

Chilly weather doesn't spoil Domino's Relays

By David Whitley

Democrat staff writer

When you're hungry for track, even a cold Domino's Pizza Relays is pretty good.

The weather wasn't quite what most of the 80 or so teams had in mind when they came to Tallahassee, but overall, the first major outdoor meet of the year withstood the chill pretty well on Friday.

A Florida State javelin thrower stunned observers at Mike Long Track, though she didn't win her event. A former FSU discus thrower overcame a sore wrist to beat an Olympic bronze medalist, and FSU's distance medley relay team won the most competitive race of the day.

But don't think there's an FSU waltz going on. There's a long way to go until any team can say it ate up Domino's. The meat of the meet is today. Friday's happenings served as more of a warmup, though that might be the wrong word.

"It was warmer where we left," said one coach, who asked not to be named but whose jacket was from a school well

north of the Mason-Dixon line.

In all fairness, he said it after the sun had set. For most of the day it was bearable but breezy as long as you avoided the shade.

"It's ideal," said Tracy McHatton of Florida Junior College, who finished third in the 1,500 meters. "Cool and crisp."

The air was certainly conducive to throwing things, as FSU's Kari Keith finished second in the javelin and qualified for the NCAA outdoor meet. What makes her performance notable is that it was the second time the freshman from Fort Lauderdale had ever competed in the event. She came to FSU on a softball scholarship. In fact, she had to scurry over to a softball tournament after the track meet on Friday.

"With that performance today, she puts herself in the position of having

Olympic potential," said Terry Long, FSU's women's track coach. "For her to do what she did is remarkable."

One guy used to doing well at Mike Long Track is the Big Bahamian, Bradley Cooper, a former NCAA champion in the discus from FSU. Cooper is now a teacher in Nassau, where he said he's been winning meets by 90 feet. He won Friday by five, with a toss of 202-6. Along the way he beat John Powell, who finished third, the same spot he got in the 1976 Olympics.

"Bradley always gets excited when he comes back here," said FSU coach Dick Roberts.

He had to be fairly excited to overcome tendinitis in his right wrist. "Mind over matter, I guess," he said as he held an ice bag on the sore spot.

It was the discus invitational competition on Friday, an event built around Powell. Wrist willing, Cooper is scheduled to compete in the open discus competition today at 10 a.m. The running events begin at noon.

The 110 meter hurdles at 12:10 will match NCAA indoor champion Tom Wilcher of Michigan against Florida

A&M's Reggie Davis, FSU's Leander McKenzie and Arthur Blake, who's running unattached. McKenzie and Davis will renew their long-running battle in the 400 intermediate hurdles at 2:10.

It took a gutty homestretch kick by Ocky Clark for FSU to win the distance medley relay over Alabama and Western Michigan. The 10-lap race was close from the gun as Thomas Johnson, Carter Williams and George Gardner teamed up to give Clark the baton in first place for his 1,600-meter leg.

"I knew we had it then," said Johnson.

Not so sure of things was Clark, whose specialty is the 800 meters. His hope was to hang near enough until the end, when he would try to unleash a kick. It was barely enough as FSU beat Alabama by nine-thousandths of a second.

Clark's time worked out to roughly a 4:05 mile. He said the wind on the backstretch slowed him down. As for the cold, he echoed the sentiments of quite a few.

"I like it about 85 or 90," he said. "It's a little bit too cool for this."

Domino's Relays

The results from the Domino's Pizza Relays Friday.

DIVISION I Men

Decathlon: 1.Szabadhegy (Penn) 7470, 2.Huff (Western Illinois) 7454, 3.McConaghy (Otterbein) 5948.

Shuttle Hurdle Relay: 1.East Carolina (Parker-Southerland-Brown-White) 58.70, 2.Middle Tennessee 1:00.42, 3.Albany State 1:00.59.

Javelin: 1.Einarsson (Alabama) 249-11, 2.Ideoz (Unattached) 233-0, 3.Brown (Unattached) 211-4.

Distance medley: 1.Florida State (Johnson-Williams-Gardner, Clark) 9:45.83, 2.Alabama 9:45.92, 3.Western Michigan.

800 relay: 1.Alabama (Richardson-Talley-Cantrell-Hensen) 1:24.73, 2.D&I Sporting Goods 1:25.41, 3.Florida State 1:25.58.

Discus: 1.Cooper (Unattached) 202-6, 2.Erickson (Unattached) 60.09, 3.Powell (Unattached) 59.93.

10,000: 1.Platt (Edinboro) 29:44.4, 2.Slurr (Otterbein) 30:04.0, 3.Branan (Unattached) 30:05.

DIVISION II Men

Shot put: 1.Kortebein (Dartmouth) 52-3¼, 2.Wallin (Unattached) 50-4, 3.Poehlein (South Carolina) 50-¾.

400 hurdles: 1.Davis (Michigan) 53.18, 2.Murnin (Florida), 3.Field (Montclair State) 15.06.

Discus: Salisbury (Miami Dade South) 159-3½, 2.Morrison (Dartmouth) 152-4, 3.Soskowsky (DuPage) 151-11¼.

1,600 relay: 1.Citadel (Baker-Anderson-Dixon-Davis) 3:18.42, 2.Baldwin 3:20.46, 3.Florida A&M.

Long Jump: 1.Davis 23-9, 2.Johnson (Florida) 23-7½, 3.Noel (DuPage) 22-11½.

5,000: 1.Keohone (Dartmouth) 14:26.57, 2.Paskus (Dartmouth), 3.Aman (Dartmouth) 14:29.55.

High Jump: 1.Armagost (Florida) 6-8, 2.Vitello (Baldwin Wallace) 6-8, 3.Merola (Otterbein) 6-6.

Women

1,500: 1.Ayers (Miami, Ohio) 4:42.67, 2.Keller (Wooster) 4:52.43, 3.McHaffon (Fla. JC) 4:55.56.

400: 1.Girvan (FSU) 1:04.75, 2.Rosenbaum (East Tennessee) 1:06.08, 3. Critchfield (East Tennessee) 1:09.64.

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Thomas Johnson walked off the track late Saturday afternoon, bent over and tried to catch his breath. "It has been a long weekend," he said.

Long but eventful for Johnson and some of his Florida State teammates. They spent the past two days tearing through the Domino's Pizza Relays, which should have been renamed the Domino's Frozen Pizza Relays.

A stern northerly breeze chilled the spectators at Mike Long Track, but it had little apparent affect on the participants. Nothing seemed to be able to slow Johnson.

The stocky sophomore from Fort Lauderdale ran on four winning relays to be named men's co-MVP of the meet. The other half of the award went to teammate Ocky Clark, who was on three winning relays. FSU's Michelle Finn, who won the long jump, 100 meters and a leg on the winning 400-meter relay, was named the women's MVP.

Johnson's weekend began with a 400-meter leg in the distance medley on Friday. He followed Saturday

with an 800-meter run in the 3,200-meter relay and 400 in the sprint medley relay. All that, and he still wasn't tired when the 1,600-meter relay rolled around.

"No, it's a mental thing," he said. "I knew I could do it."

He did, holding off Florida A&M's Reggie Davis, who earlier had won the 400-meter hurdles by a couple of blinks over FSU's Leander McKenzie. By meet's end, Johnson admitted he was just about bushed.

"So am I," said Clark, who also had a right to be. He was FSU's designated caboose, the last runner in all of his races. The toughest for him was the 1,600-meter leg he had to run on Friday. Saturday's races were 800 meters, his specialty.

"My family was here from Sanford, and my teammates gave me a lead on every race, so I had plenty of help," he said. "I also have a lot of confidence when I run an 800. It's going to take a lot to run me down."

The Seminoles' four relay wins were more than any other team could manage, but they weren't all that

went on. Clemson's Mike Spiritoso set a new track record when he putted the shot 64 feet. Elliot Bikani of Fairleigh Dickinson edged Tallahassee's Larry Greene to win the 5,000-meter run in a meet-record 13:52.96, and Tallahassee's Walter McCoy, as he has done so often, won the open 400-meters in 45.93.

Sandwiched in between it all for the first time at Domino's was the women's competition. The relays were dominated by Alabama and FSU, while Western Michigan usually took the distance events.

But it may have been the last Domino's Relays for the women. In fact, it may have been the last Domino's Relays. The pizza company has said it is dropping its sponsorship. FSU coach Dick Roberts said Domino's is planning to re-evaluate that decision in a few months. If Domino's sticks with its plans, Roberts said a new sponsor will have to be found if the meet is to continue.

Roberts didn't want to dwell on the negatives, however, after a day filled with mostly positives for FSU. Especially heartwarming to him was Arthur Blake, who will be running for FSU next year after transferring from Florida this season.

Blake, the fastest high-school hurdler in history, won the 110-meter hurdles in 13.87. He edged McKen-

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Florida State track team finds cold Domino's pizza to its liking

zie and Davis, who both ran fast enough to qualify for the NCAA outdoor championship. They did the same in the 400-meter hurdles. Davis won that race in 49.93, but he had to pass McKenzie in the final 15 yards to do it.

"The main thing today was strength," said Davis, who needed a lot of it to do battle with the wind on the backstretch. "When I got there, I just said to myself, 'Oh my God.' I stayed on him (McKenzie) and he went over the last hurdle cleanly. I didn't. I had to gut it out and go."

FSU got a lot of mileage out of a select few during the meet. Carter Williams ran in three winning relays, while Kevin Gordon, Clark Waddell and George Gardner each took part in two.

"They had a job to do and they got it done," said Roberts. "Everything went pretty much as we'd hoped."

He stressed the hoped instead of planned. Roberts said that he would have taken it easier on his runners, many of whom just completed the indoor season last week.

"The Domino's is our show. We want to put on a good meet in addition to doing well ourselves," said Roberts.

As for Johnson, who will probably have to have the baton pried from his hand after this weekend, Roberts said, "If I didn't think he could handle what he was entered in, I wouldn't have done it."

Good thinking, as it turned out.

Domino's Pizza Relays

The results from the Domino's Pizza relays held at Mike Long Track Saturday.

DIVISION I Men

110 high hurdles: 1.Blake (Unattached) 13.87, 2.McKenzie (FSU) 13.87, 3.Davis (FAMU) 13.89.

110 high hurdles (open): 1.Talley (Alabama) 13.96, 2.White (Unattached) 15.02.

Discus: 1.Bogason (Alabama) 178-4, 2.Krauss (Michigan) 52.04, 3.Weber (Yale) 165-5.

Discus (open): 1.Cooper (Unattached) 201-8, 2.Erickson (Unattached) 184-8, 3.Latham (Unattached) 161-6.

High jump: 1.Stitt (FSU) 6-11, 2.Snellis (FSU) 6-9, 3.Wiechern (South Carolina) 6-9.

3,200 relay: 1.FSU (Gardner-Williams-Johnson-Clark) 7:28.61, 2.Western Michigan 7:32.72, 3.Florida 7:33.86.

800 (open): 1.Brown (New Balance T.C.) 52.29, 2.Gines (Alabama) 1:53.76.

Hammer: 1.Halpin (Manhattan College) 214-6, Southerland (New York A.C.) 204-4, 3.Driscoll (Yale) 61.36.

400 relay (consolation): 1.South Carolina 41.58, 2.Miami Dade South, 3.Western Kentucky 42.14.

400 relay: 1.Alabama (Richardson-Henson-Cantrell-Talley) 40.42, 2.Miami Dade South 42.09, 3.Western Kentucky 42.14.

1,500: 1.Flynn (Clemson) 3:46.07, 2.Kerkhove (Clemson) 3:46.68, 3.Graves (Alabama) 3:47.45.

Shot Put (open): 1.Turco (Unattached) 58-7½, 2.Matas (Unattached) 55-10, 3.Bell (unattached) 55-6¼.

400 intermediate hurdles: 1.Davis (FAMU) 49.93, 2.McKenzie (FSU) 50.14, 3.Davis (Alabama) 52.07.

Pole Vault: Ott (Unattached) 16-9, 2.Smith (FSU) 16-3, 3.Jackson (Dartmouth) 16-3.

100: 1.Taylor (South Carolina) 10.44, 2.Scott (Miami Dade south) 10.67, 3.Thomas (Miami) 10.73.

100 (open): 1.Mitchell (Unattached) 10.36, 2.Samuels (Commonwealth) 10.53, 3.Young (D&I Sporting Goods) 10.55.

High Jump (open): 1.Smallis (Clemson) 7-4¼, 2.McCants (Unattached) 7-3¼, 3.Wills (FSU) 7-0¼.

400: 1.Louis (Western Michigan) 47.80, 2.Livingston (Florida) 47.81, 3.Miller (Yale) 48.25.

400 hurdles (open): 1.Rambo (Unattached) 51.67, 2.Meno (Unattached) 53.88.

Sprint relay: Florida State (Gordon-Waddell-Johnson-Clark) 3:19.45, 2.Alabama 3:20.61, 3.Western Michigan 3:25.66.

400 (open): 1.McCoy (Puma) 45.93, 2.Lishebo (Mount St. Mary) 46.27, 3.Bridges (Atlantic) 46.35.

Long jump (open): 1.Spry (unattached) 26-2¼, 2.Branham (Middle Tennessee) 24-7¼, 3.Close (Florida State) 24-7.

200 (open): 1.Mitchell (unattached) 20.60, 2.Johnson (Middle Tennessee) 20.83, 3.Samuels (Commonwealth) 21.05.

1000 relay: 1.Florida State (Gordon-Waddell-Williams-Johnson) 3:09.40, 2.FAMU 3:10.16, 3.Michigan 3:10.54.

5000: 1.Bikani (Fairleigh Dickinson) 13:52.96, 2.Greene (unattached) 13:54.42, 3.Kempainen (Dartmouth) 13:56.85.

Triple jump: Streater (Indiana T.C.) 52-2¾, 2.Higgins (Alabama) 15.76, 3.Scruggs (Unattached).

WOMEN

100 hurdles: 1.Girvan (FSU) 13.82, 2.Samuels (FSU) 15.01, 3.Hornroth (Miami, Ohio) 15.16.

800: 1.Adiru (Alabama) 2:06.27, 2.Blakewell (Miami, Ohio) 2:06.97, 3.Green (FSU) 2:10.34.

400 relay: 1.FSU (Garcia-Finn-Davis-Levy) 45.0, 2.Alabama 46.7, 3.FAMU 47.3.

1500: 1.Olafsdotter (Alabama) 4:27.85, 2.Townsend (Alabama) 4:31.56, 3.Lamoreux (North Florida J.C.) 4:31.90.

400 hurdles: 1.Barksdale (Unattached) 59.00, 2.Gerritz (Yale) 1:02.11, 3.Waterfield (Yale) 1:03.49.

100: 1.Finn (FSU) 11.29, 2.Clette (Unattached) 11.41, 3.Taylor (Iowa) 11.80.

Sprint medley relay: 1.Alabama (Hyacinth-Davis-Leatherwood-Adiru) 3:47.74, 2.Florida State 3:54.41, 3.Eastern Tennessee 4:11.69.

1,600 relay: Alabama (Hyacinth-White-Adiru-Davis) 3:40.91, 2.Florida State 3:41.75, 3.Iowa 3:43.58.

3000: 1.Skelly (Western Michigan) 9:43.08, 2.Smith (Yale) 9:46.98, 3.Doyle (Iowa) 9:54.22.

Discus: 1.Landry (Unattached) 165-11, 2.Rosensteel (Florida) 162-8, 3.Matthews (Florida) 161-10.

Long jump: 1.Finn (FSU) 19-0 $\frac{1}{4}$, 2.Bingham (Middle Tennessee) 18-10 $\frac{3}{4}$, 3.Lyles (FAMU) 18-4 $\frac{3}{4}$.

High jump: 1.Buchan (Yale) 5-10, 2.Wooten (Middle Tennessee) 5-8, 3.Agronl (Alabama) 5-6.

Javelin: 1.Grondfeldt (Alabama) 177-5, 2.Keith (FSU) 171-5, 3.Wilson (Florida) 155-2.

3200 relay: 1.Western Michigan (Leasor-McIntyre-Webster-Davidson) 9:03.56, 2.Florida State 9:07.57, 3.FJC 9:24.85.

1600 shuttle relay: 1.FSU 4:23.59, 2.Miami 4:39.01.

Shot put: Wright (Western Michigan) 42-8 $\frac{3}{4}$, 2.Reies (Iowa) 42-4 $\frac{1}{2}$, 3.Reed (Miami, Ohio) 42-0 $\frac{1}{4}$.