

USC's First Shot a Direct Hit and UCLA Falls, 83-62

Budincich Upsets Neidhart With 63-5 3/4 Toss, Leads Assault That Ends Bruins' Track Reign

BY HARLEY TINKHAM

Times Staff Writer

Vern Wolfe had promised that "all the guns were loaded" but he didn't tell anyone he was bringing along a cannon.

USC's Mike Budincich, on his first throw in the shot put, hurled the 16-pound ball 19 inches farther than he ever had before to upset UCLA's Jim Neidhart with a throw of 63-5³/₄. Maybe it wasn't the shot heard around the world but it sure put a helluva dent in the walls of Westwood, where a track and field dynasty was toppled Saturday.

Before an overflow crowd of 15,017 on a hot afternoon at Drake Stadium, USC defeated UCLA, 83-62, to (a) end UCLA's 42-meet winning streak, (b) end UCLA's four-year streak over USC, (c) win the 1976 collegiate dual meet championship and, most impor-

tantly, (d) win the right to call it Trojan Town again.

After Budincich opened the door, the Trojans simply overran the Bruins with a horde of sprinters and hurdlers who wouldn't let up. James Gilkes won the 100 and 200 meters in a wind-aided 10.1 and 21.1, Ken Randle ran away from Bennie Myles to win the 400 in 45.6 and both helped USC win the 400 relay in 39.3.

The crusher came in the 110-meter hurdles where Fred Shaw and Mike Johnson came from behind to upset UCLA's James Owens with respective clockings of 13.7 and 13.8. Tom Andrews streaked to a meet record 49.4 in the 400 hurdles, and the Trojans capped the day with a runaway 3:06.7 win in the mile relay.

The coup de grace was delivered

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on the field, however. USC's Tom Cochee, principal victim of Willie Banks' meet-winning jump last year, turned it around by winning the triple jump with a wind-aided 54-2¼.

The Trojans, you might say, were merciless.

"This meet is all we've thought about all year long," said Wolfe, "These kids never had any doubt they would win. You should have seen them getting off the team bus today. They formed two lines and had all the seniors get off last and walk between them. They did a great job, and I couldn't be happier."

UCLA coach Jim Bush said, "The Trojans did a great job. They beat the heck out of us. We have no excuses. I don't like to see other teams offering excuses when we beat them, so we're not going to offer any."

Somebody suggested that the Bruins didn't have enough depth but Bush wasn't buying.

"We had just as many people on the field as they did," he said. "If you're looking for a reason, just say I did a lousy job of coaching. If you're going to give me credit for all those wins, then I should get credit for the losses. Actually, I'm kind of relieved the streak is over. It was a lot of pressure."

The Bruins did have some bright performances. Conrad Suhr took the 800 meters with a blistering 1:47.8 and Steve Beck upset USC's Rayfield Beaton with a 3:45.8 in the 1,500 meters, a no-holds-barred race that featured more hand-to-hand combat than the Muhammad Ali-Jimmy Young affair.

Going into the gun lap, Beaton tried to pass Beck, but when the Bruin wouldn't let him cut in, they got into a shoving match. Beaton finally took the lead on the backstretch, but Beck came on to nail him 20 yards from the wire and hold on to win.

The featured 400-meter race turned out to be no contest as Randle took a one-yard lead over Myles coming off the last turn, then easily moved away in the stretch to win by eight yards. Myles was timed in 46.6.

"I was confident of winning," said Randle, who last year upset UCLA's Benny Brown with a 45.1 for 440 yards. "When I ran 20.5 for 200 meters earlier this year I knew I had my speed, and I'm stronger this year. Actually, I think I could have run 44.7 or 44.8 but I relaxed too much on the first 200."

One of the Trojans revealed that Randle called two team meetings last week to make sure nobody forgot the task at hand.

"We've had a lot of unity this year," said Randle, "and we knew we had to win this meet. We knew we had the talent, so why waste it?"

Budincich said, "It was a long time



LOADED!—USC's Mike Budincich prepares to shot in Saturday's meet against UCLA. Budincich got off throw of 63-5¼ to upset Jim Neidhart and lead the Trojans to an 83-62 victory.

waiting. I couldn't let myself go out after four years saying I never won against UCLA. I knew I was ready when I was hitting between 62 and 63 feet consistently in practice. I still had a bitter taste from losing last year. It's been in my mind for a year. We've waited 361 days, but it was worth it."

Last year, when UCLA won, 75-70, the Bruins surprised the Trojans by employing cheerleaders. This year, the Trojans brought their band.

"Yes," said Wolfe with a wink, "I might have had something to do with that."

The Trojans also showed up with specially-made cardinal and gold T shirts with the following lettering on the front: USC BUSH WACKERS.

Bush admitted he got whacked, but he still accepted one of the shirts from a Trojan roofer after the meet.

"Not that I was going to forget," he said, "but this will help me remember."

Track Notes

Banks, winner of the long jump at 25-8½ and second in the triple jump at 54-1½, said, "It's very disappointing, but I was pleased with the improvement of my jumps in both events. I'm just going to consider this the start of the season and start building from here. I think we have a good chance of winning the NCAA. We just don't have the depth for dual meets" . . . USC's Joel Andrews was thrown out of the 100 for a false start . . . Gilkes showed up with a shaved head. "I had it shaved two weeks ago," said the Guyana native. "I told coach Wolfe I wasn't going to let it grow until we beat UCLA" . . . Bush is now 7-5 over the Trojans while Wolfe is all even with the Bruins, 7-7.

Neidhart, second in the shot at 61-10¼, said, "It's humiliating. I felt great before the meet and thought I was ready for 67

or 68 feet, but I couldn't do a thing in warmups. I know it's going to come, though. One of these days, I'm going to jump right up there. It's all there; it's just a matter of when the breakthrough comes" . . . Cochee, on Banks' winning jump last year: "I kind of went blank. I felt handcuffed because that was the last jump of the day and there was nothing I could do about it. Yes, it flashed through my mind a couple of times today" . . . Seen among those wearing USC BUSH WACKERS shirts: O. J. Simpson . . . Quoting Beck and Beaton on their 1,500 donnybrook: Beaton: "He hit me in the back. My back was hurting, or I would have won it." Beck: "I didn't hit him in the back, but he spiked me in the leg. Here, I've got the wound to prove it."

SHOT PUT—1. Budincich (USC), 63-5¼; 2. Neidhart (UCLA), 61-10¼; 3. Fruguelli (USC), 57-2¼.

LONG JUMP—1. Banks (UCLA), 25-8½; 2. Hardeman (USC), 25-2½; 3. Herndon (UCLA), 24-3¼.

400-METER RELAY—1. USC (Graybehl, Simmons, Randle, Gilkes), 39.3; 2. UCLA (Owens, Myles, Wilson, Johnson), 39.4.

JAVELIN—1. Helsby (USC), 230-7; 2. Tosti (UCLA), 207-6; 3. Ocampo (UCLA), 205-0.

1,500—1. S. Beck (UCLA), 3:45.8; 2. Beaton (USC), 3:46.2; 3. Aldridge (USC), 3:48.4.

110 HURDLES—1. Shaw (USC), 13:7; 2. M. Johnson (USC), 13:8; 3. Owens (UCLA), 13:9.

400—1. Randle (USC), 45.6; 2. Myles (UCLA), 46.6; 3. Campbell (USC), 47.1.

100—1. Gilkes (USC), 10.1 (wind 5.4 m.p.h.); 2. Owens (UCLA), 10.4; 3. Johnson (UCLA), 10.5.

DISCUS—1. Eider (USC), 193-11; 2. Gunther (UCLA), 190-9; 3. Fruguelli (USC), 187-9.

HIGH JUMP—1. Meister (UCLA), 7-0; 2. Walker (USC), 6-10; 3. Connors (USC), 6-10.

POLE VAULT—1. Tully (UCLA), 17-6; 2. Rogers (USC), 17-0; 3. D'Stanislaw (USC), 17-0.

800—1. Suhr (UCLA), 1:47.8; 2. Haynes (UCLA), 1:48.9; 3. L. Johnson (USC), 1:48.9.

400 HURDLES—1. T. Andrews (USC), 49.4 (meet record, old mark for 440 hurdles 50.2, Geoff Vanderstock, USC, 1967; Tom Andrews, USC, 1975); 2. Mills (UCLA), 50.1; 3. Graybehl (USC), 50.7.

200—1. Gilkes (USC), 21.1; 2. Simmons (USC), 21.2; 3. Randle (UCLA), 21.2.

TRIPLE JUMP—1. Cochee (USC), 54-2¼ (4.9 m.p.h. wind; 52-10¼ best legal jump); 2. Banks (UCLA), 54-1½; 3. Assel (USC), 51-10½.

5,000—1. Boswell (UCLA), 15:09.2; 2. O'Brien (UCLA), 15:38.0; 3. Baksh (UCLA), 15:58.4.

MILE RELAY—1. USC (Connors 46.8, Simmons 47.6, C. Brown, 46.4, Campbell, 45.9), 3:06.7; 2. UCLA (Theiler 47.8, Suhr, 47.8, Leeds 47.4, Myles, 47.1), 3:10.1.

FINAL SCORE—USC 83, UCLA 62.

Attendance—15,017.