

Wilkins Dazzles 'em With Discus in AAU

BY HARLEY TINKHAM

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The man who supplied the muscle was Mac Wilkins and that was hardly a surprise, but the man who supplied the speed in the National AAU track and field championships Friday was neither Steve Williams, nor James Gilkes, nor any of the other household names of sprintdom.

Williams, fearing the recurrence of a hamstring injury, scratched from the 200 meters at Drake Stadium, apparently making it an automatic win for Gilkes, but first at the wire was

Millard Hampton, a 19-year-old sophomore from San Jose City College who is headed for UCLA.

Hampton, running against a slight wind, was timed in 20.89. Gilkes, the redoubtable stretch runner from USC and Guyana, finished a yard back in 20.95 after closing only slightly in the last 50 meters.

Wilkins, world record holder in the discus at 232-6, dazzled the crowd with the greatest series in history, topped by a winning throw of 230-0. The 25-year-old University of Oregon graduate averaged 227-2 on his six

throws. If that doesn't grab you, consider this: no one else in history has thrown that far officially.

Here's the series: 225-2, 224-1, 228-0, 228-8, 230-0 and 226-11.

Other winners on a day when the weather was ideal for maximum performance included Arnie Robinson, 27-3½ in the long jump; Dwight Stones, 7-4¼ in the high jump; Lt. Tom Hill, 13.64 in the 110-meter high hurdles, and Dick Buerkle, 13:31.2 in the 5,000 meters.

In women's competition, Brenda Morehead of Tennessee State equaled

Wilma Rudolph's 16-year-old record in the 200 meters, running 22.94 and American record holder Maren Seidler added an inch to her meet record in the shot put with a throw of 54-4.

Williams, who also scratched from the 100 meters today, said both his hamstrings were sore after he won his 200 semifinal Friday.

His coach, Brooks Johnson, said, "I just had a gut feeling he shouldn't run. We can't afford to take any kind of risks. We owe it to the country to make sure Steve is at Montreal. Any other year, Steve would have run

and won both races easily, but we don't want to repeat the mistakes of four years ago."

In 1972, as a freshman at Texas El Paso, Williams injured himself in the Western Athletic Conference meet and failed to recover for the Olympic trials.

"I'm sorry I can't run here, because this is my favorite track," said Williams, "but when I got hurt in 1972 I was the one who had to look at myself for four years—not anyone else."

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Wilkins in Discus Show; Hampton Wins AAU 200

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Hampton, 5-11 and 170 and built like a light-heavyweight boxer, took a slight lead over Gilkes on the curve, extended it to almost two yards as they straightened out, then gave little of it away in the drive to the wire.

Gilkes, who ran eight races in three days in helping USC win the team championship in the NCAA last week, said he felt tired but still gave credit to Hampton.

"He's good. He's very good," said Gilkes. "I just couldn't catch him. I think he will make the U.S. team in the 200."

In the long jump, Robinson equaled his best mark of the year, a mark that leads the world in 1976, and missed Bob Beamon's meet record by only a half-inch. It was the fourth AAU title for Robinson, the 28-year-old San Diego State graduate who finished third in the 1972 Olympics.

Stones, after setting a world record of 7-7 last week in the NCAA, appeared to be lacking in incentive and didn't display his usual lift. In three tries at 7-5 $\frac{3}{4}$ he didn't come close. Central Michigan's Mike Winsor, who cleared 7-5 last week, was fifth at 7-2.

In the high hurdles, UCLA's James Owens was the leader for eight hurdles, then gave way to Hill who cruised home impressively. Owens was clocked in 13.69.

Marty Liquori was on his way to a

successful defense of his 5,000-meter title when he apparently pulled a hamstring with 200 yards to go and staggered home second to Buerkle.

Later, Liquori said, "I think the injury is a strain, and not a hamstring pull. What happened here will preclude me from trying the 1,500 in the trials at Eugene. I'm not worried about the injury, even though it will cost me some training time."

In preliminaries for today's finals, the most impressive performer was Edwin Moses of Morehouse State, winner of his 400 hurdles semifinal in 48.86.

"Watch out tomorrow," said John Smith, world record holder in the 440, "because Mr. Moses is going to shock some people."

Today's program starts at 11:30 a.m. with finals in the pole vault. Track events start at 12:45 p.m. with semifinals in the 100. The first final on the track is the 400 hurdles at 1:45 p.m.

The pole vault matches Earl Bell, the new world record holder at 18-7 $\frac{1}{4}$, against Dave Roberts, the former world record holder at 18-6 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Track Notes

Olympic champion Randy Williams was a disappointing seventh in the long jump at 25-4. . . . Moses asked about his chances today in the 400 hurdles, said: "I really don't want to say nothing until after the

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

TRACK EVENTS

- 12:45 p.m.—Women's 100 meters (semifinals)
- 1:15—Men's 100 meters (semifinals)
- 1:45—Women's 400 meter hurdles (finals)
- 2:00—Men's 400 meter hurdles (finals)
- 2:10—Men's 800 meters (finals)
- 2:20—Women's 1,500 meters (finals)
- 2:30—Men's 100 meters (finals)
- 2:35—Women's 100 meters (finals)
- 2:50—Women's 800 meters (finals)
- 3:00—Men's 400 meters (finals)
- 3:10—Women's 400 meters (finals)
- 3:20—Men's 1,500 meters (finals)
- 4:10—Men's 3,000 meter steeplechase (finals)
- 4:45—Women's 2,000 meters (finals)
- 5:15—Women's mile relay (finals)
- 5:25—Men's 10,000 meters (finals)
- 6:05—Women's two-mile relay (finals)

FIELD EVENTS

- 11:30 a.m.—Men's pole vault (finals)
- Noon—Women's long jump (finals)
- 1:00—Women's javelin (finals)
- 1:00—Women's high jump (finals)
- 2:00—Men's shot put (finals)
- 2:30—Men's triple jump (finals)
- 3:30—Men's javelin (finals)

race." According to track authority Dick Bank, Moses is not the first to use 13 strides between the hurdles for the entire race. Yuri Lituyev of the Soviet Union did it in 1953 when he set a world record of 50.4. . . . Ohio State's Tom Byers, runner-up in the 1974 AAU meet here in 3:37.9 finished last in his 1,500 meter heat in 3:48.36. Mike Manke, former Oklahoma State runner, won his heat impressively in 3:40.57 and might be a threat today to favorite Eamonn Coghlan of Villanova.

Ronnie Ray of North Carolina Central, the Pan-American Games champion in the 400, failed to qualify for today's final, finishing fourth in his heat in 46.26. Last year, Ray had the fastest time in the world at 44.45. . . . Dr. Delano Meriwether, the Washington, D.C., hematologist who didn't start running until the age of 28, recovered from a horrible start to win this 100 heat in 10.50. In the Olympic trials at Eugene, the 33-year-old Meriwether will be returning to the scene of his greatest triumph. In the 1971 National AAU there, he won the 100-yard dash in a wind-aided 9.0. . . . Larry Doubley, the 25-4 long jumper from Manual Arts, has signed a letter of intent to attend USC.

