

AIAW CHAMPIONSHIPS

Neppel Storms Home Course

Ames, Ia., Nov. 15 /from Chris Murray/—Peg Neppel of host Iowa State broke the field on the hilly second mile of the 3M course to win the first open AIAW collegiate championship and lead her team to a narrow 96-104 victory over Penn State.

Neppel, who won this race last year when it was held as an invitational, led the pack through the first mile in 5:25. After stringing out the front group on the hills, Peg passed the 2M mark in 11:05, with only Tena Anex of Davis, Brenda Webb of Wright State and Chiu-Shia Lee of St. John's anywhere close.

Neppel kept on the pressure with a 5:26 last mile and the finish order changed little in the final mile except for a strong move by Christen Bankes of Penn State, who stormed up to take third.

Pre-meet team favorite Iowa State missed the services of injured Carol Cook, AAU 10,000 champion, and was lucky to escape with its 8-point winning margin over up-and-coming Penn State.

Individuals: Neppel (Ia St) 16:31; 2. Anex (Davis) 16:46; 3. Bankes (Penn St) 17:12; 4. Webb (Wright St) 17:17; 5. Lee (St Johns) 17:17; 6. Morin (Wisc) 17:29; 7. Knudson (Colo St) 17:30; 8. Brown (Ia St) 17:31; 9. Warnes (Mich St) 17:33; 10. Twomey (Minn) 17:33.

Teams: Iowa State 96; 2. Penn State 104; 3. Michigan State 116; 4. Oregon 143; 5. Florida 162; 6. Kansas State 177; 7. Wisconsin 218; 8. Colorado State 248; 9. Massachusetts 252; 10. Kentucky 264.



LYNN BJORKLUND

AAU WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP Bjorklund Easy Defender

Belmont, Calif., Nov. 29—Sizzling a course loaded with more ups and downs than a pelican with flight problems, Lynn Bjorklund opened a 30-yard lead over top challenger Julie Brown of the LATC with a 4:56 first mile, and continued on to win her second consecutive AAU title by a comfortable 20 second margin in 16:24.

Brown, looking fresh and disgusted, finished second over the three miles in 16:44, while Sue Kinsey of the San Fernando TC nudged remarkable 14-year-old Eryn Forbes of the Portland TC by one second, 16:52 to 16:53, for third. Cindy Bremser of the Wisconsin TC was the only other runner to break 17:00 (16:57) on a cold, raw, windy day.

"I was working all the way," commented Bjorklund, now representing New Mexico International. "I was scared of everybody—the girls from back East—just everybody. They're all so good," summed up the very good New Mexico freshman.

Laden with talent from UCLA, the Los Angeles TC easily defended its title with 87 points to 111 for Seattle's Falcon TC.

Individuals: Bjorklund (NM Inter) 16:24; 2. Brown (LATC) 16:44; 3. Kinsey (SFVTC) 16:52; 4. Forbes (Port TC) 16:53; 5. Bremser (Wisc TC) 16:57; 6. Quatier (Falcon TC) 17:11; 7. Graham (SJ Cindergals) 17:12; 8. Neppel (Ia St) 17:14; 9. Bridges (LATC) 17:23; 10. Poor (SJ Cindergals) 17:32.

Teams: Los Angeles TC 87; 2. Falcon TC 111; 3. Wisconsin TC 128; 4. San Jose Cindergals 130; 5. New Mexico International 139; 6. San Fernando Valley TC 211; 7. Portland TC 232; 8. Club Keystone 239; 9. Michigan State 247; 10. West Valley TC 289.

JUNIORS

Minutes after Bjorklund had forced a fast pace to open a gap on the field she never relinquished, New York prep champion Kathy Mills used the same strategy in the Juniors (17 & under).

Mills easily won by 14 seconds in a fine 15:10.4 for the 2.5M course. Her team, the Syracuse Chargers, placed 4 in the top 11 for a 46 point total, 72 up on Liberty AC.

Individuals: Mills (Syr Ch) 15:10.4; 2. Jennings (Lib AC) 15:24; 3. Keith (RRR) 15:34; 4. Monday (SJ Cindergals) 15:34; 5. Opalewski (Fleet Ft) 15:42; 6. Rose (Blue Ang) 15:48; 7. Smith (Peoria Pace) 15:58; 8. Welch (Syr Ch) 15:58; 9. Adams (Wills' Spik) 16:02; 10. Seyrord (Syr Ch) 16:05.

Teams: Syracuse Chargers 46; 2. Liberty AC 118; 3. Rialto Road Runners 123; 4. San Jose Cindergals 135; 5. Peoria Pacettes 141.

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