# Wilkins Sets World Discus Record at 69.18\*

\*That's meters for 226 feet 11 inche BY HARLEY TINKHAM Times Staff Writer

WALNUT—Don Quarrie pulled out of the sprints and Dave Roberts failed to clear 5.30 in the pole vault but Mac Wilkins saved the day by setting a world record of 69.18 in the discus Saturday.

Confused? So were a lot of people at the ML San Antonio Relays where meet management decided to give fans a crash course in the metric system. Unless you happened to have been raised in Paris or Berlin or some other capital out of the Anglo-American sphere, you were in deep trouble. Never have so many known so little about what they were seeing.

For the record, Wilkins threw the discus 226 feet 11 inches to break the record of 226-8 set last year by John Powell. Both represent the Pacific Coast Club.

A 25-year-old graduate of the University of Oregon, Wilkins stands 6-4, weighs 260 and will be remembered by Forum fans as the man who upset Al Feuerbach and Britain's Geoff Capes in the Times Indoor Games shot put with a lifetime best of 68-442. There was nothing fluky about his record effort Saturday. He also had throws of 225-7, 221-8 and 221-4.

Tall, dark-haired and handsome, and sporting the fiercest beard this slde of Franco Harris, Wilkins is a powerful, classically constructed athlete who former Oregon coach Bill Bowerman called "the greatest allaround weightman in history."

"No, I didn't think I was ready for a world record," he said. "I would have been satisfied with anything over 215. I hurt my back weightlifting a week ago and I can still feel it." He said he was turned on by

watching former world record holder Jay Silvester in warmups.

"He's a man I've always tried to imitate," said Wilkins, "and he was just blasting it on his practice throws. That got me excited and I tried to do the same thing."

Does this make Wilkins the favorite for Montreal?

"No," he said, "John Powell is still number one, but if I can improve my

# **Continued from First Page**

technique, I like my chances pretty good."

The meet otherwise produced mixed results for those looking ahead to next Saturday's dual meet showdown be-tween USC and UCLA at Westwood.

USC was upset in the 400-meter relay, after a dreadful third leg by Ken Randle, and UCLA's Janes Owens was a loser for the first time this year in the high hurdles, run-ning third behind San Jose State's Dedy Cooper and USC's Fred Shaw. Cooper's time was a wind-aided 13.6

In the relay, the Trojans were leading after two legs but Randle got a bad exchange from Mike Simmons, then lost more ground on the turn. When he passed off to James Gilkes, the Trojans were third, four yards back. Gilkes made up most of it but just failed to catch Clancy Edwards of the winning Maccabi Track Club team. Both teams were timed in 40.1.

"I just didn't warm up enough," said Randle. "I was too tight. We had a lot of hard workouts last week and I'm still a little stiff."

Owens, who was clocked in 13.8, said, "Mentally, I wasn't prepared. All our workouts are pointing to next week. I found myself floating over the hurdles-I couldn't replant. snap down. I had to lose sometime, and I'm glad it's here, not in a dual meet."

In the field events, all the markings on the field were in neters. When results were given over the public address the winner's mark was converted to feet and inches but the remaining marks were announced in meters

didn't know what was going on," said UCL Jim Bush. Scouting the Trojans for next Saturday, Bush was expecially interested in the second place shot put mark of USC's Mike Budincich. It was announced as 18.79.

"I had to stop Budincich and ask him what it was," said

It was 61-7%

The height that Roberts missed in the pole vault was 17-434, and the winner at that height was Roland Carter of the Gulf Coast Track Club. Roberts was third at 5.15 ... er, make that 16-10%.

We'll get it yet.

## Track Notes

Quarter and he only had been tensitivity metered in the 100 and 500. Theory multiplication of a number of the state of the in 00.2 for his 000-meter log in the 800m, but, . . . Other mediatist areas Beakanas net a meter record of 35.4% in the long jump . . . UCLA's Beake Myles, after stopping the quarter-safe he past two verses, won the 400 meters handly in whil. T had been going out too fast, "and Myles, explaining his recent shamp." good today

UCLA had several scrat UCLA had several scratches, including Willie Banks in the long jump and triple jump, Jim Neidhart in the shot and Mike Tully in the pole wait. Banks is nursing a cold and Neidhart and Tully just decided to skib its. . . UCLA's Orlando Johnson was leading the 100 meters at the halfway point but faded to seventh . . . In wom-en's events, Kathy Schmidt threw the javelin 211-6, second only to her American record of 215-6, and Canadis Debble Bell beat merican record holder Joal Huntley in the high jump with a least

Wilkins, explaining his improvement over last ye best was 219-1 and he was ranked No. 6 in the world: "My tech nique is finally catching up to my athletic ability." ... Silvester They've been working awfully hard all week," he said. "You'll see whole different team next week. They'll really be rolling

Asked to predict the outcom e of the r

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