

## SSU Captures NIC Indoor Track Meet

MARSHALL, MN.—The Southwest State University track squad opened its 1977 season Saturday by grabbing fourth place at the Northern Inter-collegiate Conference (NIC) indoor meet in Moorhead. It was the highest finish ever for the Mustangs in a conference meet.

Southwest coach Harry Jones commented, "I was real happy with the team's overall performance. Considering that over half the team has been in practice only three weeks, we had satisfying results for our first meet of the year."

Leading the Southwest contingent in scoring was Terry Bentele, who captured third in the shot put with a heave of 46 feet 2 1/2 inches. Sprinter Al Scheinhaus of Miami, Fla. picked up a fourth place in the 60-yard dash with a clocking of 0:06.6. Also earning a fourth was the sprint relay team of Will Ling of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. Scheinhaus, Bo Scott of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. and Haywood Boston of Plymouth, N. C. They were

timed in 1:03.5. Boston leaped 21 feet 7 inches to take fifth in the long jump. The mile relay team of Dave Wolter of Lakeville, Mike Harland of Antioch, Ill., Larry Burgess of Spring Hope, N. C. and Boston completed the Mustang scoring with fifth place in 3:43.3.

Looking ahead to the outdoor season, Coach Jones expects a great deal from the relay teams.

"Both the sprint and mile relay squads possess great capability with a good chance of breaking school records. With more work, they should show marked improvement and extra confidence," he predicted.

Willie Ray Bond of Edenton is expected to add speed to the mile relay team when he replaces distance man Mike Harland.

Freshman Dennis Roberts of New York Mills is another bright spot as he broke school records in the 60-yard high and 60-yard intermediate hurdle events in the NIC meet. Another scoring threat for the Mustangs will be Nels

Erickson of Montevideo in the 880. Handling the distance work this spring will be Harland, Grey Schmidt of Redwood Falls and Neil Kruse of Verdi. In the sprints, Steve Tarara of Rochester and Dexter Cooley of Bunn, N. C. are expected to push the others for positions and also serve as alternates on the relay teams.

The Mustangs open their 1977 outdoor season March 29, when they travel to Sioux Falls for the Augustana Open. They return home to host the annual Banana Relays on Saturday, April 2.

## V. A. Questions And Answers

Q—Why is my VA pension allowance reduced when I receive an increase in Social Security benefits?

A—VA pension is payable to wartime veterans with permanent and total disabilities, not resulting from service. The monthly stipend is based on the amount of annual income a pensioner receives from other sources. Social Security payments and other retirement benefits, less a 10 per cent exclusion allowed by law, are included in the annual income.

## Holiday Flowers Arrive On Time Through Precision Growing

It's no coincidence that Easter lilies will unfold their delicate white flowers this year during the first 10 days of April.

Nor is it accidental that hydrangias and chrysanthemums will blossom just before Mother's Day.

Most greenhouse plants and flowers are carefully manipulated during their growing cycle to assure that they reach their peak at holiday seasons, thus resulting in better sales for growers.

"If you tell us when the holiday is," says N. C. State University research horticulturist Vincent P. Bonaminio, "we'll have a plant for you."

The greenery and blossoms can seemingly be programmed like a computer or tailor-made like an expensive suit of clothing. But, floriculturists must combine the exact amounts of light, temperature, nutrients and other variables to make the precision growing possible.

At NCSU, Bonaminio and other horticulturists use the \$2.4 million Phytotron, which features environmentally controlled growth chambers, seed germinator cabinets and temperature - controlled greenhouses, to study how plants react to different conditions.

The Easter lilies you'll soon buy were being monitored and pampered by greenhouse growers well before their Christmas poinsettias left the shelves. Most of the lily bulbs used on the East Coast come

from Washington State or Oregon. The bulbs, if shipped directly from the fields instead of being stored first, will arrive here in mid-November. Growers will pot them and allow the bulbs to grow for about three weeks.

Next, the bulbs are moved to cold storage for about six weeks. Bud initiation begins now, and because lilies are sold according to the number of blooms, this is a critical time.

The lilies then return to the greenhouse where they are grown at precise temperatures. The temperature depends on how long the grower left the lilies in cold storage and whether Easter falls early or late in the spring.

This is called the "forcing period," because the grower has control over how fast or how slowly the plants will grow.

Using the Phytotron, Bonaminio has monitored how the temperature during this forcing period affects the plant's height and the number of buds.

The cooler the temperature, the shorter the plants. However, the flowers will probably last longer, he says.

For more buds, growers should maintain 38 degrees Fahrenheit in the cold storage chamber.

"Easter lilies are a complex crop to work with," Bonaminio says. "but one that has great returns."

## Peanut Demand Is Moderate

Southeastern Section—Demand for Southeastern Grown peanuts was moderate during the week ending March 25. Trading was fairly active for light offerings and prices rose slightly higher. Continued export inquiries gave strength the market for U. S. on grade runners. Cool weather during the week, with minimum temperatures reported in the low to mid 30's delayed planting of the new crop. Planting was expected to begin in about two weeks. Shipments were made as scheduled. Prices paid per pound for shelled funner type peanuts selling on an FOB shipping point basis for prompt through April shipment were: Jumbo 35 to 35-one third cents; Medium 34 1/2; Number Ones 31 1/2 to 32; and U. S. Splits 26 1/2 to 27.

Virginia-North Carolina Section—Demand for Virginia and North Carolina grown peanuts was good during the week ending March 25. Trading was fairly light due to the limited offerings. Prices advanced sharply especially for in shell grades. Supplies decreased as more shellers completed operations for the season. Shipments were generally made as scheduled. Prices paid per pound for Virginia type peanuts sold on an FOB shipping point basis for prompt through April shipment were: Unshelled Jumbo 37 cents; Fancy 35; and Shelled number twos 25 1/2 to 24 1/2.



UNIQUE MAP—Department of Natural and Economic Resources artist Wayne Creech is shown with the travel guide side of the new official State Map. The map offers a new concept in that the back side is a complete guide to many of the travel opportunities in the Tar Heel State. The North Carolina Travel Development Section and the Department of Transportation combined efforts to produce the map. (N&ER Photo by Jim Page)

## New State Map Has Travel Flourish

RALEIGH—When the new official State Highway Map for 1977-78 rolls off the presses this month - more than one million of them - it will have a fresh, functional "travel" look about it.

State officials predict the publication will receive rapid recognition as the nation's first and most complete Travel Map, and may well change the approach all states take toward highway maps in the future.

The concept, spearheaded by the Governor's office, incorporates a complete listing of all major North Carolina travel attractions, historical sites, outdoor dramas, handicrafts, waterfalls, state and national parks and forests, rockhounding locations and ferries - with identification

and map coordinates - as a aid to vacationing motorists.

Prepared jointly by the Department of Transportation and the Travel Development office of Natural and Economic Resources, the map also contains 24 full-color photographs of outstanding travel and tourist resort areas.

A spokesman for Travel Development hailed the concept as an innovation that will contribute substantially to North Carolina's more than \$1 billion travel industry. "It is an effective self-contained piece of travel literature in itself. Since more than 90 per cent of the state's visitation comes by automobile, the Official Travel Map could potentially increase attendance at attractions and

events statewide in 1977," he said.

## Mulch Helps Plants During Hot Weather

Replenish Mulch To Save Water  
Mulching home landscape plants now can save the homeowner headaches later when the weather is hot and dry.

If you haven't done it yet, mulch around azaleas, camellias and roses. If these plants were mulched some time ago, the mulch should be replenished, according to North Carolina State University agricultural extension specialists.

Mulch will help conserve moisture, keep soil insulated against the summer heat and help reduce weed problems.

The mulch, when settled, should be at least two inches thick. Use such materials as pine straw or shredded bark.

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