

ever met. Their paths failed to cross during the regular prep season. But then the two were invited to the 1979 U.S. Sports Festival.

"We were roommates at the Sports Festival," McDonald recalled. And when the competition rolled around, Small beat her. "But that's OK," McDonald said, her pale blue eyes shining.

That's easy to say now. At the Kansas Relays, Small was a distant second at 160-7. "Yeah, I enjoyed it," McDonald admitted. "Totally."

Actually, McDonald still can't figure out how she popped her winning toss. After a long plane ride Thursday, she was tired and sore. The discus competition began at 10 a.m. Friday, a hot and muggy day.

Her first toss in preliminaries was a scratch. Her second went about 158 feet. And then...

"Something felt different. I really didn't think I had thrown that far. I went down the sidelines to get my discus and saw two (marker) flags around 160. I thought, 'Well, I threw far enough to place in the top three.'"

"Then I saw another flag way out there. I asked an official, 'Is that mine?'"

"I just about lost it right there," she said with a satisfied grin.

McDonald has been spending the entire season getting it back. Her senior prep year, compared to her junior season, was sub-par. Her first goal at Oregon was to get back into the 160s. That was quickly accomplished with a 161-9 effort early in the season, which broke Kathy Picknell's school record of 161-6 set last year.

Her second goal — to break her personal best (163-2) — was done with a 164-6 toss two

weeks ago against Washington.

McDonald said her next milepost is hitting in the 170-175 range. So far, she's on schedule. "I think I might even be ahead of it."

The prospect that such consistent improvement will make the media beat a path to the discus ring doesn't faze McDonald. Her face soured a bit though when she said a reporter from her hometown paper had called her at 7 a.m. Monday. But she said she's happy her old Watertown acquaintances "took the time to do it."

Sometimes, Warren wonders why the media isn't talking with her as much as last year.

Warren is no longer an up-and-coming freshman — someone whom Hayward Field fans and reporters latch onto. This year, she has established herself, with 800 and 1,500 times consistently in the national-class range.

Still, her 2:01.30 and victory at the Kansas Relays probably took most spectators in Lawrence by surprise. "The announcer had this big, long spiel about Madeline right before the race, but not anything about me."

The "unknown runner"

passed Mims going into the second lap after a quick 57-second quarter.

"I ran the next 110 at about the same pace," Warren said. "Then I hit a headwind on the backstretch. I still felt good, but I had told myself earlier that if I was leading at this point, I would ease up on the backstretch and then work the last 200."

"Then I heard the announcer say I was pulling away. I saw there was no competition then, so I could just bring it in. I think if someone were with me the whole way I could've run faster."

Warren's next shot at a sub-two-minute 800 will probably come at the AIAW championships in late May or the Track Athletic Congress meet in June.

But at this point, Warren is mightily pleased with the season so far.

"I've run some good times this year (including an easy 4:26 1,500), beaten some people I wanted to beat."

The race Warren is really looking forward is the 1,500 at the Pepsi Meet May 10. There she will meet most of the people she beat in the last 150 meters of the Olympic Trials 1,500, where she placed third.

"I'm sure they all want to get me."

By Jody Murray
Photos by Steve Dykes

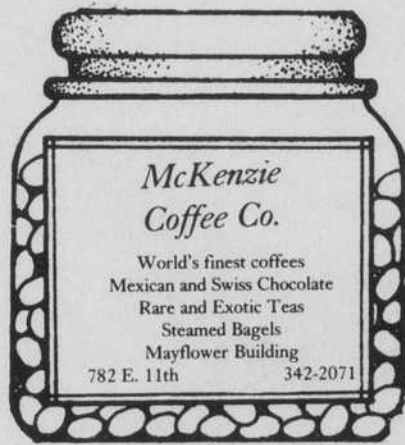
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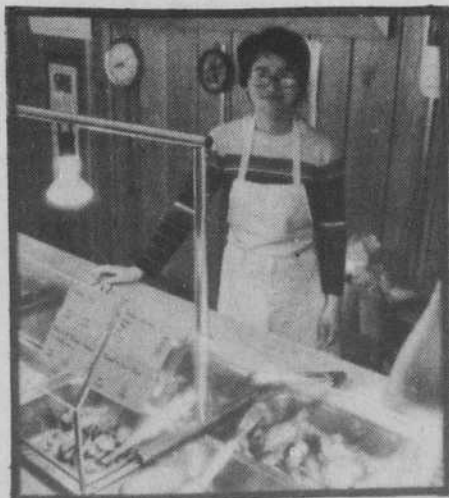
Indians rally scalps Royals

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — A run-scoring double by Bo Diaz triggered a three-run ninth inning as the Cleveland Indians beat Kansas City 4-1 Tuesday night behind Rick Waits' seven-hitter.

The Royal's Juan Berenguer, relieved Larry Gura in the eighth, walked Toby Harrah to open the ninth. Then Diaz doubled to right-center to break the 1-1 tie.

Rick Manning also was walked, stole second and scored on Alan Bannister's double. Bannister scored when Jorge Orta lofted a fly ball to right center that fell in for a double.

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