# Woodson has one eye on track, other on NFL draft

ES MOINES, - This weekend was a thrilling one for Purdue's Rod Woodson, but it will pale in comparison to Tuesday's events.

The National Football League will conduct its draft on Tuesday and Woodson figures to be selected not long after Tampa Bay picks Miami quarterback Vinny Testaverde and Indianapolis tabs Alabama linebacker Cornelius Bennett.

Woodson is a physical marvel, packing strength and speed into a 6-foot, 195-

pound frame. He was one of the lone bright spots for the Boilermaker football team last fall, and now is winding up his collegiate track career.

Woodson is Purdue's record-holder in the 55- and 110-meter hurdles. In Saturday's finals of the 110 hurdles at the Drake Relays, he finished second to former high school rival Keith Talley of Alabama. Talley is from Indianapolis, Woodson from Fort Wayne.



Gazette

sports editor

## DUKES

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best throw of 160-feet, 10-inches came in the preliminaries and was nearly five feet short of his best this season.

"Not by any means," Joens said when asked if he was satisfied with second. "He (winner Chris Hatcher of Council Bluffs Jefferson) had a good one (168-3), but I didn't throw very good either.

"There was kind of a swirling wind and it was hard to benefit from," added Joens, whose brother Scott of Iowa was fourth Friday in the university division

Besides Schipfmann, Iowa Valley senior Maury Zuber and relay teams from Cedar Rapids Jefferson and Iowa City High earned third-place medals.

Zuber sailed 22-1/2, one-half inch farther than his best this season, to claim third in the long jump. The winner, Darnell Robertson of Des Moines Roosevelt, went 23-91/4, an inch and a half short of the Drake

The J-Hawk foursome of Shannon Lafferty, Sara Winders, Denise Campbell and Robin Threatt finished third in the 400 relay, thanks in no small part to Threatt's brilliant anchor. The team, which ran together for the first time this weekend, qualified seventh out of eight teams Friday, then clicked off a :49.88 in the finals.

Campbell and Threatt, along with Staci Finn and Kim Havlik, also finished sixth in the 1,600. Threatt ran a:57.7 400 anchor in the finals after turning in a :56.5 split in the prelims.

"There is a lot of pressure put on the anchor runner," said the versatile Threatt, a junior who won the prep 100-meter dash here Friday. "You have to look at everyone, not just the last person. It's kind of fun (being behind). That will push you even further when you have to catch someone."

City High's tandem of Brent Roth, Bryan Dixon, Brad Gehrke and Gerry Coleman ran the fastest qualifying time in the 800 relay prelims on Friday, but had to settle for third in the finals despite shaving two hundredths of a second off their previous best with a 1:29.34 effort.

The area's only other placewinners Saturday were Kennedy's sprint medley unit, South Tama senior Stacy Hand and C.R. Washington's Jason Maxson.

The Cougar foursome of Tammy Russell, Jenny Rasson, Christy Lichty and Heather Carver finished fourth in 1:51.88.

Hand, also state wrestling champ this year, was fifth in the discus with a season-best 154-3 toss and Maxson finished eighth in a 3,200 with a 9:51.99 clocking.

Woodson wasn't scheduled to compete in any other races, but he had a couple surprises Saturday. He was invited Friday night to race in the special 100 meters, and was inserted in Purdue's 4 x 110-meter shuttle hurdle relay team at the last minute.

Woodson anchored the Boilermakers' winning shuttle relay. In the 100, against some of the fastest men in the world, he finished sixth in 10.45 seconds. Nice work for a guy who pondered his track future after football was over.

"I hesitated to come out this year because I thought wanted to rest," he said. "But I felt I didn't have

anything to lose." An All-America defensive back, Woodson should be one of the first 10 players taken by the NFL. He wowed scouts at the recent scouting combine by running 40-yard dashes in 4.29 and 4.32 seconds.

"I was running scared there," Woodson said, smiling. "In a way, I had something to prove to the scouts.

"I've been playing football since I was 10. I like track, but I can't see getting away from football for a while. I'll be nervous (Tuesday) but it should be exciting."

Woodson is one of several current or former college players who reportedly received money from New York agent Norby Walters to sign contracts while in college. Others implicated were Iowa's Ronnie Harmon and Ohio State wide receiver Cris Carter. Like most of the players identified in the reports, Woodson severed ties with Walters some time ago. "I'm human. I'm not perfect," he said. "I'd like to

meet anyone here who's perfect." Asked if he admits to accepting illegal money, he said, "I haven't said that. It's just a bad situation." Woodson is certain to command a good sum of

money when his agent, Marvin Demoff, goes to bat. Woodson still recalls a Saturday last fall in Kinnick Stadium when he stunned a capacity Iowa crowd by returning an interception 100-plus yards for touchdown.

"I think that's got to be one of the highlights of my career," he said. "Something like that is hard to get. There was nobody there once I got the ball."

Woodson said he has observed a few practices this spring when Purdue was working out under first-year coach Fred Akers, who was hired after Leon Burtnett was let go. He's impressed by Akers' impact on the Boilermakers.

"The attitude has changed a lot," he said. "I can really see a difference in the players.

"You always put the blame on the coach when the team is losing. I really liked Coach Burtnett, but we definitely felt (his firing) coming."

Edwin, Andre and Danny

• Olympic silver medalist Danny Harris clearly was not in top form Friday when he won the invitational 400-meter hurdles in 49.14 seconds. Henry Amike pressed Harris over the first 150 meters, but fell off

the pace and finished second in 50.11. Harris, who is training and going to school at Iowa State, has his sights set on this summer when he figures to meet Olympic gold medalist Edwin Moses and top Grand Prix performer Andre Phillips in The

Athletics Congress national meet. That event is scheduled June 18-20 at San Jose, Calif. The top three finishers will advance to the World Championships in Rome in September.

"When Edwin and Andre and I are in the same place at the same time, nothing short of a rain storm

should prevent a great race," Harris said. "I still think I can get into the 46s. I'm looking forward to meeting them at the TAC meet."

If Harris' time should plunge under 47 seconds, it would be a world record. Moses holds it now at 47.02. Harris' best was 47.63 in August, 1985, in Zurich, Switzerland.

Harris has met Moses only a couple times since the 1984 Olympics. Harris and Phillips competed several times on the Grand Prix circuit last year.

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his second straight title, dominating the field with a 68-5 toss.

s Jeanne Kruckeberg was third in the 1,500 and ran the third leg of the third-place 3,200 relay. Heard's last loss in the 200 meters was to Smith last year in Zurich, Switzerland. His biggest victory since then was over Olympic gold medalist and world low-altitude 200 record holder Carl Lewis at The

Athletics Congress national meet. "From that day on, I told myself I'd be ready wherever I'm running," said Heard, recalling his last battle with Smith. "I hope to go 19.8 by the world championships (in September) and then try to get the world record in '88.

"I came out of the blocks wobbly. But I came off the turn strong and shot down the stretch."

REYNOLDS FIGURED TO duel Wayland Baptist's Devon Morris in the 400, but Morris didn't compete after aggravating a foot injury Friday. Morris was the men's Outstanding Performer here last year.

Nevertheless, Reynolds, competing in his first Drake Relays, shattered the Relays record Morris set last year at 45.21. Reynolds beat Morris last week in the Kansas Relays.

The small-college races again were dominated by Wayland Baptist, which won four relays for the third straight year. The Plainview, Texas, school claimed the 3,200 Friday and added the 400, 1,600 and sprint medley titles on Saturday - despite the loss of

James Rolle ran on all three winning Wayland relays Saturday, anchoring the 400 and 1,600.

"The program at Wayland is just super," he said. "The coaches take athletes that other schools won't look at and give kids a second chance."

RAF WYNS ANCHORED winning relays for Iowa State on Friday and Saturday. The Cyclones were in fourth place when he got the baton Saturday in the distance medley, but he quickly got them the lead and ran the closing 1,600 leg in 3:58.5.

"This was really special," said Wyns, a senior from Belgium. "It was my last time as an Iowa State runner at Drake."

Former Iowa star Nan Davis, competing for Athletics West of Eugene, Ore., finished second in the women's invitational 5,000 in 16:00.24. Leslie Seymour of Club Sota won in 15:49.40. Defending champion Stephanie Herbst of Wisconsin did not compete.

Former Iowa State star Nawal El Moutawakal and two current Cyclones had good finishes.

El Moutawakal, who won the 400-meter hurdles Friday, finished third in the 400.



Gazette photo by Todd McInturf

HEAVE-HO: lowa's Chris Gambol, best known as a football player, leans into the shot put Saturday at the Drake Relays. Gambol placed second at 59 feet, 3 inches. Lars Nilsen of SMU won at 68-5.

## Fast-pitch numbers are down but the quality sure isn't

he numbers may be dwindling in fast-pitch softball, but the quality

is not. Last summer, Cedar Rapids returned to the top of the men's major fast-pitch scene thanks to Teleconnect's sixthplace finish at the International Softball Congress World Tournament.

Tele finished the year at 61-17 and won its second straight and third overall Major Open league title. It also won Amateur Softball Association district, sub-state and regional crowns and placed second in



J.R. OGDEN Gazette sportswriter

the state behind national runner-up Sioux City Penn

Collins will make its sponsorship return to the MO with the former lowans team. As the lowans, this team won the ISC state crown and finished third in the ASA state and regional meets last year. Jim Caviness' crew finished its 20th season with a 55-25 tally.

MAJOR OPEN: For the first time since the league began in the 1940s, the Major Open Men's Major Fastpitch League is facing a major change.

The league is now sanctioned by the ISC and will act as the state's travel league, meaning the champion

### SOFTBALL

automatically qualifies for the ISC World Champion-

The seven-team league will consist of Teleconnect, Collins, Fleck's-Miller High Life, Midwest Metals (formerly Marion Chiropractic) and the Blue Jays (formerly Storm II) from Cedar Rapids. Joe Lang's Tap of Davenport and Turf Control of Waterloo complete the

Teleconnect, owners of a 31-4 mark over the past two seasons, will be looking for its third straight league crown under the direction of first-year manager Steve Andrew.

Andrew, a two-time MO batting champ, will continue to play third base - where he was named second-team All-World last year — as well as manage.

And with the likes of 1985 pitching champion Michael White, two-time MO batting king LeRoy Wegmann, and young stars like Mike Tranel, Terry Feye, Mike Delaney and Kevin Hartwig, Andrew is looking forward to this

"We're going to climb the mountain," Andrew proclaimed. "We've set some goals to challenge for the nationals. I can't see why we can't. Talent-wise, it's there. It's just a matter of doing the little things and getting the breaks."

White, the slick New Zealand strikeout artist, is back for his third season in Cedar Rapids. White is 88-25 the last two years, including 40-11 last season.

To help White, Teleconnect persuaded Canadian Jody Hennigar to return. In his only other season here, and Teleconnect in the Mid-America Regional. Fleck's Hennigar compiled a 5-0 league mark and a 0.66 ERA. Last season, he played for the All-O-Matics of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and earned a reputation as being one of the country's top hitter as well as a fine pitcher.

"There is no reason we can't bring back a national title to Cedar Rapids," Andrew added.

The last local team to win a national title, of course, was Welty Way in 1971. Welty Way has since changed to Modern Piping (1977-82), the Iowans (1983-86), and this year to Collins.

Collins will have veterans Gregg Bosch and Al Rausch on the mound again, along with New Zealand youngster Warren Gichard. Bosch finished third in last year's MO pitching derby with an 8-1 record and 0.80 ERA. He is 88-15 with a 0.58 ERA in his 12-year MO

Gone is defending batting champion Jay Coleman, who has moved to Des Moines: Back are Jack Minder, last year's runner-up in the batting race, Jack Arendt, Mike Stickney, Steve Calvert, Dick Mahacek and John Caviness. Veteran Mike Pallesen is recovering from a summer shoulder operation and plans to join the team later. Two-time MO batting champ Cal Ernst will join the team in June.

"We'll be competitive," promises veteran manager Jim Caviness. "We're not going to concede anything. think we can be a pretty good hitting team by the middle of the year and the pitching will come along."

Last year, Fleck's and Turf Control joined the Iowans was fourth in the state, Turf Control fifth.

The Major Open season opens Saturday and Sunday at Ellis Park and will play its games on Tuesday and Thursday nights. All games will be double-headers.

THE REST: There are four other men's fast-pitch leagues in town, including the 18-team Premiere Twilight Fast-pitch Minor Open League. The Minor Open will play its games Wednesday nights at Ellis

Last year, Marketing Systems came out of the league and finished second in the ASA B Regional after placing third in the B state tournament. Pearle Vision won its second straight loop crown last summer.

There also is an eight-team Industrial A and a 10team Industrial B division. Both play on Monday nights, the A league at Ellis and the B at Cleveland.

Collins will sponsor a seven-team alignment that plays at Noelridge on Monday nights.

There is only one women's league in town, a seventeam division that plays on Monday nights at the Stadium diamonds.

Last year's best women's team - the Cedar Rapids Rebels - have disbanded with many players going to Des Moines. Last season, the Rebels were 36-5, won the ASA state title and qualified for the regional in their first year of existence.

Next week: 16-inch slow-pitch preview

Copper

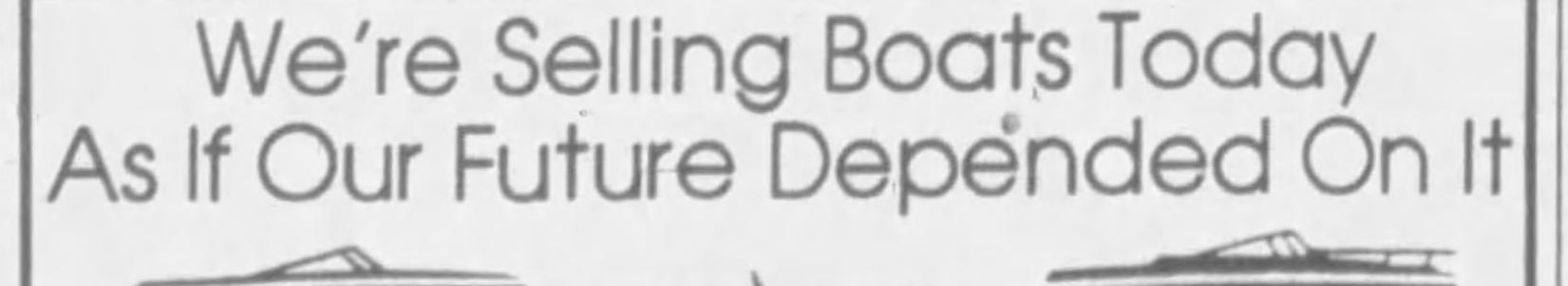
### Board rejects prep grid playoff plan

DES MOINES (AP) - Faced with sometimes span several size classifiopposition from middle-sized schools, the Iowa High School Athletic Association controlling board on Saturday rejected a football playoff system that would substitute a district plan in place of conference alignments for most schools.

schools would be playing head-tohead competition with schools the same size," said Keith O'Connell, Superintendent of Jackson Junction Turkey Valley schools. But O'Connell said the plan drew opposition from schools that have formed loyalties to conferences, which

In other action, the board voted to retain the current wrestling weights for next season. A national rule change eliminating the smallest and largest weights, 98 pounds and super heavyweight, and bunching the weights in the mid-100s range "It's a fairer system, since all the must be installed in the 1988-89 season, with states having the option of installing it a year ahead

> With the exception of Missouri, surrounding states have also decided to keep the current weight schedule next year. One border state, Nebraska, has yet to decide.





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