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Buckeye Reynolds pick in 400 meters

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IOWA CITY Ohio State's Butch Reynolds, one of the best 400-meter runners in the country, will head a field that includes 14 returning champions at the Big Ten track and field championships this weekend in Iowa City. The women's field will be headed by nationally ranked distance runners Stephanie Herbst of Wisconsin and Indiana's Colette Goudreau. Indiana's Adriane Diamond, the defending champ in the 400, also is expected to run the 800.

Wisconsin easily won the men's and women's team championships, but could be pressed by Indiana, Illinois and Ohio State this year.

Reynolds, who ran the 400 meters in 44.60 at the Drake Relays last month, bettered that mark by nearly two-tenths of a second three weeks ago at the Jesse Owens Track Classic in Columbus, Ohio. Reynolds also will anchor the Buckeyes' 4x400-meter relay team.

Purdue's Rod Woodson, the top 110-meter hurdler in the conference, will try to improve on his season-best 13.54 and is expected to run two relays. He will battle

defending champion Lamont Frazier of Indiana in the hurdles.

Woodson, a first-round draft pick of the Pittsburgh Steelers, has agreed to pay back his senioryear tuition for allegedly contracting with sports agent Norby Walters while playing football

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for the Boilermakers. The incident has

not affected his track status.

Returning champions include Iowa's Pat McGhee in the 400-meter hurdles and Quinn Early in the long jump, Illinois' Lane Lohr in the pole vault and Jon Thanos in the steeplechase, Michigan State's Guy Scott in the 800-meter run, Northwestern's Bob Mau in the 1,500-meter

run and Wisconsin's Kip Wright in the triple jump.

Lohr is among the favorites to capture the NCAA championship in the event. Iowa's Chris

Gambol, another NFL draftee, will compete in the shot put.

In women's events, Herbst and Goudreau lead what may be one of the fastest 3,000-meter

fields this year.

Herbst won 3,000- and 10,000-meter events last year and was the 1986 Big Ten Female Athlete of the Year, but has been troubled by ankle and tendon injuries this season. Goudreau, a cross-country all-America, has a 4:14.33 in the 1,500 and the fastest time in the 3,000.

Victoria Fulcher, the 1986 junior college champ in the 100- and 400-meter hurdles, will run both events for the Illini.

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