we have an excellent chance to win. LSU makes its reputation by bringing in good teams and then beating them."

Roberts, who said the meet would be two-way struggle between LSU and FSU, predicted the outcome would hinge on six events.

"In these events we're matching strength with strength, but that doesn't bother me at all," he said.

The events are the 60-yard dash, the mile and two-mile runs, the mile relay, 600-yard run and the shot put.

In the 60, Roberson will line up against three LSU sprinters. Included is Willie Turner, who defeated Olympian Harvey Glance as a freshman last year to win the Southeastern Conference 60-yard title. Mike Coney, a freshman who beat Turner in LSU's last meet, and Revey Scott also are entered.

In the mile, FSU's Cliff Cook and Tom Herron will be matched against LSU's John Quigley and Mike Vargas.

THE TWO MILE features FSU freshmen Herb Wills, recent winner of the National AAU Junior Cross Country title, and Doug Overfelt. They'll run against Mississippi State's John Stubbs and LSU's Mark Dobbins.

McCoy is matched against LSU's Greg Hill in the 600, and the Seminoles' Ken Lanier faces the Tigers' Jim Marshall in the shot put.

The final key event, the mile relay, will be the last one run.

"Who wins the meet will be decided on how the pivotal events go. Win, lose or draw, this year we're determined to give a good effort," said Roberts, who called last year's loss one of the most disappointing meets he's seen his Seminoles run.