

# USC Quartet 'Won It for Willie'

BY SHAVENAU GLICK

Times Staff Writer

Willie Wilson was the coach who started Bruce Bess on his way to track glory as a prep at La Habra High.

Bess had his chance to repay Wilson Friday night and he and his USC two-mile relay teammates did it right.

Wilson, now the assistant track coach at USC, is ill with cancer and the Trojan quartet dedicated their effort to Willie, hoping a victory would ether him up. Running the greatest races of their

lives, they not only beat Texas and villanova, but set a world record of 7:17.4.

"This is the biggest thrill possible," said Bess after the race. We hope and pray this race will help speed his recovery. Mr. Wilson certainly proved an inspiration to all of us."

The four youngsters, all Southern Californians, ran like this: John Link of Chula Vista (1:51.1), Bess (1:49.7), Dave Buck, of Brea (1:48.8) and Dennis Carr of Whittier (1:47.8).

The race was close for the first lap, but then Bess

broke it loose and picked up a 15-yard advantage that the Trojans maintained to the end.

"This was the fastest I've run this year," said Bess.

Buck added that "this was my best, too. I ran hard all the way, even though Bruce gave me a good lead."

Carr, who held off two fine anchormen in Texas' Preston Davis and Villanova's Dave Patrick, said:

"I ran a perfect race, at least according to plan. When I got the baton with about a 10-yard lead, I was

determined to keep them at least that far behind. I don't like them running up to me.

"Thank goodness we made it. As we said, the race was dedicated to coach Wilson and that was our big inspiration."

Bud Held's studies in aerodynamics have been credited with revolutionizing world javelin records, but new American record holder John Tushaus adds to the credit by claiming Held's style was responsible for his 284-0 mark.

Tushaus, the national collegiate champion from Arizona, by way of Palomar JC, moved into a tie with Russia's Janis Lusis as the fourth best javelin thrower in history with his throw.

"The secret of my success, I'm sure, is my faith in Bud Held's style of throwing," explained Tushaus. "I believe I'm one of the few who still use his old cross-step at the time of release. He was my childhood idol, and I've thrown with his style since high school."

Tushaus' year-by-year improvement is as follows: Libby, Mont., High School, 210 feet; Palomar JC, 228-0; sophomore at Arizona, 244-5; junior, 252-3½; best previous this year, 247-10.

The 6-1, 185-pounder had only two official throws Friday night. He threw 241-10, 284-0, then fouled and passed in the finals.

The 284-0 has been surpassed only by Norway's Terje Pedersen (300-11), Finland's Jorma Kinnunen (289-2) and Italy's Carlo Diliverio (284-7). Russia's Lusis, who held the Coliseum record of 270-11 before Tushaus unloaded, also has a 284-0 mark.

The world record holder's best toss was his first and was second only to his 70-7 1/4 posted just a year ago.

Texas Southern, after taking the high hurdles and 100, came back to take the 440-yard relay in the relays record-tying time of 40 seconds flat.

## Girl in Hurry

Charlotte Cook ran like a girl in a hurry—and she was — when she set an American record of 53.5 in the women's 440.

The 18-year-old St. Mary's Academy girl ran with her hair in curlers under a bandana, and she didn't waste any time because she had a date at her senior prom at 8 p.m.

The way she ran, she probably didn't miss a dance.