

# Seminoles hope to sprint past Tennessee for NCAA crown

## Florida State

For Florida State, it could literally be a sprint to the championship title at this year's NCAA women's track and field championships.

The Seminoles, tabbed by Track and Field News as the favorite to take the NCAA title trophy home from Eugene this week, will use their wealth of talent in the sprints to try and accomplish that feat.

"Florida State is the best sprint team in the country, hands down," says Tennessee coach Terri Crawford. "It will be hard to touch them."

To win, Florida State will have to use its ammunition in the sprints to turn back Tennessee, which is picked to finish behind the Seminoles but which has its talent spread over more events.

Although the Seminoles are tabbed by Track and Field News to score in seven events, 115 out of their 131 points are in the sprints and relays, including 72 points combined in the 100 and 200. That could prove to be a problem, since sprint points are notoriously unstable in big meets where sprinters are required to double or triple.

Florida State is paced by senior Randy Givens, one of the country's leading sprinters. Givens, the odds-on favorite to capture both the 100 and 200, has run a 11.27 100 and 23.29 200 this season. But right on her heels should

be teammate Brenda Cliette, a sophomore. Cliette has run a 52.26 400 this season but may enter the 100 and 200, where her only competition could be Givens.

But Florida State's sprint sensations don't stop there. Freshman Michelle Finn (11.49) is picked to finish ninth in the 100 while Marita Payne (23.44) and Janet Davis (23.67) are expected to score in the 200 while Payne is expected to finish second in the 400.

The Seminoles also possess two of the finest relay teams in the nation and are picked to win both the 400 and

### By Steve Turcotte

1,600 relays. They set the NCAA 400 relay record earlier this year (44.14) and have recorded a 3:33.89 1,600.

"They have so much sprint talent it's unbelievable," says Tom Heinonen, the coach of the Oregon women's track team. "Almost all of their sprinters will score big points for them."

The Seminoles also have Ovrill Brown in the 400 hurdles, who has run a 57.49 this season. She is expected to finish at least fifth and possibly could score higher.

The only field event points the Seminoles are expected to pick up are in the high jump, where Wendy Markham is picked to finish fourth.

## Tennessee

If the chips fall into place, the University of Tennessee's women's track team could reign supreme in this year's NCAA track and field championships.

The Volunteers, second-place finishers in the NCAA meet the last two years, will score in almost every running event and will produce big points in the shot and discus.

According to Track and Field News, Tennessee will finish second with 115 points, 16 behind projected winner Florida State. But the Volunteers' points are spread over 14 events, while the Seminoles' are spread over only seven.

And, while Florida State will get 115 out of its projected 131 points from the sprints and relays, the Volunteers points are spread out over the sprints, distances, hurdles, relays and weights. Track and Field News predicts Tennessee will score 27 points in the sprints, 25 points in the distances, 12 points in the hurdles, 20 points in the relays, and 23 points in the weight events.

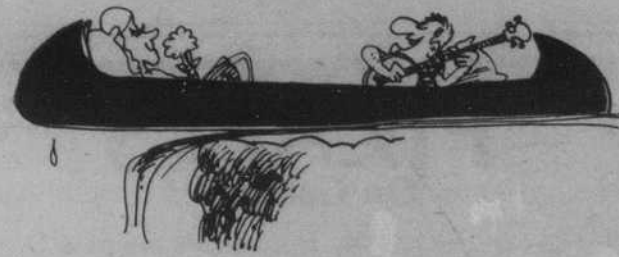
Even though Tennessee may look good on paper, Terri Crawford, the Volunteer coach, feels that her club isn't even in the same league with Florida State at this year's national meet.

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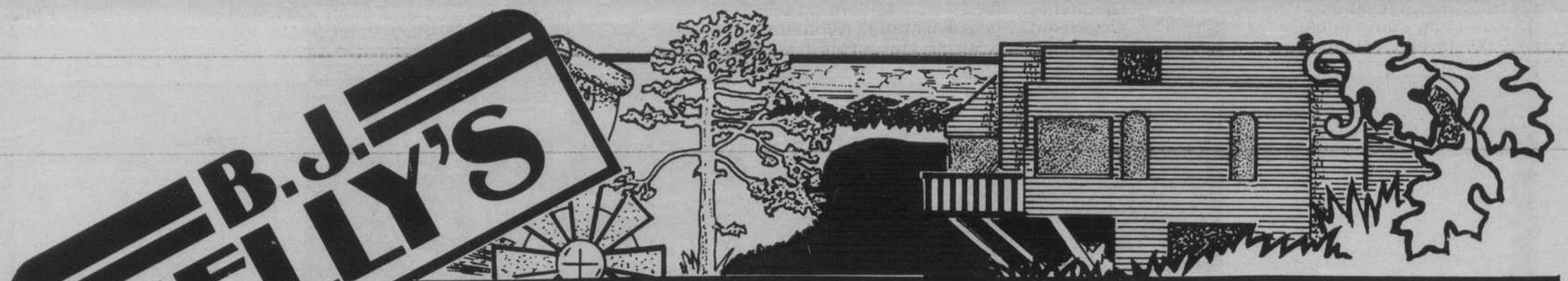
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