

Tonja sparks victory for Lady Seminoles

Special to The Democrat

BATON ROUGE, La. — Florida State — sparked by record-setting freshman Tonja Brown — closed its women's indoor track season here Sunday with a victory over North Texas State and Louisiana State.

The Lady Seminoles had 39 points, well ahead of North Texas State's 31 and host LSU's 23.

Brown, who set a hand-timed FSU record Saturday afternoon in the 60-yard hurdles of the Pepsi Invitational here, recorded an electronically time school mark in the event Sunday. Her 8.36-second winning time was slower than Saturday's time, but will go into the books as the FSU indoor mark, Coach Paul Toran said.

Brown also set a school record in winning the long jump with a leap of 5.46 meters (17 feet, 11½ inches).

She also placed third Saturday night in the invitational 60-yard hurdles finals in 8.4 seconds.

"Tonja looks like she'll be ready for the outdoor season," Toran said. "The 60-yard hurdles are a little short for her. She's more of an intermediate hurdler, so I'm really pleased with what she's done so far."

Eleanor Majors, another freshman, won the shot put with a toss of

13.29 meters. Nancy Townsend picked up the Lady Seminoles' other first place with a 5-2 high jump.

In addition to the victories, FSU got a lot of points in the distance events.

"Our distance runners started to come around this weekend. They didn't run anything fantastic, but had a lot of solid miles," Toran said.

In the mile, FSU took 2nd, 3rd and 4th with Nancy McCormac running a 5:05.6, Kathy Moore a 5:06.1 and Leslie Sullivan a 5:10.6. In the half mile, Debbie Kemp took second in 2:24.8, Sullivan third in 2:26.6 and McCormac 4th in 2:26.6.

FSU also got points from: Townsend, 3rd in shot put, 10.63 meters; Mary Kelly, 2nd in long jump, 5.05 meters; Kelly, 4th in 60-yard hurdles, 8.68; and Kemp, 4th in quarter, :59.8.

In Saturday night's the Pepsi Invitational, FSU placers were: Sullivan, 2nd in mile, 5:05.05; Moore, 3rd in mile, 5:05.06; McCormac, 4th in mile, 5:13.0; Rose Giampalmo, 3rd in 880-yard run, 2:16.5; and Brown's third place in the 60-yard hurdles.

Florida State opens its outdoor season March 10 at home — if repairs are completed by then on Mike Long Track.