



Sports



Monaghan is a good bet in CIAU's

by Gary Dhillon

Six weeks ago it was obvious to all track observers that Brian Monaghan was going to have the best indoor season of his life. But few, including Monaghan, imagined it would turn out as well as it has.

At the Golden Bear Meet six weeks ago, Monaghan narrowly missed catching Simon Hoogeworff of UBC on the final leg of the 4x400m relay.

To the unknowledgeable eye, that race was a loss. But to those who know who Hoogeworff is, it was an overwhelming success.

Hoogeworff is simply Canada's most dominant 800m runner since Bill Crothers. He is, in fact, the only runner to come within half a second of Crother's 22 year old national record. And at age 23, he looks a sure bet to break it.

Then two weeks later at the CWUAA finals meet, Monaghan caused those knowledgeable eyes to arch their eyebrows in surprise.

On the first day in the 4x400m relay, Monaghan received the anchor baton in 4th place. The first and second place teams were way ahead, but the third place team, UBC, was only a stride ahead.

UBC's final runner was Simon Hoogeworff.

It looked like a repeat of the Golden Bear Meet. This time, however, Monaghan made a lunging dive at the tape. The dive sent him sprawling to the track floor, but it was good enough to beat Hoogeworff.

The following day, Monaghan faced a strong field in the 600m, a field which included a world-ranked junior in the 800m, Peter Scharff.

Monaghan had beaten Scharff in the 600m at the Golden Bear Meet,

but this time Scharff was forced to make an involuntary exit. In the tightly bunched pack of runners, Monaghan's teammate, Kent Timanson, made contact with Scharff. Timanson, a big runner, was thrown off stride. Scharff, a relatively smaller runner, fell to the ground and out of the race. This left Monaghan to lead all the way to an unchallenged victory.

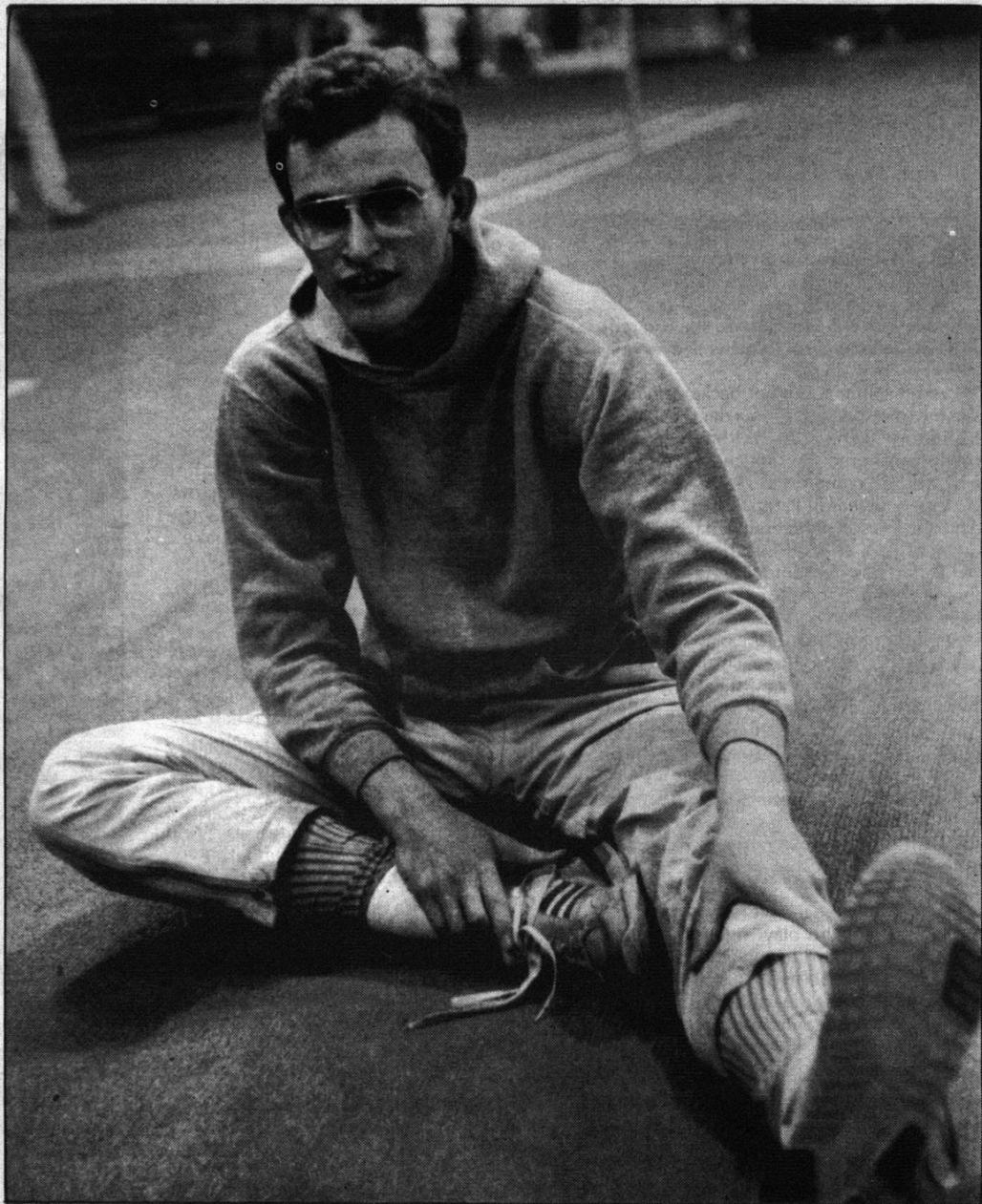
This coming weekend, the CIAU Championships are taking place in the Butterdome. For Monaghan, who is completing his final year in Civil Engineering, the 600m event will be the final drum roll to a successful university athletic career.

Ranked number 1 in the event, Monaghan will be facing Peter Scharff (without the help of Kent Timanson), John Graham from Calgary who recently set a Canadian Indoor record in the 400m, and two other runners from the Eastern Conference who have run times marginally faster than Monaghan's best.

The competition will be intense, but Monaghan appears very confident. He almost seems a little stunned when he realizes his success: "He's ranked in the world junior list and I've beat him twice."

This is good to hear from Monaghan whose physical talent has long been abundant, but whose gentle nature has sometimes led him to doubt his ability to compete at the top levels where he belongs.

Along with the men's 600m, the CIAU Meet promises many other equally exciting events, events which the U of A is well-represented in. The meet begins at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 14th and runs until 10 p.m., and then continues the following day from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Brian Monaghan will go for the gold in the 600m Friday in the Butterdome.

Photo Mark Spector

Melney decides on McNally

by Mark Spector

Panda basketball coach Sherry Melney has announced her resignation from the University of Alberta Athletics Department. Melney, who came out of Mc-

Nally High in Edmonton, led the Pandas to the Canada West playoffs in what was expected to be a rebuilding year for the club. Alberta placed fourth in the playoffs, however.

Melney was offered the post for next year, but opted to return to McNally to continue her teaching career. She will coach the girl's team there.

Melney took over 12-year veteran Debbie Shogan's program here at the UofA and led the Pandas to a second place finish in the CWUAA



Sherry Melney

regular season schedule. With star center Toni Kordic and four others gone from last year's squad which finished the year at fourth in Canada, this was touted as a lean year for the team.

The job has not as yet been advertised by the Athletics Department, but chances are U. of Lethbridge head coach Louisa Zerbe and assistant Cal O'Brien will both apply along with Grant McEwan's Trix Baker and U. of Brandon coach Faith Rostad.

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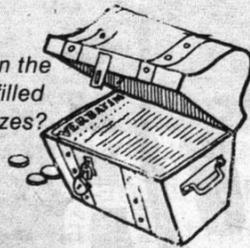
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