

15,514 See USC Run Away From UCLA, 91-63

BY MAL FLORENCE

Times Staff Writer

The consensus was that the sprint relay would be the pivotal race of the USC-UCLA dual track and field meet. The winning team would get not only five points but also a psychological lift that would sustain it the rest of the day.

Well, UCLA won the 440-yard relay Saturday but the defeat only served to turn USC on—and UCLA off. The Trojans wrapped up the meet by winning the 110-meter hurdles and going 1-2 in the 400, 100 and 800—races that were figured in favor of UCLA or very close in premeet calculations.

So what appeared to be a tossup meet, one that wouldn't be decided until the concluding mile relay, turned out to be a romp for USC, 91-63.

It was a case of practically every Trojan coming through and some Bruins faltering—and USC's "gamble" paying off.

A Drake Stadium record crowd of 15,514—which doesn't include a few thousand more pressed against fences and hanging on walls—saw the Trojans get an unexpected blitz because:

—Clancy Edwards and Joel Andrews ran 1-2 in the 100 over UCLA Olympian Millard Hampton. Edwards had a tremendous surge in the last 20 meters and won in 10.18—third fastest time in the world this year.

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Later, Edwards made a similar strong move to catch Hampton in the 200. He won in 20.29 (10th on the all-time list). This was supposed to be Hampton's race; he was the silver medalist at Montreal.

—USC's Mike Johnson was supposed to be in double trouble against UCLA's James Owens, an Olympian, and Greg Foster, the freshman sensation, in the 110-meter hurdles. But Johnson caught Owens in the last few strides and won in 13.69. Foster pulled up after the fifth hurdle. UCLA coach Jim Bush said Foster has an arch injury and aggravated it coming off a hurdle. "I don't know if he'll hurdle the rest of the year," Bush said. "When he comes down on his foot, it hurts him. But he can run in races other than the hurdles."

—USC's Tom Andrews is a world class 400-intermediate hurdler and says he has run only two previous open 400s as a collegian. So the USC senior surprised UCLA by winning in 46.44 with teammate Rayfield Beaton (46.90) getting second. UCLA's Benny Myles, favored by some, was a struggling fourth.

—The 800 meters was supposed to be a race that could go either way. Once again, USC went 1-2 with Lloyd Johnson (1:49.2) and David Omwansa (1:50.4).

No one was sure Omwansa could double effectively. Earlier, he was second behind UCLA's Barrie Williams in the 1,500. Bush said his half-milers didn't set a fast enough early pace to tire Omwansa.

USC coach Vern Wolfe made every move correctly. He elected to put Joel Andrews in the sprints (he got four points) instead of the 400, in which he was considered a cinch winner.

Tom Andrews, Joel's brother, got the 400 win, instead. He was prepared to come back in the 400 intermediates, if needed, but he wasn't.

Rich Graybehl and Mike Johnson went 1-2 for USC as UCLA's Phillip Mills, trying to make a comeback from a leg injury, didn't have it in the stretch.

"We just had more options than the Bruins," Tom Andrews said. "They were playing a pat hand and couldn't move too many people around like we could. No, I don't think we were gambling because we knew we could win in the races we entered."

Otherwise, the meet was rather formful.

USC freshman Larry Doubley sailed 26 feet on his first long jump and UCLA's Willie Banks couldn't match it and lost for the first time this season.

Banks came back to win the triple jump (54-0) and UCLA's Mike Tully took the pole vault (18-0 1/4), as expected, to account for two of the Bruins' seven first places.

USC's Ralph Fruguglietti was a double winner in the shotput (a lifetime best of 61-3 1/4) and discus (198-6), teammate Urpo Paananen won the javelin (216-3) and the Trojans took the anti-climatic mile relay (3:07.1)—among their 11 first places.

But it was unexpected seconds and thirds that helped to get the Trojans rolling. Dan Reynolds, a walk-on, whom Wolfe said he recruited from the band, got a surprise third in the 3,000-meter steeplechase, the first running event. He improved on his lifetime best by 22 seconds.

Then high jumper Tim Walker, recovering from a broken foot, placed second (6-10); many figured the Bruins would sweep the event.

"This is a veteran team and they were confident they could win even if the coaches were nervous," Wolfe said, "and I was plenty nervous after we lost the sprint relay. We just didn't have a bad performance. We gambled some (moving athletes around and doubling them) and, fortunately, it worked."

It was the 13th straight dual meet victory for USC, the defending NCAA champion. Wolfe says he doesn't think his team has the depth it did last year but, if it continues to improve, will be one of the top contenders in the nationals this year.

Bush has now lost two straight to USC after winning

four consecutive years. It was his most one-sided loss to the Trojans since 1970 (100-54).

"We have no excuses," he said. "They just kicked the heck out of us. We just didn't do the job and I may have to kick a few tails. I wish we could have stopped the meet after the sprint relay."

"So many things went wrong for us that I can't point to one thing but I'll have 12 months to think it over. I don't think they gambled putting Tom Andrews in the 400 because I wasn't sure Mills could even run. I was surprised he was able to go as far (third) as he did."

Bush then excused himself to watch the mile relay, saying, "Maybe we can win this race."

They didn't.

Track Notes

The Bruins elected to run the 440-yard relay instead of the 400 meters because they were trying for the collegiate record of 39.01 set by USC in 1975. They didn't get it, running 39.29 to USC's 39.37 . . . Stadium records were set in the sprint relay (also a UCLA school record), 100 and 200 meters, while meet marks fell in the steeplechase (UCLA's Shawn James, 8:57.4), 110-meter hurdles, 100 and 5,000 meters (UCLA's Vicken Simonian, 14:51.8) . . . Edwards said he thought he and Joel Andrews would go 1-2 on Hampton in the 100 but added that he had no idea he'd run so fast in both sprints. He simply exploded at the end of both races.

100 METERS—1. Edwards (USC), 10.18; 2. J. Andrews (USC), 10.22; 3. Hampton (UCLA), 10.34.

200—1. Edwards (USC), 20.29 (meet record, old mark, 21.1, James Gilkes, USC, 1976); 2. Hampton (UCLA), 20.60; 3. J. Andrews (USC), 21.1.

400—1. T. Andrews (USC), 46.44; 2. Beaton (USC), 46.90; 3. Thompson (UCLA), 47.44.

800—1. L. Johnson (USC), 1:49.2; 2. Omwansa (UCLA), 1:50.4; 3. Niederhaus (UCLA), 1:51.2.

1,500 METERS—1. Williams (UCLA), 3:46.0; 2. Omwansa (USC), 3:49.4; 3. Russell (UCLA), 3:53.2.

5,000—1. Simonian (UCLA), 14:52.8 (meet record, old mark, 15:09.2, Doug Boswell, UCLA, 1976); 2. Dinno (UCLA), 15:10.6; 3. Alvarado (USC), 15:38.8.

3,000 STEEPLECHASE—1. James (UCLA), 8:57.4; 2. Luovano (UCLA), 9:41.9; 3. Reynolds (USC), 9:48.3.

110H—1. M. Johnson (USC), 13.69; 2. Owens (UCLA), 13.71; 3. Graybehl (USC), 14.69.

400H—1. Graybehl (USC), 50.61; 2. M. Johnson (USC), 52.04; 3. Mills (UCLA), 52.5.

440 RELAY—1. UCLA (Owens, Myles, Hampton, Foster), 39.29 (school and stadium record, old school mark, 39.4; old stadium mark,

39.34, USC, 1976); 2. USC (Graybehl, Simmons, J. Andrews, Edwards), 39.37.

MILE RELAY—1. USC (Simmons 48.2, L. Johnson 46.6, Beaton 46.2, T. Andrews 46.1), 3:07.1; 2. UCLA (Thompson 47.8, Leeds 47.6, Niederhaus 47.1, Myles 49.5), 3:12.0.

SHOTPUT—1. Fruguglietti (USC), 61-3/4; 2. McKenzie (USC), 58-2/4; 3. Montgomery (USC), 56-7/8.

JAVELIN—1. Paananen (USC), 216; 2. Tosti (UCLA), 211-2; 3. Tully (UCLA), 185-4.

LONG JUMP—1. Doubley (USC), 26-0 (meet record, old mark, 25.7); 2. Banks (UCLA), 25-7/8; 3. Herndon (UCLA), 25-6/4 (wind 5.6 m.p.h.).

DISCUS—1. Fruguglietti (USC), 198-6; 2. Elder (USC), 190-0; 3. Harvey (UCLA), 171-10.

POLE VAULT—1. Tully (UCLA), 18 0/4 (meet record, old mark, 17-10, Tully, 1975); 2. DiStasio (USC), 17-0; 3. Felando (UCLA), 15-6 1/4.

HIGH JUMP—1. Meisler (UCLA), 7-1 1/4; 2. Walker (USC), 6-10; 3. Boyd (UCLA), 6-10.

TRIPLE JUMP—1. Banks (UCLA), 54-0 (wind 6.6 m.p.h.); 2. Jackson (USC), 51-7/4; 3. Assef (USC), 51-4 (wind 5.7 m.p.h.).

FINAL SCORE—USC 91, UCLA 63 Attendance—15,514

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