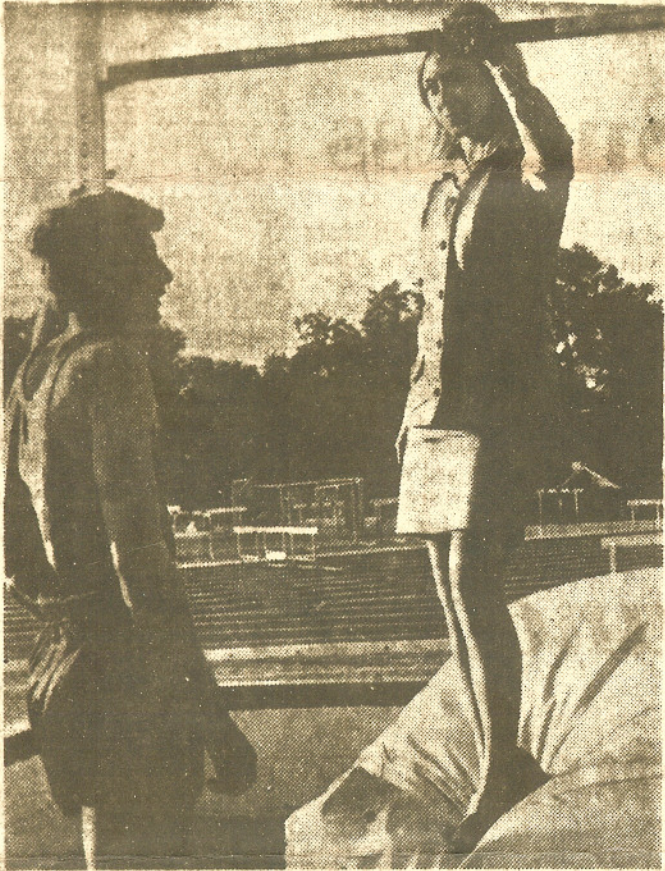




Jan. 19, 1969

## TRACK NEWSLETTER

# Ron Jourdan Clears 7-2



**Jourdan to Jump** Jan. 18, 69

University of Florida high jump star Ron Jourdan said all along he would be ready for Saturday's meet which will be used to raise funds to send Johnny Samuels to the Deaf Olympics. Jourdan had some wisdom teeth pulled earlier in the week. But with pretty Diane Young helping to hold the bar, Ron decided to make a quick recovery. He will attempt to top his 7-foot leap that he accomplished a few weeks ago in today's performance.

## PLAYER of the WEEK



## Ron Jourdan

This week's Alligator Player of the Week resulted in a virtual dead-heat with high jumper Ron Jourdan edging past golfer Steve Melnyk for the honor.

Jourdan, the Pensacola junior, jumped 7-0 twice in indoor meets last week to establish himself as perhaps the finest collegiate high jumper in the nation this year.

Melnyk, defending champion of many tournaments added another to his list by capturing the Senior Bowl tourney while leading the NCAA champion Gators to the team crown by a whopping 35 strokes over their closest competition.

Jourdan won the honor due to the national importance of his efforts. He went 7-0 to take the Northeastern Louisiana Indoor, then repeated the effort against the finest high jumpers in the country to capture the Washington, D.C. Indoor title.

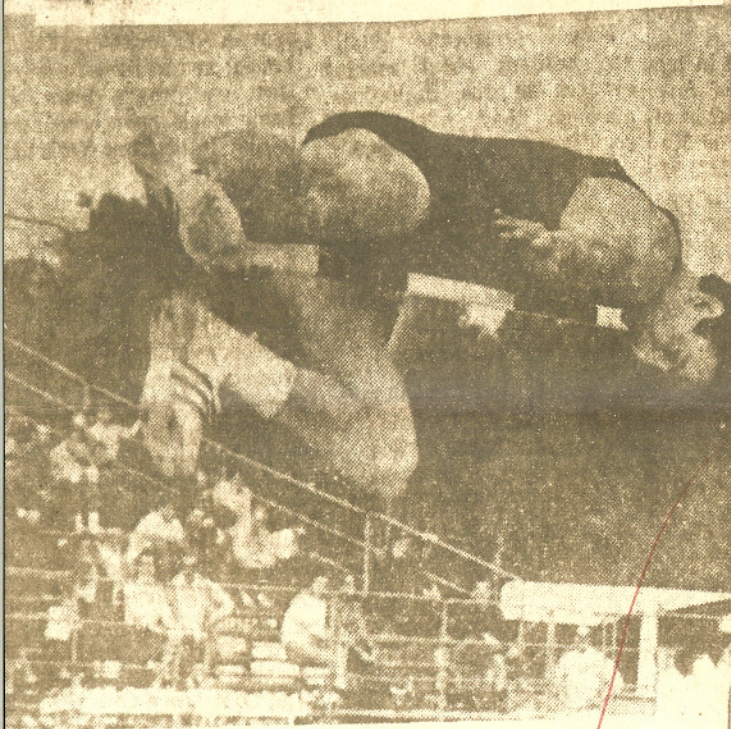
"A jump like that indoors and this early is a good sign," says Gator track coach Jimmy Carnes. "It is a sign Ron might be able to do 7-2 or 7-3 later this spring outdoors."

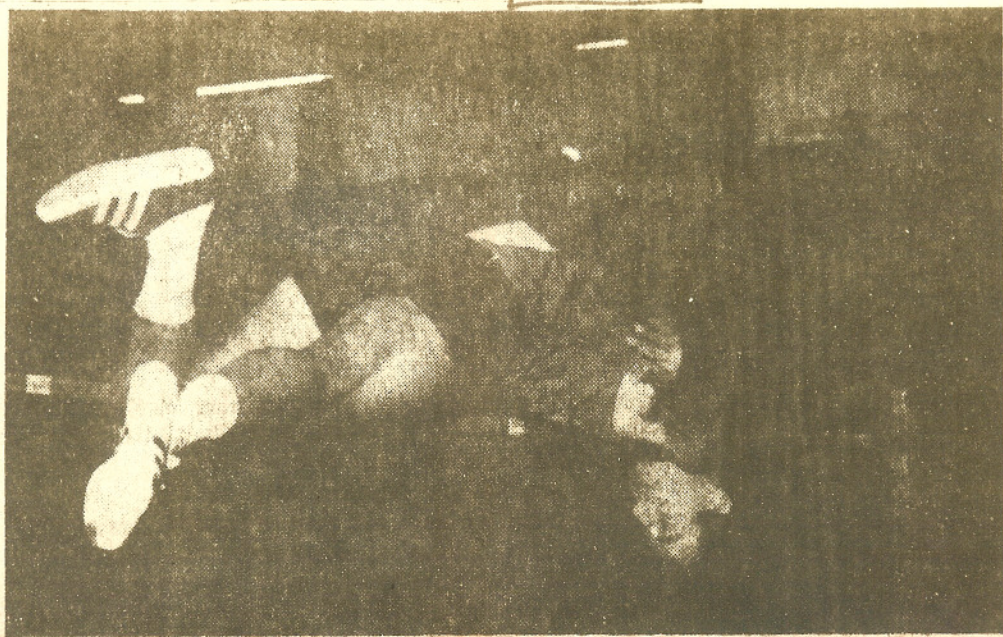
This sort of mark should make Jourdan a strong candidate for NCAA honors, too, before this season is concluded.

Jan. 17, 1969

RON JOURDAN SOARS OVER AT 7-2  
...Gator high jumper sets school record

PERFORMANCES TO DATE	
Dec. 14, 1968 Northeast Louisiana Indoor Invitational	1st High Jump - 7'0" & 7'1" 4th
Jan. 10, 1969 Washington Indoor Invitational	1st High Jump - 7'0"
Jan. 11, 1969 Richmond Indoor Invitational	1st High Jump - 6'10 1/4"
Jan. 18, 1969 Gainesville Benefit Meet	Jumped from gym floor in Rich. 1st 7'2"





Staff Photo

**RECORD-BREAKER**—Ron Jourdan of the University of Florida goes over the bar in handsome fashion while en route to a record-breaking performance in the high jump in the

Chesterfield Jaycee meet last night at the Arena. Jourdan set a meet record of 6 feet, 10½ inches, but failed in attempt at 7 feet, ¼ inch.

## Gators' Jourdan Soars Practice 7-1

By RALPH MUELLER  
Sun Assistant Sports Editor

Ron Jourdan cleared the high jump bar at 7-foot-1 the other day.

But to the University of Florida junior, that means 6-foot-10.

"Maybe I'll be more consistent at 6-foot-10 in meets now," quipped Jourdan, who soared higher than ever before in his first workout following the Thanksgiving vacation Monday afternoon.

Jourdan's previous high came in a quadrangular meet at Tallahassee last year. He cleared the bar at three-fourths of an inch over seven feet.

"But I've only made a few really good jumps," says Jourdan, "I usually was around 6-foot-8 in competition."

The Pensacola junior had cleared 6-foot-9½ as a freshman and recorded a 6-

foot-11½ jump in fall practice a year ago.

Jourdan feels he has broken through an invisible barrier and while he doesn't feel he is ready to go over seven feet consistently, he thinks he may be more consistent in the 6-foot-10 area.

"I felt great Monday," comments Jourdan, who takes over as king of the Florida high jumpers now that tri-captain Frank Saier has graduated.

"I was really just going to work on form," he continues, "But when I felt so good, I thought I'd go on."

Jourdan began at 6-foot which he calls "very low." He moved the bar up two to four inches at time until he swung over the 7-foot-1 level near the end of the workout.

It was a great morale boost for the 21-year-old. "I was down last year. After I hit that 7-foot, ¾-inch jump, I didn't go over 6-foot-10 the rest of the year," says Jourdan.

The new high has lifted his spirits. It has given more determination to an individual who already was one of the hardest workers on coach Jimmy Carnes' team.

While Ron felt "great" Monday, he didn't feel that way last April 20 at Tallahassee. He was tired when he asked that the bar be placed at 7-foot-¾-inch so that he would have a chance to break teammate and close friend Saier's school record.

He missed twice. But the third try was successful and according to high jump coach

Don Hester, "Ron made it with plenty to spare."

Has the Fosbury-Flop fad hit Jourdan? Oh, yes!

The Gator high jumper strode into Carnes' office earlier this year just after Oregon State's Dick Fosbury had flipped over the bar at 7-foot, 4¼ inches, to give the United States its first Olympic gold medal since 1956.

Jourdan wanted to study Fosbury's training schedule more than anything. But on the track, he couldn't resist giving the "flop" a try.

But what works for some doesn't necessarily work for others.

After last Monday, Jourdan wouldn't want to change his style anyway.

Someday, well — maybe they'll be wanting to copy his.



THEY TALK OVER FORM

... Ron Jourdan (r), Frank Saier

January 21, 1969

Jan. 18  
GAINESVILLE, FLA.--Johnnie Lee Samuels was a big winner on Florida track last Saturday even though he was not there to receive his awards.

Florida track coach Jimmy Carnes held a benefit track meet to help raise funds to send Samuels to the Deaf and Blind Olympics in Yugoslavia later this year.

It proved to be a good day not only for Samuels but for the Gator trackmen that performed in the meet. Carnes helped raise over \$400.00 to help get Samuels to the meet.

Over 400 spectators watched in excitement as Gator high jumper Ron Jourdan cleared the bar at a record setting height of 7-2. Jourdan is considered one of the nations leading jumpers. 7-2 in the Olympics would have earned a bronze medal.

"Jourdan has just been fantastic," says Carnes, who is noted as one of the leading promoters of track and field in the nation. "He has now cleared the magic seven foot barrier five times. This ranks him with the most consistent jumpers in the world."

Jourdan, who narrowly missed at 7-3 now has the best jump of anyone in the nation to date this year.

Added to Jourdan's feat was Jack Bachelor's time of 13:30.2 in the three mile. Bachelor's time was about six seconds faster than the winning time for the 5,000 meters in the Mexico Olympics. Bachelor made it to the finals in the 5,000 meters at Mexico but a sudden illness kept him from competing for the gold medal.

The spectators also received a thrill when all-American football star, Larry Smith, led the ATO's to a win in the special fraternity 440-relay.

Several more fund-raising events are planned in Samuels' behalf. The cost of the trip to Yugoslavia is \$1,800. Sports fans wishing to contribute should send checks or money orders (no cash, please) to Joe Halberstein, Sports Editor, Gainesville Sun, P. O. Drawer A, Gainesville, Florida, 32601.

All contributions are to be deposited in the Samuels fund in a Gainesville bank. After April 1, deadline for the drive, the money will be sent to the United States International Games for the Deaf Committee, Art Kruger, chairman, Los Angeles, California.