

Bartow sure Matthews to sign

By FRED SPECK
Sports Writer

Illini basketball coach Gene Bartow said Monday night he is "99 per cent sure" that Bloom Township High School basketball star Audie Matthews will announce Illinois as his college choice today.

Matthews, who had eliminated UCLA from the running after a visit there last weekend, will announce his decision at a press conference in Chicago Heights at 2 p.m. today.

Before his visit to UCLA, Matthews had said that Illinois, Purdue and UCLA were the three schools from which he was considering accepting a scholarship.

Matthews and Bloom coach Wes Mason talked with Illinois Athletic Director Cecil Coleman Monday

afternoon in Chicago Heights and then spoke with Bartow on Illinois' campus. They returned to Chicago Heights at approximately 9:30 p.m. Monday.

"Of course, you don't know for sure until a fellow signs a letter of intent," Bartow said. "But we feel 99 per cent sure he's going to be on our team next year."

Purdue head coach Fred Schauss was unavailable for comment, but assistant Bob King said, "I suspect he's leaning towards Illinois. He gave me that impression when I spoke with him Sunday."

"When I talked to him a week ago, it seemed like it was about 50-50 between Illinois and Purdue," King added. "But now it doesn't look that way."

"I had a feeling he might sign

with them when he visited the campus today."

Mason said that he and Matthews will make no more visits before his announcement tomorrow. "Purdue had their paid visit and Illinois had theirs so we'll just wait until the press conference."

One of the main hinderances in Bartow's talks with Matthews and Mason has reportedly been the NCAA investigation of Illinois alleged recruiting violations in past seasons. Mason had been quoted as saying that anything more than a two-year post season ban for the Illini would probably

affect Matthews' decision.

"He's been made aware of everything that we know as far as the investigation goes," Bartow said of Matthews. "We've told every player that we've contacted what the situation is, but some people seem to have made more out of the investigation than is really there."

"It seems like everybody is getting investigated. We just seem to get more than our share."

Matthews' signing would be the sixth for Bartow and assistants Tony Yates and Leroy Hunt. Rick Leighty, Rich Gerhardt, Mike

Washington, Nate Williams and Rich Adams have already signed their letters of intent for Illinois.

Matthews would be the third black player signed by Bartow, along with Washington, Williams, and Adams.

"He'll have made a good choice at either school," King said. "Of course we have no hostilities if he doesn't pick our school. In a situation like this I think the state school always has an advantage, since most players would ideally like to play in their own state."

"Bartow's done a pretty good job if he gets him."

SIU edges Illini trackmen in Illinois Intercollegiate

By BOB VANCE
Sports Writer

A point here, a point there, they all add up. Unfortunately for retiring Illinois coach Bob Wright and his Illini track team, they were four points short of winning the sixth annual Illinois Intercollegiate at Memorial Stadium Saturday.

Low Hartzog's Salukis of Southern Illinois (Carbondale) continued their dominance of the meet which brings together all of the state's top collegiate track teams, but not without a battle from Eastern Illinois and the host Illini.

SIU came from 17 points down on the first day to score 123 points during the rain-drenched action Saturday to nip the Illini 146-142 for their fourth straight Intercollegiate title and their fifth in six years. Eastern, which scored in every event but the high jump, tallied 128 points.

In all, 22 teams from the width and breadth of Illinois competed in the two-day meet, which produced four meet records and two Memorial Stadium records.

Illinois captured seven individual titles to six for SIU while Eastern garnered three and Northern, North Central, Northwestern and SIU-Edwardsville took one each.

The Illini winners included double titles by Mike Baietto and Charlton Ehizuelen, Mike Durkin in the mile, Dave Kaemerer in the half-mile and Al Melton in the 120-yard high hurdles.

The highlight for the Illini had to be the performance of freshman triple jumper Mike Nipinak, who

placed third in the event behind teammate Ehizuelen and SIU's Phil Robins.

While Ehizuelen was establishing a new meet record with his 52-8/4 jump, Nipinak became the seventh Illinois qualifier for the national finals—June 6-8 at Austin, Tex., with his leap of 50-6/4. "That was some performance," Illinois coach Gary Wieneke said. "It was a super effort."

The strongest Illinois performance in a single event was the 120-yard high hurdles which Melton won in 14.2. Trailing the Illini sophomore were teammates Jim Hanlon in third, Dave Stoddard in fourth and Holger Paetau in sixth for 21 team points in the event.

Paetau also placed fourth in the 440-yard intermediates, while Melton and Hanlon combined with Ben App and Ehizuelen for a second place behind Southern in the 440-yard relay.

App, Durkin, Kaemerer and Wesley Wright finished second to SIU in the mile relay also. Earlier Durkin had won the mile in 4:05.3 and Kaemerer took the 800 in 1:50.8. Freshman Tom Kaczowski placed third in the half-mile with a 1:53.3 clocking.

Other Illinois placers included seconds from Bill Allen in the steeplechase, Jim Coxworth in the hammer throw and Craig Virgin in the three-mile run; a fifth from Rich Brooks in the six mile and sixths from Les Myers in the six mile. Tom Kearney in the hammer throw and Jerry Finis in the discus.

Despite the wet and rainy conditions sprinters Terry Erickson and Sandy Osei-Agyeman were

able to assault meet records.

Erickson, from SIU, ran away dump Chuck Benson of SIU from the record books. Benson had run a 47.1 in 1969 for the Salukis. Erickson also anchored the winning Southern Illinois mile relay team.

Osei-Agyeman equalled the meet and stadium 100-yard dash record he had tied last year in the preliminaries Friday. Osei-Agyeman's time of 9.3 also matched world record-holder Ivory Crockett's 9.3 at the Stadium and in the intercollegiates.

Crockett bettered the world mark in the 100 Saturday with 9.0 clocking at the Tom Black Classic mark in the 100 Saturday with 9.0 University of Tennessee.

Osei-Agyeman doubled in the meet, also winning the 220, an event from which Illinois' Ehizuelen was disqualified for running out of lane. Ehizuelen had finished fifth before being disqualified.

NIU's Scot Pauli established the only other meet and Stadium record in the meet with a 223-7 toss in the javelin.

"Basically, we had some real good performances up and down the line," Wieneke said of the Illinois performance. "We have some real good momentum building for the Big Ten meet, but we just didn't quite have enough to win this meet."

"I don't believe that we have any second thoughts about not doubling certain individuals. We have been aiming for the Big Ten, and although it would have been nice to win it for Coach Wright, it still doesn't carry the significance the Big Ten does."



(Staff photo by Jim Thurow)

RAIN FALLS on big Mike Baietto as the Illini junior spins to leave the discus. Baietto won the event in the sixth annual Illinois Intercollegiate Saturday with a 166-10 toss. He also captured the shot put title with a 58-6 heave.

Women finish 2nd in track

By SUSAN STERNBERG
Sports Writer

The women's track team's performance in its strength, the field events, told the story of the state track tournament Saturday at Southern Illinois—five second-places in five events—as the Illini came up 70 points short of champion Illinois State.

This marked the fourth straight meet in which the Women's Intercollegiate Sports Association (WISA) team trailed the Redbirds' second and twice in the second slot. In Saturday's meet Chicago State was a distant third with 69 points, far back of ISU's 179 and Illinois' 109. However, CSU did set four of the six now state records established at the tournament.

ISU simply overpowered the other eight state competitors with good depth from its 24-member squad and its hurdle and field events performances. The state champs wrapped up the 400-meter hurdles by taking a first, second, fourth and sixth. In the 100-meter hurdles ISU finished first, second and fourth.

In the field events action ISU walked off with 14 places, including firsts in all five events. Meanwhile, the Illini, missing shot put and discus national qualifier sophomore Barb Grider, could manage only eight places. Senior Liz Sharp captured four of the five second-place finishes, being runner-up in the high jump, javelin, discus, and shot.

Chicago State once again showed its domination in the sprinting events by setting state records in the 100, 220, 440 and 880-yard dashes. Illinois grabbed two

seconds and five third-places in the running competition.

Junior Joy Israel and senior Judy Harrison showed the most improvement for the Illini in their last regular season meet. Israel cut .006 more seconds off her 880 time, turning in a 2:31.4 performance and placing second. She has steadily decreased her time for a 2:36 clocking in Illinois' first meet at Indiana State.

Harrison ran the 880 in 2:32.7 and finished third, an improvement over her time of 2:35.2 a week ago at ISU. The senior also chopped 3.6 seconds off her mile time at ISU, finishing in 5:45 at the state meet, good for second place.

Even though the Illini were missing Grider with a pulled back muscle and 440-nationals qualifier, freshmen Sue Bowker, who has tendonitis in her achilles heel, coach Roger Capan thinks that ISU couldn't have been beaten.

"We couldn't have made up the deficit of 79 points even if we would've had Barb and Sue," said Capan. "However, it could have been closer."

Intermittent showers resulted in slippery conditions probably caused sophomore Diana Kummer to place only second in the long jump with a leap of 17 feet. Kummer had jumped over 18 feet placing first in first in two previous meets, in each.

"The runway was very slippery for the long jump, and Diana had previously dislocated her ankle twice on slippery runways had had to have two operations, so naturally she was wary," Capan explained.

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