

USC men defeat UCLA

By GARY KLEIN
Times Staff Writer

After suffering consecutive three-point losses against the UCLA men's track team the previous two years, USC track Coach Ron Alice hoped for only one scenario on Saturday.

"All I wanted to do was get to the 4-by-4," Alice said.

The Trojans' 4 x 400-meter relay team came through in the final event of the 75th dual meet between the cross-town rivals, breaking a tie and giving the USC men an 84-79 victory in front of 2,000 at USC's Loker Stadium. The Trojans ended a five-year losing streak against the Bruins.

Nicole Leach helped UCLA's women maintain their dominance over the Trojans as the Bruins won for the 15th consecutive time. Leach posted a world-leading mark of 55.60 seconds in the 400-meter hurdles as the Bruins won, 98-65. UCLA won 13 of 19 events and swept the 800, 5,000, pole vault and high jump.

Leach also placed second in the 400 meters and anchored the Bruins' victorious 4 x 400 relay.

"Every time I get on the track I surprise myself," Leach said.

USC's Kai Kelley was perhaps the most shocked participant in the meet after he was disqualified following an apparent victory in the men's 400 hurdles. Officials ruled that Kelley's leg

went around rather than over the first few hurdles.

If Kelly had won the race, the Trojans probably would have clinched the victory before the 4 x 400 relay. Kelly was happy to run the leadoff leg for a team that also included Raphael Asafo-Agyei, DaSean Cunningham and Lionel Larry. They clocked 3 minutes 7.08 seconds to clinch a team victory that helped ease the memory of two consecutive 83-80 losses against the Bruins.

"We all had a bad taste in our mouths," said Larry, who also won the 400 meters in 45.41 seconds and anchored the winning 4 x 100 relay.

On a hot and sunny day, USC's men got help from volleyball player Juan Figueroa, who won the long jump after practicing for three days. "I was just trying to help get us some points — crazy huh?" said Figueroa, who leaped 25 feet 5½ inches to win.

USC's Noah Bryant won the shotput with a team-record throw of 67 feet 5½ inches. Ahmad Rashad won the 100 and 200 and also ran a leg of the victorious 4 x 100 relay.

UCLA's Kamaiya Warren won the women's shotput (52 feet 4¾ inches) and the discus (162-3). USC's Jessica Onyepunuka won the 100 (11.36) and the 200 (23.43) and also ran a leg for the winning 4 x 100 relay.

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USC Men Win 75th Dual Meet Over UCLA; Trojan Women Fall To Bruins

Track & Field

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LOS ANGELES - In an exciting 75th Annual USC-UCLA Dual Meet which featured a school record, many personal bests, meet and stadium records, the men's competition was decided on the meet's final event with the Trojans defeating the Bruins in the 4x400m relay to win the meet, 84-79, before an estimated crowd of 2,000. The win snapped USC's five-year losing streak in the Dual Meet and was the USC men's highest point total since scoring 91 points against the Bruins in 1977.

The USC women's team, however, could not snap their losing streak in the USC-UCLA Dual Meet which reached 15 seasons with a 98-65 loss. The USC men lead in the all-time series 40-34 (with one non-scored meet) and the Trojan women fell to 3-21.

Senior Noah Bryant set the USC school record in winning the men's shot put with a throw of 67-5 1/2 (20.56m), breaking Doug Lane's record of 66-11 1/4 (20.40m) which had stood for 35 years. Bryant's mark is also the top throw by a collegian this season, fourth best in the U.S. and sixth best in the world this season. Bryant won the 2007 NCAA indoor shot put competition with a throw of 67-5 1/4 (20.55m), the first Trojan to win the indoor title since Lane in 1972.

Trojan jumpers sophomore Aven Wright set a new PR in the triple jump with a wind-aided mark of 50-2 (15.29m) and senior Inman Breaux had a season-best jump of 49-9 1/4 (15.17m) to gain USC four points in the second to last event to earn the USC men a 79-79 tie entering the final event. That is where the 4x400m

relay team of junior Kai Kelley, senior Raphael Asafo-Agyei, senior DaSean Cunningham and junior Lionel Larry took over.

"That is all I wanted to do (get to the last race with a chance)," said USC Director of Track and Field Ron Alice. "I had Cunningham running third against Johnson (Brandon) because he has got a lot of heart. Lionel is Lionel. He is our insurance policy. If anyone is going to go by him they are going to really have to do something special."

The Trojans won the 4x400m race with a time of 3:07.80, more than two seconds faster than the Bruins' quartet and thus secured the meet for USC.

Larry also won the men's 400m race with a season-best time of 45.41 which ties him for the fastest time by a collegian this season and the eighth-fastest time in the world this season.

Freshman Ahmad Rashad won the men's 100m race with the fastest time by a Trojan this season and a new PR of 10.33. His time ties him for 18th among college runners this season. He also won the men's 200m race with a time of 21.04. Junior Roy Alugbue placed third in the 100m (10.81) and fourth in the 200m dash with a season best of 21.65.

Junior Duane Solomon, who leads all collegiate runners with a time of 1:47.19 in the 800m, won today's event with a time of 1:47.60 which is still better than the second-best time in the country. The Trojans swept the 800m competition as Asafo-Agyei placed second with a season-best time of 1:48.71 and Cunningham took third with a new PR of 1:49.70.

Solomon set a new PR in the men's 1500m with a time of 3:52.18, running down UCLA's Laef Barnes down the stretch to place third. Teammate junior Irec Sekretarski placed second with a time of 3:51.64.

Junior Logan Taylor won the men's 110m hurdles with a new PR of 13.71 which places him 10th on USC's all-time list and is the ninth-fastest time by a collegiate runner this season. Teammate Kelley ran a PR of 13.76 to place second, the 11th fastest time by an NCAA hurdler this season.

Controversy was the word in the men's 400m hurdles. At first it had appeared that Kelley had run down Bruins' hurdler Brandon Johnson to win with an amazing time of 50.04, but long after the race Kelley was disqualified for his leg going around instead of over the first several hurdles. As it was, USC only took third place in the event as redshirt sophomore Sheldon Evans ran a 53.41 time. That change could have been the difference in the meet had USC not won the 4x400m race.

Among the more improbable scorers for USC were junior Juan Figueroa in the long jump and sophomore Stenn Parton in the javelin. Figueroa, an outside hitter on the volleyball team, competing after just three days of practice, jumped a PR of 25-5 1/2 (7.76m) to win the long jump competition. His winning jump is the fifth farthest by a collegian this season. Parton, a USC decathlete, won the men's javelin competition with a career-best throw of 197-8 (60.24m). Parton's previous top throw had been 172-0. His mark of 197-8 places him ninth all-time on USC's javelin list.

Also scoring for the men were sophomore Brandon Estrada in the pole vault (3rd - 17-0), senior William Denbo in the shot (3rd - 61-11 1/2), the men's 4x100m relay team (1st - 40.37) and Adam Midles in the hammer on April 27 with a new PR (1st - 228-3).

Also setting PRs on the men's side were junior John Peate in the 3000m steeplechase with a time of 9:20.79 (10th in school history) and freshman Ben Brown in both the long jump (21-7 1/2) and the triple jump (46-8).

The Trojan women swept the 100m dash as junior Jessica Onyepunuka won with a time of 11.36, senior Candice Davis came in second with a new PR of 11.54 and freshman Elizabeth Olear took third with a time of 12.11.

Onyepunuka also won the 200m dash with a new PR of 23.43, just ahead of teammate junior Carol Rodriguez who placed second with a time of 23.62.

Rodriguez ran her first 400m race of the season and won with a time of 51.90, the fourth-fastest time by a collegiate runner this season.

The Trojans were shutout in the 800m race, but sophomore Melissa Margulies ran a PR and Trojan season best of 2:15.82.

Sophomore Oksana Milokumova placed second in the 1500m race with a time of 4:34.93.

Davis won the 100m high hurdles with a time of 12.94, just short of her NCAA-leading time of 12.88. Freshman Shalina Clarke placed third with a time of 13.78.

Clarke placed second in the 400m IH with a new PR of 57.78 which is the sixth-fastest time in school history. Her time was also the 11th fastest by a collegiate runner this season, but the top time this season was set by UCLA's Nicole Leach who ran an amazing 55.60 time to win the event. Leach's time set a new meet and Loker Stadium record and is the fastest time in the world this season.

Sophomore Natalia Kovtun placed second in the 3000m steeplechase with a season-best time of 11:04.35. Freshman Katherine Ellis did not score, but placed fifth with a new PR of 11:49.06.

USC won the 4x100m relay with a time of 44.09, but dropped the baton on the first leg of the 4x400m relay and lost to UCLA with a time of 3:46.19, 11 seconds off their season best time of 3:35.06, which is 15th in the NCAAs this season.

The Bruin women swept the high jump competition, but heptathlete Lindsay Oman tied her PR with a jump of 5-5 (1.65m). Oman also set a PR in the shot with a throw of 38-8 3/4 (11.80m). Sophomore Evan Orban earned USC a point in the shot with a throw of 42-2 3/4 (12.87m) to place third.

Javelin specialist senior Andrea McBride who is battling an elbow injury found a way to contribute, by placing second in the shot put with a PR of 45-8 1/2 (13.93m) and placing second in the discus, in her first competition of the season, with a throw of 150-10 (45.98m).

Freshman heptathlete [Shana Woods](#) placed third in the javelin with a throw of 112-7 (34.33m) and junior Arielle Sepulveda, recruited from the band and competing for the first time as a Trojan, placed fourth with a personal-best throw of 107-1 (32.65m).

Woods took second in the long jump competition with a season-best jump of 20-8 (6.30m). Senior Michelle Sanford placed fourth with a season-best effort of 20-3 1/2 (6.18m) and sophomore Myeshia Gibson placed sixth with a new PR of 19-0 3/4 (5.81m).

In the triple jump, Sanford had a season-best jump of 41-8 (12.70m) to take second place. Gibson had a season best of 38-3 1/2 (11.67m) to place sixth.

In Friday's action, USC swept the hammer competition with Orban taking first with a throw of 210-0 (64.0m), senior Julia Rozenfeld placing second with a season-best throw of 201-8 (61.46m) and senior Alexandra Williams third with a throw of 168-4 (51.30m).

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