

# Trojans Fumble Away Chance in Mile Relay as Bruins Win

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Could Leon Brown have stayed even with Benny Brown and could Edesel Garrison have overtaken John Smith on the anchor leg, giving the meet to USC, 74-71?

We'll never know.

The Trojans took themselves out of it with a bad pass on the second baton exchange and UCLA went on to win the mile relay and the meet, 76-69.

It was an anticlimactic ending to a stirring struggle, a back-and-forth battle between the nation's leading college track and field powers at the Coliseum Saturday before 17,400, largest crowd for a dual meet here in 25 years.

The Bruins were leading, 71-69, going into the mile relay. That put it all on the line. Whoever won the mile relay won the meet.

On the first leg, UCLA's Ron Gad-dis came in 5 feet ahead of Earl Richardson. On the second leg, USC's Willie Deckard got a couple feet back on Warren Edmonson and was just a yard behind as they went to pass off.

Deckard offered the baton to Leon Brown, but Leon couldn't find the handle. He made a couple of desperate grabs, both times coming up empty, and finally put on the brakes. When he got control, Benny

# TROY FUMBLES; BRUINS WIN

TWO MILE—1. B. Brown (USC), 1:11.4; 2. Edmonson (USC), 1:14.4; 3. Salinas (UCLA), 1:15.1.  
 HIGH JUMP—Fletcher (UCLA), 7-0 (meet record, old mark 6-10 1/2, Greg Hunt, USC, 1948); 2. Stones (UCLA), 7-4; 3. Hollins (USC), 6-10.  
 MILE RELAY—1. UCLA (Gaddis 47.1, Edmonson 47.4, B. Brown 45.1, Smith 45.3), 3:38.2 (meet record, old mark 3:39.9, UCLA, 1949); 2. USC (Richardson 47.4, Decker 47.8, L. Brown 48.1, Garrison 51.2), 3:55.  
 FINAL SCORE—UCLA 76, USC 69.  
 Attendance—17,468.

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Brown was long gone after taking his pass from Edmonson.

Benny had 12 yards on the turn, built that to 20 and there was no way Garrison was going to catch Smith.

Smith happens to hold the world record in the event. He also had beaten Garrison earlier in the day, running 45.3 in the 440 to break Garrison's meet record of 45.4.

You can't say the oad pass cost USC the meet. UCLA still figured to win the event. This was a meet the Trojans had to cinch before the mile relay, just as they did last year when they upset the Bruins, 75-70, at Westwood.

The reason they didn't was a couple of 7-foot high jumps by Bruins Rick Fletcher and Dwight Stones, taking the event away from USC's Larry Hollins, who had been the leader on least number of misses at 6-10.

For Decker, it was a miserable ending to what had been a brilliant day for the slender senior. He anchored the 440 relay team to a meet record 39.1, came from 3 yards back to beat Edmonson in the 100 in 9.5 and took a strong second to teammate Don Quarrie in the 220.

"It was just a bad hand-off," said the dejected Decker. "Leon was grabbing and he missed."

Did he think USC could have won the event?

"I don't think nothing now," he said wearily. "We just lost."

Leon Brown said, "I had my hand out and I was trying to pull and run and just missed. The baton never got to my hand."

He said he thought he could have stayed close to Benny Brown, and Garrison said, "I told our guys if they got me within 5 yards of Smith, we'd win."

The Bruins, of course, never will buy that.

"We feel the mile relay is a Bruin event," said coach Jim Bush, who has three straight NCAA titles to back up his contention. "I'm really sorry the bad pass happened, because we never doubted we'd win it."

Smith agreed.

"I felt I was ready to handle anything that came up," he said.

He certainly handled everything in style in the 440, bolting to a 10-yard lead over Garrison on the backstretch, then withstanding the Trojan's belated bid. Garrison was

three yards back at the wire and was timed in 45.7.

"I ran my own race," said Smith who requested a lane outside of Garrison. "I didn't want to see him. I didn't want to fall into his pattern."

Garrison said, "I let him get away. I was too relaxed at the start. I didn't think he was going that fast because he was taking big strides. Those strides must have been bigger than I thought."

Bruin heroes were many.

Finn Bendixen had a lifetime best of 26-feet in the long jump. Charlie Rich upset USC's Jerry Wilson with a 13.7 in the high hurdles and Jeff Sakala, who shed a cast on a broken toe earlier in the week, cleared 16-6 to win a jumpoff in the pole vault just when the Trojans were making a move to break things open.

But the boys who got the job done when it had to be done were Fletcher and Stones.

Stones cleared 7-0 on his third try, and he was asked what he told himself before the jump.

"I said, 'Lord, this is important to me. If I don't make it, we lose the meet.'"

Did that do it?

"Not really," he said. "I just couldn't let a Trojan beat me."

### Track Notes

The crowd was the largest for a dual meet here since 1947 when 29,000 watched USC against Illinois in a meet that saw USC's Mel Patton run away from Herb McKenley in the 220 . . . USC coach Vern Wolfe, asked if he thought the Trojans could have won the mile relay, said, "I don't know. But Leon's done some amazing things for us. It's too bad. He and Willie just haven't had the experience together in the mile relay." . . . The 100 was a blanket finish and somebody should have clocked Quarrie for his final 50 yards. He must have come from 5 yards back and some people, including Trojan

assistant coach Ken Matsuda, still think he won it . . . USC hurdler Lance Babb was out with a leg injury.

LONG JUMP—1. Sandten (UCLA), 26-4; 2. Jackson (USC), 25-4; Williams (USC), 25-0 1/2.

SHOT PUT—1. Lane (USC), 63-4; 2. Peep (UCLA), 57-9 1/2; 3. Frerey (UCLA), 56-8 1/2.

440 RELAY—1. USC (Williams, L. Brown, Quarrie, Decker), 39.1 (meet record, old mark 39.3, USC, 1948 and 1971); 2. UCLA (Witch, Peppers, Echols, Edmonson), 39.1.

MILE—1. Carr (USC), 4:55.9; 2. Chapman (UCLA), 4:59.1; 3. Crane (USC), 4:59.1.

JAVELIN—1. Barner (USC), 203-6; 2. Ram (USC), 208-2; 3. Jones (UCLA), 204-11.

200M—1. Rich (UCLA), 13.7; 2. Wilson (USC), 13.7; 3. Johnson (UCLA), 14.4.

400—1. Smith (UCLA), 45.3 (meet record, old mark, 45.4, Edson Garrison, USC, 1971); 2. Garrison (USC), 45.7; 3. Brown (UCLA), 45.8.

100—1. Dockard (USC), 9.5; 2. Edmonson (UCLA), 9.5; 3. Quarrie (USC), 9.5.

800—1. Williams (UCLA), 1:58.1; 2. Burke (USC), 1:59.3; 3. Sanchez (UCLA), 1:59.1.

POLE VAULT—1. Sakala (UCLA), 15-11 1/2; 2. He between Putard (USC) and Tracnetti (UCLA), 15-11 1/2 (Sakala cleared 16-6 to win jumpoff).

400M—1. Corval (UCLA), 52.8; 2. Jackson (USC), 52.4; 3. Coffman (USC), 52.9.

DISCUS—1. Frerey (UCLA), 177-4; 2. Gordon (UCLA), 175-5; 3. Stevens (USC), 164-2.

220—1. Quarrie (USC), 28.5; 2. Decker (USC), 30.7; 3. Brown (USC), 30.8.

TRIPLE JUMP—1. Butts (UCLA), 59-0 1/2 (meet record, old mark 59-0 1/2); 2. James Burke (UCLA, 1971); 3. Tiff (UCLA), 51-5; 3. Jackson (USC), 50-10.