# Grinnell's Platzer has a shot at some large accomplishments

By Bob Denney Gazette sportswriter

GRINNELL - Last Saturday, in this idyllic hamlet typical of smallcollege America, Veronika Platzer charted a course she hopes leads to next year's Olympic Games.

Platzer, a German-born senior and two-time NCAA Division III discus champion for Grinnell, unrecord with a 46-foot, 7-inch performance.

Platzer's toss is believed to be one of the top three efforts in Division III this year. It was one of eight women's records to fall in the fourth annual State Small College Track and Field Championships at Grinnell's Les Duke Track.

But the effort isn't enough to satisfy Platzer, a talkative 6-foot, 185-pound star who has lofty ambitions with graduation approaching.

"I've made it my goal after graduation to concentrate on the discus in the Olympic trials in 1988," said Platzer, 24, from Colorado Springs, Colo. "I've had a 170foot throw in a meet at Drake earlier this month, but scratched on it. I know I can do a lot better.

"I'm going to train in Colorado Springs after graduation. I met a loaded on this afternoon in the shot great coach from Poland while I was put. She set a state small college at the Florida Relays (last month). He will work with me; I just need to find some funding. I can tell after today how much he's already

> She won last Saturday's discus competition with a toss of 136 feet, 21/4 inches.

> Platzer, nicknamed "Ronnie," is a native of Nuremberg, West Germany, where she lived until she was eight years old.

"My mother never liked the idea of moving to the United States,"

said Platzer, recalling a rough personal life. "I really don't know what branch of service my father was in. That was a tough time for us, with a lot of anti-German, antimilitary feelings around. But I got through it, and learned English."

Platzer doesn't remember her father well, as her mother was divorced not long after the family arrived in Fort Knox, Ky. Platzer left home in the eighth grade, admitting her mother, since deceased, became physically abusive.

"I'm hoping that I can make an impact through either athletics or academics, as an example for kids who have gone through what I've gone through," Platzer said. "I have really enjoyed life at a small college.

"I'm a Division I athlete at a Division III school and couldn't enjoy it more. Division III gets a lot of crap from the larger schools about us not having the athletes.

But what I like is that I'm getting a great education and doing well in track without the benefit of all the facilities Division I gets."

Platzer moved in with a friend's family in Colorado Springs, and completed her prep career at Palmer High School. She also was a standout in basketball.

"I fell in love with Grinnell after my visit, and knew I was coming back after getting on the plane to Colorado," Platzer said.

"The thing I remember most was Will (Coach Will Freeman) saying that 'If it's meant to be, you will be a

"That meant to me that I could be a success here just as well as at Iowa or Iowa State. Will is such a great guy to work with here. I don't call him coach; it's really like more of a family."

FREEMAN CONTINUES to marvel at Platzer's progress.

"Ronnie is a great story that keeps getting better," he said. "She has a great chance to win another national title in the discus. For someone at this level to win three national titles is almost unheard of."

Platzer will compete Saturday at the Drake Relays, but is coming into the prestigious meet with little practice time. Being an anthropology major is a rough load for anyone.

"My mind is always on schoolwork, and I get only 3-4 hours to train. That's not the way you train," Platzer said.

"But we're here for an education first. I felt after high school that I was Academy material - the Air Force or West Point - but I'm happy I landed here."

SPORTS BRIEFLY



Veronika Platzer

AP photo

Boris Becker bows his head with disappointment after being

eliminated in the second round of the Monte Carlo Open tennis

TENNIS - Boris Becker, two-time Wimbledon champion

and the world's No. 2 ranked tennis player, had his troubles on clay

courts again as he was beaten by Jimmy Arias of the United States

The American downed the West German 6-3, 6-3, taking advantage

BASKETBALL - Providence College Coach Rick Pitino, an

assistant coach for two years with the New York Knicks of the NBA,

Monday, moves which would seem to provide an opening for Pitino.

is waiting for his old employer to make him an offer. The Knicks

Pitino coached the unranked Friars to the NCAA Final Four this

year . . . The NBA may be able to restrict the movement of its

teams, a federal appeals court ruled Tuesday in a decision that

revived the league's suit against the Los Angeles Clippers. Despite

Circuit Court of Appeals said the NBA could go to trial on its claim

that its restrictions on team moves were valid under antitrust laws

Angeles . . . The men's program at Coffeyville (Kan.) Community

College has been placed on a year's probation by the National

and were violated by the Clippers' 1984 move from San Diego to Los

Junior College Athletic Association because of recruiting violations,

the school announced Tuesday. The action stems from allegations

reported to the NJCAA by Marcus Ziegler of Wichita South High

FOOTBALL — Four former Southern Methodist University

allegations that a New York sports agent threatened to hurt one of

SMU players Jerry Ball, Ronald Morris, Jeff Atkins and Terence

Mann have been questioned about the activities of sports agent

arrangements have been made to play an NFL exhibition game in

London's Wembley Stadium this summer for the second year in a

MISC. — Madison Square Garden boxing promoters have

Michael Olajide for the vacant International Boxing Federation title,

Olajide's manager said Tuesday. The Hearns camp had until noon

spring trade with the New York Mets, was placed on the 15-day

and was placed on the disabled list retroactive to Sunday.

Friday to respond to the offer . . . Catcher Ed Hearn, acquired in a

disabled list Tuesday by the Kansas City Royals. Hearn, batting .308

Associated Press

in five games, aggravated a bursitis condition in his right shoulder

made Thomas Hearns an offer to meet Canadian middleweight

row, authorities said Tuesday. The Aug. 9 "American Bowl" will pit

Norby Walters and his associate, Lloyd Bloom . . . Final

the Denver Broncos against the Los Angeles Rams.

the players, Newsday reported Tuesday. The newspaper said former

players are cooperating with FBI agents who are investigating

School, who signed a letter of intent to play at Coffeyville.

its rulings in the Los Angeles Raiders antitrust case, the 9th U.S.

fired Scotty Stirling as general manager and Bob Hill as coach

in the second round of the \$513,000 Monte Carlo Open Tuesday.

tournament Tuesday.

of Becker's admittedly poor play.

## Dr. J: Don't count 76ers out in playoffs

Julius Erving is hoping that the of-five. Philadelphia 76ers mediocre regular-season record will make their opponents overconfident for the NBA playoffs.

"A lot of people have written us off for the playoffs," Erving said, referring to the 76ers' 45-37 regularseason mark, good for only fifth place in the Eastern Conference. "We don't have as good a record as past years, but we are 3-2 against Milwaukee and 3-3 against Boston, and those are the teams we probably would play in the first two rounds.

begin Thursday night with four points in his last three games to four games with an injured ankle East and Seattle at Dallas, Golden points. State at Utah and Denver at the Los Angeles Lakers in the Western Conference.

On Friday, Philadelphia is at Milwaukee, Indiana at Atlanta, Washington at Detroit and Houston is at Portland.

All the first-round series are best-

final weeks of his 16-year professional career.

"We didn't play as well against Erving said. "Maybe we're lucky we don't play New York or New Jersey in the first round."

The 76ers finished 3-3 against both the Nets and Knicks, who each experience." failed to make the playoffs with 24-58 records.

The first round of the playoffs son with a flourish, scoring 88 leading rebounder, missed the last games — Chicago at Boston in the complete his career with 30,026

> Coach Matt Guokas said. "His his right hand. performance Friday night (when He is in great shape and he is season.

playing a strong inside game."

Erving said that the 76ers' strong pairings were not determined until showing against good teams is an Sunday, Milwaukee and Philadelencouraging sign as he enters the phia both were locked into their matchup as the No. 4 and No. 5 teams in the East for a week.

"We have known our position in poor teams as we have in the past," the playoffs for a while and that has helped us get ready," Guokas said. "We have a lot of work to do before that time, but it will help us that we have guys with a lot of playoff

The 76ers expect starters Charles Barkley and Maurice Cheeks to be Erving finished the regular sea- ready for Friday. Barkley, the NBA's and Cheeks missed Sunday's finale against Washington after reinjuring "Dr. J was great," Philadelphia a torn tendon in the little finger of

Erving scored 38 points to pass the seven consecutive division titles but we're not deep in bench 30,000 mark) was like the Dr. J of snapped by Atlanta, but still won 50 strength among our big men. So we eight years ago. He is a young 37. games for the seventh straight

"Although we didn't win the While several first-round playoff division, we have a good team and I'm confident we can do well in the playoffs," Coach Don Nelson said.

> Golden State and Indiana will be making their first appearances in the playoffs after long absences.

The Warriors, who last made a postseason showing in 1977, finished tied for fifth with Houston, but earned the fifth seeding position against No. 4 Utah by defeating the Rockets 4-1 in their season series.

The Pacers, the only NBA team that has never won a playoff game, lost 2-0 in a miniseries Philadelphia in their only postseason appearance in 1981.

"We're not a big, physical team," Indiana Coach Jack Ramsay said, noting Atlanta's size advantage with 7-footers Tree Rollins; Kevin Willis Milwaukee, which had a streak of and Jon Koncak. "We're not patsies, want a well-officiated series. And I think it will be."



Gazette photo by Todd Buchanan

RAIN PREVAILS: David Mick of Cedar Rapids Jefferson wins the special participants mile for high school athletes minutes before the Co-ed Relays at Kingston Stadium were canceled Tuesday afternoon. A cold rain eventually caused officials to call off the meet, which was to feature boys and girls running on the same relay teams.

## Lorenzen gone, Ventura coach quits for new position

Bredlow takes job as Grundy Center's grid, girls' cage coach

> From Associated Press and Gazette staff reports

VENTURA - Chuck Bredlow, who coached the Ventura girls' basketball team featuring Lynne Lorenzen to the state six-player title last month, has resigned to become head football and girls' basketball coach at Grundy Center.

In five years at Ventura, Bredlow was 38-8 in football and 114-18 in girls' basketball.

Don Knock resigned as Grundy Center football coach last month for the Cedar Rapids Kennedy football job. Bredlow and Knock were Central College football teammates.

Bredlow's 1984 Ventura football team finished 9-1 after advancing to the Class A semifinals. Before that, he had two 7-2 seasons. The Vikings were 8-1 in 1985, 7-2 last fall.

The 1983-84 girls' basketball team also advanced to the Sweet 16. Lorenzen led the Vikings to a 31-0 record last season.

"I made the change primarily for football," Bredlow said. "Grundy Center has a real solid program, and it's 2A, so this is a step up for me. "Grundy Center also had a good group of young girls, sophomores who played varsity ball,

so I'm looking forward to that, too." Knock took Grundy Center to the 2A football semifinals in 1983, and to the championship in

"Ventura has a real good group coming back in girls' basketball," Bredlow said. "That was the toughest part of the decision to move. There also are 17 lettermen returning in football, and only two will be seniors.

"But I've been here five years, and there's got to be a time when you make a change."

#### Reds rained out

Tuesday's scheduled Midwest League baseball contest game between the Cedar Rapids Reds and Peoria Chiefs at Memorial Stadium was postponed due to rain.

The game will be made up as part of a double-header later this season.

Weather permitting, the Reds will host the Springfield Cardinals in single games tonight and Thursday at 7

### CARDS: Bizarre injuries

From page 1B

been placed on the NL's 60-day emergency medical list. "You knew he was going to give you eight innings."

Herzog had the Cards call up lefthander Tim Conroy from their top farm club at Louisville of the American Association to take Tudor's place.

Conroy was undistinguished (5-11, 5.23 ERA) in 21 starts and five relief appearances last year. Herzog is hoping he will respond favorably

to another chance. "He's got the stuff. He's got to pitch better than last year," St. Louis' manager said. "We'll have to play it by ear."

If Conroy, 26, has his uncelebrated control problems solved, he could be yet another rabbit to be lifted from Herzog's managerial hat.

In 1982, after outfielder David Green suffered a pulled hamstring while running to first base, Herzog summoned Willie McGee from Louisville and was rewarded by McGee's .296 performance as

regular. Two years ago, Tito Landrum's

early-season back injury prompted Coleman's promotion from the minors. Coleman wound up stealing 110 bases and scoring 107 runs as the NL's top rookie.

Not to be forgotten, either, is the stroke of genius by the Cards in acquiring an aging Cesar Cedeno from the Cincinnati Reds in August 1985 when Clark was idled by a ribcage injury.

Cedeno hit .434 with six homers, driving in 19 runs in 26 games. He was an integral part of St. Louis' pennant push.

## Wright, no thoughts of an NBA career, enlists in Marine Corps

IOWA CITY (AP) - Gerry Wright, who recently concluded his University of lowa basketball career, says he's not interested in the National Basketball Association draft because he wants to become a

The 6-foot-9 Wright, known for his acrobatic slam dunks, enrolled in the Marines on Friday and will report to basic training in Quantico, Va., in October. After that, he said he'll move on to flight training in

Pensacola, Fla. "Ever since my childhood I was

interested in this," Wright said. "The Thunderbirds, Blue Angels, air shows - I was around all of those

Wright's father is an Air Force officer who has logged more than 9,000 hours flying.



### HORNACEK: Drug indictments of his Suns teammates shocking

From page 1B

minutes.

Hornacek's playing time de- though, Hornacek was better able to virus and 103-degree fever which creased slightly under interim coach withstand the physical demands of a Dick Van Arsdale, to about 15 or 18 six-month NBA season. He had a sore knee early in the year, but the

required an overnight hospital stay.

Hornacek plans to remain in By playing less than half a game, two games he missed were due to a Phoenix this summer, doing some

promotional work for the Suns as they try to combat the damage inflicted by the drug charges. He'll also play in a summer league.

Right now he plans to rest.