

# UCLA, Minus Two Key Scorers, Runs USC Down, 82-63

BY HARLEY TINKHAM

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If they had told you before the meet that Jim Neidhart would not compete in the shot put and that Maxie Parks would not run the 440 or the mile relay, how would you have liked UCLA's chances?

Not the best, probably. But Jim Bush has said it all year and he said it again Saturday, "This is the best competitive team I've ever had at UCLA."

The Bruins proved it conclusively before 10,274 fans on a gray afternoon at the Coliseum, defeating USC, 82-63, to win their third straight national collegiate dual meet title.

It was UCLA's 26th straight dual meet victory, extending back to 1971, and its third straight over USC—something that hasn't happened to the Trojans in 45 years. Stanford, in 1927-29, was the last school to win three in a row from USC.

The Bruins stunned the Trojans early with a victory by Jerry Herndon in the long jump and a come-from-behind win in the 440 relay but in the relay Parks pulled a hamstring.

"I cried when I heard Maxie was hurt," Bruin sprinter Gordon Peppars said. "I told him, 'Maxie, we're going to win this meet for you. Don't worry about the 220. I'm going to win it.'"

Peppars did. He ran 21.1, holding off Troy's Mike Shavers, who had beaten him in the 100 in 9.7. Earlier, Peppars anchored the 440 relay team to a 39.8 victory.

Trojan fans had new life when the Parks injury was announced—that meant USC could win the mile relay—but the Bruins proceeded to pick up virtually every disputed point.

Tony Veney roared past USC's James Baxter in the stretch to win the 880 in 1:49.4 and Lynnsey Guer-

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tero came from 5 yards back to win the 440 hurdles in 51.8 after USC's Tom Andrews missed his step and came to a stop before the last hurdle.

The Trojans had one last glimmer when Ed Washington took an early lead over UCLA's Clarence Taylor in the triple jump but it was quickly extinguished when Taylor, despite taking off behind the board, leaped 54-0 to set a meet record.

"We just had a bad day," USC coach Vern Wolfe said. "But I'm still proud of these kids because we've beaten some good teams this year. We're still young. The next two years you're going to see a lot of improvement."

Shavers said, "Our team wasn't too ready. We didn't perform like we were supposed to. After we lost the 440 relay, we seemed to lose everything."

The Trojans had a 2-yard lead in the relay coming to the anchor leg but Ken Randle and David Thomas botched the final pass and Thomas came out of it 2 yards behind Peppers.

"I heard Randle yell, 'Stick!' " Thomas said, "but when I reached back the stick wasn't there."

Wolfe pulled a switch, starting with Shavers and anchoring with Thomas then wound up getting caught in the switch.

"David hadn't run in over a month," said Wolfe, "so we were afraid to start him on the curve. We didn't want him to get hurt."

Shavers said, "I went to high school with Dotson (UCLA's Dotson Wilson) at Albany, and I figured I could get a good lead on him. But I didn't do the job."

Bruin stars were many, but nobody did a bigger job than the smallest man on the team, 5-7, 135-pound long jumper Jerry Herndon.

He leaped 25-7 $\frac{1}{4}$  to turn back a pair of Trojan 26-footers, Olympic champion Randy Williams and freshman Gerald Hardeman.

Williams, coming off an injury, finished second at 24-11 and Hardeman failed to qualify for the finals,

fouling all three jumps in the preliminaries.

Somebody suggested that Herndon delivered the KO punch to the Trojans.

"This is only the end of Round One," said the freshman from San Bernardino. "We'll be meeting many more times. Randy has a lot of courage, competing when he's hurt. And I know Gerald will be back."

"I've been pretty lucky. I just pray from week to week and then come out and try to execute."

He executed.

## Track Notes

Bush said he didn't even know about Neidhart's injury, a hyper-extended elbow, until he arrived at the Coliseum. "These kids want to compete so much, that they try to keep their injuries secret," said Bush. "It turns out he hurt himself at Mt. Sac last week." Of Parks, Bush said, "We're hoping it's a strain, not a pull." Parks said, "I promise I'll be ready for the Pacific Eight meet." That's in two weeks at the Coliseum . . . The Bruins conceded the mile relay to the Trojans, not running Benny Brown who won the 440 in 46.3 . . . Of Venev, Bush said, "I hope one of these days he realizes how good he is. He could be one of the great college half-milers."

Of Andrews, Wolfe said, "He just panicked on the last hurdle. He's only run the race four or five times, so he's still learning. I've been trying to teach him how to go over the hurdle with the wrong leg but he just forgot. Don't worry, though, he's going to be a good one." . . . Peppers hadn't run a fast race in a month after being injured but said he was confident, both of his own chances and the team's. "I've always done better under pressure," he said. "I've never felt I had the respect I deserved. There's been quite a few 9.3 sprinters picked over me that I've beaten. I believe in performances, not times." As for the Bruins, he said, "We've got a lot of pride. This is a close-knit team. If something goes wrong, we always know there will be someone there to pick up the slack."

SHOT PUT—1. Schiller (UCLA), 61.2; 2. Freberg (UCLA), 59-6 1/4; 3. Bouvier (USC), 56-11.

440 RELAY—1. UCLA (Wilson, Parks, Brown, Peppers), 39.8; 2. USC (Shavers, Jones, Randle, Thomas), 40.1.

JAVELIN—1. Kofinek (UCLA), 243-10; 2. Sterner (USC), 204-2; 3. Testi (UCLA), 198-11.

LONG JUMP—1. Herndon (UCLA), 25-7; 2. R. Williams (USC), 24-11; 3. Kofinek (UCLA), 24-5.

MILE—1. Beck (UCLA), 4:04.1; 2. Ritcherson (USC), 4:06.6; 3. Nihil (UCLA), 4:08.7.

1200M—1. Johnson (USC), 14.1; 2. O. Williams (USC), 14.3; 3. Coffman (USC), 14.4.

440—1. Brown (UCLA), 46.3; 2. Randle (USC), 46.8; 3. Campbell (USC), 46.9.

100—1. Shavers (USC), 9.7; 2. Peppers (UCLA), 9.7; 3. Wilson (UCLA), 9.8.

POLE VAULT—1. Tracanelli (UCLA), 16-6; 2. Pullard (USC), 16-6; 3. Mooers (UCLA), 16-0.

880—1. Venev (UCLA), 1:49.4; 2. Baxter (USC), 1:50.2; 3. Kern (USC), 1:51.2.

Andrews (USC), 52.2; 3. Kight (UCLA), 53.0.

DISCUS—1. Freberg (UCLA), 166-5; 2. Gunther (UCLA), 177-11; 3. Fruspolietti (USC) 165-5.

220—1. Peppers (UCLA), 21.1; 2. Shavers (USC), 21.2; 3. Brown (UCLA), 21.6.

TRIPLE JUMP—1. Taylor (UCLA), 54-0 (meet record, old mark, 53-2 3/4, Harry Freeman, UCLA, 1973); 2. Washington (USC), 52-5; 3. Cochee (USC), 50-11.

TWO MILE—1. Innes (UCLA), 8:44.0 (meet record, old mark, 8:50.2, Julie Martin, USC, 1963); 2. S. Brown (USC), 8:55.4; 3. Ritcherson (USC), 8:58.6.

HIGH JUMP—1. Owens (USC), 7-0; 2. Culp (USC), 7-0; 3. Kofinek (UCLA), 6-10.

MILE RELAY—1. USC (C. Brown, 48.9, Campbell 46.3, Jones 47.4, Ranft 50.8), 3:11.6; 2. UCLA (Harrell 48.3, Walters 47.0, Heinzen 49.4, Venev 48.4), 3:13.1.

FINAL SCORE—UCLA 82, USC 63. Attendance—10,274.