

USC Back on Top, Averages Loss to UCLA, Wins Pac-8

BY HARLEY TINKHAM

Times Staff Writer

USC was making a big run at UCLA Saturday at the Coliseum when Ed Washington, leading the high hurdles, suddenly tripped on the last hurdle, fell to the track and watched the rest of the field go by.

"I thought we had lost the meet right there," said Washington. "I was all ready to go home and start thinking about the nationals."

It's good he stuck around.

This was a day the Trojans, before only 3,656 fans, reclaimed a share of the town, scoring 134½ points in the Pacific 8 track and field championships to hand UCLA its first loss in two years.

The Bruins finished second with 130½ points, followed by Oregon with 94. Then came Washington State 76, Oregon State 64, California 53½, Washington 50½, Stanford 17.

After it was over, Vern Wolfe took another look at the scoreboard, confirming the Trojan victory, then turned to reporters and chose his words carefully.

"I don't want anybody telling me we're not competitive," said the coach of the Trojans. "If you don't think that team out there today was competitive," well . . ."

He didn't have to finish.

Wolfe had been taking some heat after USC's 82-63 loss to UCLA in the dual meet, the third loss in a row to the Bruins, but he never doubted his team could bounce back in the Pac-8.

The Trojans did the same thing two years ago, rebounding to win the Pac-8 at Stanford, so now they claim two out of the last three conference titles.

How did it happen

The knockout blow came in the 220 when UCLA's Gordon Peppars failed to score while three Trojans, led by Mike Shavers in second, finished in the money to total 11 points.

Peppars, running on the inside, got a muscle cramp midway in the race and faded to seventh.

"I knew we were dead when Gordon drew the inside lane," said UCLA coach Jim Bush. "It put too much strain on his leg. But those are the breaks. USC had some injuries, too, and they had a bad break when Washington fell in the hurdles.

USC Upsets UCLA, Wins Pac-8 Track

Continued from First Page

"USC just did a good job. They deserved to win. But I'm proud of the way my kids came back and won the mile relay. That showed a lot of class, because they knew the meet was lost."

Curiously, the Trojans didn't win an event Saturday while the Bruins were winning four. But USC was picking up seconds and thirds, plus a few other points down the line.

Maxie Parks won the 440 in 46.4, giving UCLA 10 points, but four Trojans finished behind him, led by Trevor Campbell in 46.6, and USC came away with 20 points.

If you had to single out one Trojan for honors, it would be Tom Cochran, a sophomore from Oakland who went 53-01/4 on his last attempt in the triple jump to grab second behind UCLA's Clarence Taylor, the winner with a wind-aided 53-4 3/4.

Washington, coming back from his hurdles misfortune, got third at 51-7 1/2 and that was 14 more points.

"I've been bothered by tendinitis in my knee all year," said Cochran, "but I knew I had a good jump in me. We just had a completely off day against UCLA in the dual meet, but we got rejuvenated."

"Let's just call it the second time around."

The meet as a whole wasn't exactly a memorable one—how many will remember that Washington's Al Davis and Washington State's Gary Minor were the conference sprint champions? — but there were some notable efforts.

California's Rick Brown made it four straight titles in the 850, holding off Oregon's Steve Bence in 1:48.1, and Oregon State's Halls Elba won his third straight mile title, covering the last lap in 55.3 for a 4:00.5 clocking.

Oregon State's Mike Flier established the only meet record, 7-1 1/2 in the high jump. Defending champion Tom Woods of Oregon State failed to clear a height as did USC's Dean Owens who injured an ankle in a recent pickup basketball game.

The UCLA downfall started in the first running event, the 440 relay. Dorian Wilson and Benny Brown got the Bruins off into the lead, but Lynnsey Guerrero, running for the first time in place of Parks, lost ground on the third leg, then made a bad pass to Peppers.

The Bruins wound up fifth while USC got up for second to California, both timed in 40.1. The Trojans originally were announced as the winner, but a review of the films gave the nod to the Bears.

Track Notes

Looking ahead to the NCAA meet, June 6-8, at Austin, Tex., Wolfe said, "We don't have many people who are ranked high nationally but a lot of kids are coming along, so we'll just see what happens." Dash said, "I think we have a good chance but a lot depends on Benny Brown. If he doesn't come all the way back, we're in trouble." Brown, weakened by a virus, skipped the 440 and 220 in the Pac-8 but ran both relays. He ran a 46.6 anchor in the mile relay, won by the Bruins in 2:07.7. Berry had to go to the whip to hold off USC's Campbell, timed in 45.8.

Washington State's John Naves, a native of Kenya, became the meet's only double winner when he won the three mile in 12:28.0. Favored Pagi Gels of Oregon, who has been fighting the flu, was far slower in 13:44.2. Naves won the six mile Friday . . . Washington State's Rip Naves, no relation to John, won the high hurdles in 23.8.

Pacific 8 Summaries

440 RELAY—1, California (Wilson, Moore, Strickland, Brown), 40.1; 2, USC, 41.1; 3, Washington, 46.6; 4, Oregon State, 48.8; 5, UCLA, 53.0; 6, Oregon, 57.7.

850—1, Brown (Cal), 1:48.1; 2, Peppers (UCLA), 1:50.1; 3, Bence (Oregon), 1:52.1; 4, Lohrey (UCLA), 1:54.1; 5, Peppers (UCLA), 1:56.1; 6, Elba (Oregon State), 1:58.1.

1000—1, Brown (Cal), 3:02.1; 2, Peppers (UCLA), 3:04.1; 3, Bence (Oregon), 3:06.1; 4, Lohrey (UCLA), 3:08.1; 5, Peppers (UCLA), 3:10.1; 6, Elba (Oregon State), 3:12.1.

1500—1, Brown (Cal), 4:00.5; 2, Peppers (UCLA), 4:02.5; 3, Bence (Oregon), 4:04.5; 4, Lohrey (UCLA), 4:06.5; 5, Peppers (UCLA), 4:08.5; 6, Elba (Oregon State), 4:10.5.

1 MILE—1, Brown (Cal), 4:00.5; 2, Peppers (UCLA), 4:02.5; 3, Bence (Oregon), 4:04.5; 4, Lohrey (UCLA), 4:06.5; 5, Peppers (UCLA), 4:08.5; 6, Elba (Oregon State), 4:10.5.

2 MILE—1, Naves (Wash. St.), 12:28.0; 2, Gels (Oregon), 13:44.2; 3, Peppers (UCLA), 14:00.5; 4, Lohrey (UCLA), 14:16.8; 5, Peppers (UCLA), 14:33.2; 6, Elba (Oregon State), 14:49.6.

3 MILE—1, Naves (Wash. St.), 12:28.0; 2, Gels (Oregon), 13:44.2; 3, Peppers (UCLA), 14:00.5; 4, Lohrey (UCLA), 14:16.8; 5, Peppers (UCLA), 14:33.2; 6, Elba (Oregon State), 14:49.6.

4 MILE—1, Naves (Wash. St.), 12:28.0; 2, Gels (Oregon), 13:44.2; 3, Peppers (UCLA), 14:00.5; 4, Lohrey (UCLA), 14:16.8; 5, Peppers (UCLA), 14:33.2; 6, Elba (Oregon State), 14:49.6.

5 MILE—1, Naves (Wash. St.), 12:28.0; 2, Gels (Oregon), 13:44.2; 3, Peppers (UCLA), 14:00.5; 4, Lohrey (UCLA), 14:16.8; 5, Peppers (UCLA), 14:33.2; 6, Elba (Oregon State), 14:49.6.

6 MILE—1, Naves (Wash. St.), 12:28.0; 2, Gels (Oregon), 13:44.2; 3, Peppers (UCLA), 14:00.5; 4, Lohrey (UCLA), 14:16.8; 5, Peppers (UCLA), 14:33.2; 6, Elba (Oregon State), 14:49.6.

7 MILE—1, Naves (Wash. St.), 12:28.0; 2, Gels (Oregon), 13:44.2; 3, Peppers (UCLA), 14:00.5; 4, Lohrey (UCLA), 14:16.8; 5, Peppers (UCLA), 14:33.2; 6, Elba (Oregon State), 14:49.6.

8 MILE—1, Naves (Wash. St.), 12:28.0; 2, Gels (Oregon), 13:44.2; 3, Peppers (UCLA), 14:00.5; 4, Lohrey (UCLA), 14:16.8; 5, Peppers (UCLA), 14:33.2; 6, Elba (Oregon State), 14:49.6.

9 MILE—1, Naves (Wash. St.), 12:28.0; 2, Gels (Oregon), 13:44.2; 3, Peppers (UCLA), 14:00.5; 4, Lohrey (UCLA), 14:16.8; 5, Peppers (UCLA), 14:33.2; 6, Elba (Oregon State), 14:49.6.

10 MILE—1, Naves (Wash. St.), 12:28.0; 2, Gels (Oregon), 13:44.2; 3, Peppers (UCLA), 14:00.5; 4, Lohrey (UCLA), 14:16.8; 5, Peppers (UCLA), 14:33.2; 6, Elba (Oregon State), 14:49.6.

11 MILE—1, Naves (Wash. St.), 12:28.0; 2, Gels (Oregon), 13:44.2; 3, Peppers (UCLA), 14:00.5; 4, Lohrey (UCLA), 14:16.8; 5, Peppers (UCLA), 14:33.2; 6, Elba (Oregon State), 14:49.6.

12 MILE—1, Naves (Wash. St.), 12:28.0; 2, Gels (Oregon), 13:44.2; 3, Peppers (UCLA), 14:00.5; 4, Lohrey (UCLA), 14:16.8; 5, Peppers (UCLA), 14:33.2; 6, Elba (Oregon State), 14:49.6.

13 MILE—1, Naves (Wash. St.), 12:28.0; 2, Gels (Oregon), 13:44.2; 3, Peppers (UCLA), 14:00.5; 4, Lohrey (UCLA), 14:16.8; 5, Peppers (UCLA), 14:33.2; 6, Elba (Oregon State), 14:49.6.

14 MILE—1, Naves (Wash. St.), 12:28.0; 2, Gels (Oregon), 13:44.2; 3, Peppers (UCLA), 14:00.5; 4, Lohrey (UCLA), 14:16.8; 5, Peppers (UCLA), 14:33.2; 6, Elba (Oregon State), 14:49.6.

15 MILE—1, Naves (Wash. St.), 12:28.0; 2, Gels (Oregon), 13:44.2; 3, Peppers (UCLA), 14:00.5; 4, Lohrey (UCLA), 14:16.8; 5, Peppers (UCLA), 14:33.2; 6, Elba (Oregon State), 14:49.6.

16 MILE—1, Naves (Wash. St.), 12:28.0; 2, Gels (Oregon), 13:44.2; 3, Peppers (UCLA), 14:00.5; 4, Lohrey (UCLA), 14:16.8; 5, Peppers (UCLA), 14:33.2; 6, Elba (Oregon State), 14:49.6.

17 MILE—1, Naves (Wash. St.), 12:28.0; 2, Gels (Oregon), 13:44.2; 3, Peppers (UCLA), 14:00.5; 4, Lohrey (UCLA), 14:16.8; 5, Peppers (UCLA), 14:33.2; 6, Elba (Oregon State), 14:49.6.

18 MILE—1, Naves (Wash. St.), 12:28.0; 2, Gels (Oregon), 13:44.2; 3, Peppers (UCLA), 14:00.5; 4, Lohrey (UCLA), 14:16.8; 5, Peppers (UCLA), 14:33.2; 6, Elba (Oregon State), 14:49.6.

19 MILE—1, Naves (Wash. St.), 12:28.0; 2, Gels (Oregon), 13:44.2; 3, Peppers (UCLA), 14:00.5; 4, Lohrey (UCLA), 14:16.8; 5, Peppers (UCLA), 14:33.2; 6, Elba (Oregon State), 14:49.6.

20 MILE—1, Naves (Wash. St.), 12:28.0; 2, Gels (Oregon), 13:44.2; 3, Peppers (UCLA), 14:00.5; 4, Lohrey (UCLA), 14:16.8; 5, Peppers (UCLA), 14:33.2; 6, Elba (Oregon State), 14:49.6.

21 MILE—1, Naves (Wash. St.), 12:28.0; 2, Gels (Oregon), 13:44.2; 3, Peppers (UCLA), 14:00.5; 4, Lohrey (UCLA), 14:16.8; 5, Peppers (UCLA), 14:33.2; 6, Elba (Oregon State), 14:49.6.

22 MILE—1, Naves (Wash. St.), 12:28.0; 2, Gels (Oregon), 13:44.2; 3, Peppers (UCLA), 14:00.5; 4, Lohrey (UCLA), 14:16.8; 5, Peppers (UCLA), 14:33.2; 6, Elba (Oregon State), 14:49.6.

23 MILE—1, Naves (Wash. St.), 12:28.0; 2, Gels (Oregon), 13:44.2; 3, Peppers (UCLA), 14:00.5; 4, Lohrey (UCLA), 14:16.8; 5, Peppers (UCLA), 14:33.2; 6, Elba (Oregon State), 14:49.6.

24 MILE—1, Naves (Wash. St.), 12:28.0; 2, Gels (Oregon), 13:44.2; 3, Peppers (UCLA), 14:00.5; 4, Lohrey (UCLA), 14:16.8; 5, Peppers (UCLA), 14:33.2; 6, Elba (Oregon State), 14:49.6.