



Track & Field News

Minnesota Gold Country Classic on January , 2002

Written by Leonard Myles-Mills on Friday, February 01, 2002

Coach Eyestone's Comments:

“The trip to Minnesota was a great experience for our middle distance and distance runners. It gave us a break from local competition and gave us a chance to see how we stacked up against competition from another part of the country. Athletes from Ohio State, University of Minnesota, Alabama, South Dakota, and many unattached individuals were in attendance.

Of the four races we were entered in, we won three, taking the 800m and the fast and slow heats of the 3000m. Mao Tjiroze won the 800m in a time of 1:52.62. Our plan was to go out hard the first 200m, but the large field coupled with the unbanked 200m track made for a change in tactics. Mao ended up getting jostled and bounced around like a pin ball for the first 600m, but ran his last 200m in 27.36 seconds to secure the victory. Jeff Hopkinson's time of 1:54.14, though not his fastest outing of the season, was a solid time on an unbanked track with a lot of bumping going on.

In the first heat of the 3000m Ammon Larsen locked in on pace at 68 seconds for 400m and after the first 1200m led the race till the final 400m when Chad Durham got a bee in his bonnet and blazed, running his final 200m in 28.1 seconds, which some believe to be Chad's fastest 200m ever run. Chad's final time of 8:26.12 and Ammon's time of 8:31.51 were both P.R.s.

In the fast heat of the 3000m, Andy Carman ran a smart race, being towed along behind Olympian steeple chaser Robert Gary for the first 2k. When Gary stepped off the track, Andy continued the strong pace, running his last 600m in 1:35, for a final time of 8:20.15, which was also a PR. John Hedengren, coming back from an injury, made his indoor debut running a solid 8:30.24. Just ahead of John, Tyler Bushnell at 8:29.12, demonstrated again that he is capable of running a solid 3k with or without steeple chase barriers.

In the mile, Freshman Ty Jensen ran 4:15.66 which is a new indoor P.R. He was just outleained by a fast charging Steve Barrus, 4:15.43, who was running in his first indoor competition of the year. Lewis Jones was a half second back at 4:16.03 in his strongest outing of the indoor season. With a couple more races the milers will be in position to run strong at the conference meet.

The team celebrated their fine indoor performances by taking a whirl wind tour of the largest mall in the United States of America.”