

UCLA's Jumpers Pace 3rd NCAA Victory in Row

BY HARLEY TINKHAM

Times Staff Writer

BATON ROUGE—UCLA survived a series of upsets and injuries to win its third straight NCAA track and field title Saturday, but a bigger story was the total collapse of USC, which scored only nine points, its worst showing in history.

Before 8,032 sweltering fans in Bernie Moore Stadium, the Bruins scored 56 points to easily outdistance the University of Oregon, which finished second with 31.

Arizona State and Brigham Young tied for third with 26, followed by Tennessee with 24. USC finished 24th.

The Bruins literally leaped to victory, picking up 30 points in the high jump, long jump and triple jump. Milan Tiff won the triple jump with a meet record 54-2 $\frac{3}{4}$ and Rory Kotinek got a surprise fourth in the high jump at 7-1. Both were lifetime bests.

Some Anxious Moments

On Friday Finn Bendixen and James McAlister went 1-3 in the long jump as Olympic champion Randy Williams of USC finished fourth.

The Bruins had some anxious moments early in the day when triple jumper Harry Freeman was forced out with a leg injury and Bennie Brown was upset by Maurice Peoples of Arizona State in the 440. But there was always someone to pick up the slack.

Maxie Parks grabbed a fifth in the 440, so there were no points lost there.

"It's like I've always said: When the going gets tough, we get tougher," said UCLA coach Jim Bush. As soon as Freeman went down, Tiff came right back with the winning jump."

Peoples, an Olympic team alternate last year, grabbed the lead from Brown on the backstretch and was

BROWN WIN NCAA

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in command the rest of the way as he finished in 45.0, equaling Brown's world-leading best this year.

"I just didn't run the turn," said Brown who was clocked in 45.6. "The heat didn't bother me; I just didn't run my race. Give him the credit. He won it. But I will be different in the AAU."

"That's the National AAU championships next weekend in Bakersfield."

Brown came back to run a 44.8 anchor as UCLA won the mile relay in 3:04.3, best in the world this year. It was UCLA's fifth straight victory in this event.

Peoples Sizles
Don Stuples, the University of Texas anchorman who had been quoted as saying he would make Benny "his best" off, actually started off a yard behind Brown. He drew abreast on the backstretch but never took the lead and Benny put him away in the stretch. The long horns finished second in 3:05.0.

Arizona State finished third as Peoples ripped off a 43.4 anchor, probably the top performance of the day. Nobody has ever run faster in a relay leg.

The temperature was 90 degrees and the humidity 50%. It felt more like 100%. You could almost see the steam rising off the bayou. Still, the marks were spectacular, even in the distances.

Olympic 800-meter champion Dave Wottle successfully defended his mile title in 3:37.7, running the last lap in 53.0 and Steve Prefontaine won an unprecedented fourth straight title in the 3-mile in 13:05.2, fastest in the world this year.

Eight Under 4:00.0

The first eight milers all finished under 4 minutes including freshman Mark Schilling of Cal State San Jose. Schilling, 1972 State high school champion from Garden Grove, was sixth in 3:58.6, his first time under four minutes.

Now, what happened to UCLA?

The Trojans didn't just collapse, they disintegrated. All the wheels came

off. You could say the Trojan Horse was totaled.

They dropped the baton in the 440 relay and Don Quarrie was forced to withdraw from the 220 after suffering heat prostration. Ken Randle had to scratch from the mile relay with a pulled muscle and no points were forthcoming in the high jump when Dean Owens failed to clear 7 feet.

"Just everything conceivable that could happen happened," said USC coach Vern Wolfe. "It was like reading a horror story."

"The Trojans were doped for 50 points, just behind UCLA, but they never made a move after Thursday night when Jerry Wilson, the defending champion in the high hurdles, failed to qualify while pulling up lame.

Field Long Gone

In the 440 relay, the Trojans blew the first pass from Randy Williams to Greg Jones. Jones got the baton but then hit it with his leg and it dropped. He picked it up but by then the rest of the field was long gone.

In the 220, Quarrie qualified in the semifinals with a second-place 20.8 but he was visibly distressed afterwards.

"I started wobbling when I came off the turn," said Quarrie. "I didn't even know where I had finished."

Before the final, he took a practice start, then stopped and dropped to his knees. Finally, he was stretched out on the Tartan track and a doctor was summoned.

"I felt dizzy," said Quarrie. The doctor said it was heat prostration and he advised me not to run."

By finishing 24th, the Trojans hit bottom. Their lowest finish previously was 10th in 1970. They finished eighth in 1923 and 1963. Otherwise they had never finished lower than fourth.

Bush claimed his fourth NCAA title and now is outranked only by former Trojan coaches Dean Cromwell with 12 and Jess Mortensen with seven. Wolfe won four in his first six years at Troy but hasn't been able to collect again since 1968.

Track Notes

UCLA now has won five NCAA titles, including the one coached by **Bucky Drake** in 1956 with **Rufus Johnson**, **Bob Seaman**, et al, and the Bruins now are tied for second with Illinois but lost USC's 25 championships. "We wanted that three championships in a row," said Bush. "It is always nice to do something no one else is doing right now. No other living coach has had a team that won three straight and our staff has been together through the three years. These are great coaches I have on the staff." Their names are **Tom Telfax**, **Harlan** and **Len Hodson**.

... Telfax field event men scored 32 of the Bruins' 56 points. There were 12 defending champions in the meet, and only three repeated. Wootte, Prefontaine and pole vaulter **Dave Roberts**, Roberts became the first man to win three straight outright titles in the vault, winning at 17-4.

The Rice University south-paw passed until the bar reached 17 feet. He cleared that on his third try, then cleared 17-4 on his final attempt to take the title from Florida's Mike Cotton who was leading on fewer misses. Roberts did not try to go higher.

3,000-METER STEEPCHASE — 1

1. **Gregg Bennett**, ESI, San Luis, Georgetown, D.C. (WVU) 2. **Chris (WVU)**.

4:46.1 — **Clark (Washington State)**, 8:46.0 — **Paul (Washington State)**, 8:46.4 — **Leslie (Kent Tennessee State)**, 8:52.4 — **Tommy (Washington State)**, 8:52.5 — **Steve (Tennessee)**, 8:53.7 — **Wesley (Kent Tennessee State)**, 8:54.0 — **James (Illinois Chicago)**, no time. 4. **Sammons (Illinois Chicago)**, no time.

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FINAL TEAM SCORES—UCLA 85, Oregon 20, Arizona State and BYU 15, Tennessee 10, Kent State and Texas 10, Penn 10; Memphis State and Texas 20; Rice 10; Memphis State 10; Kansas 17; Oregon, North Carolina and Western Kentucky 14; Colorado and Penn State 11; Colorado State 11; Bowling Green, California, Connecticut, Washington State and Wisconsin 10; USC 9; Florida, Cal State Fresno, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Middle Tennessee State, Penn State, Penn State at Arden 7; Cal St. San Jose 6; Louisiana State, Louisiana Tech, Iowa, Ohio, Oklahoma State, Southwestern Louisiana and Villanova 4; Cal St. Long Beach, State East Tennessee and Lamar 4; Alabama, Colorado State, LSU, Pittsburgh and TCU 2; Harvard and Kansas City 1; Minnesota, Murray State and William & Mary 1.