Bruins 'Lose' One for Foster

UCLA Relay Team Scratched to Help Hurdler in NCAA Meet

BY MAL FLORENCE Times Staff Writer

CHAMPAIGN, Ill.-Jim Bush has scratched his sprint relay team from the NCAA track and field meet, and most likely, the action has deprived UCLA of any chance to win the team title.

The Bruin coach made the decision in consideration of Greg Foster, who would have been required to run in the 400-meter relay semifinals today and then to try to qualify 15 minutes later for the finals of the 110-meter high hurdles.

I promised Greg some time ago that I wouldn't run him in back-to-back races," Bush said Thursday as the NCAA meet got underway with qualifying in both track and field

"I wanted to give Greg every fair chance against (Renaldo) Nehemiah and, if I had to sacrifice points, I'd do it." Maryland's Nehemiah, the world record holder at 13 seconds flat, is the No. 1-ranked hurdler in the world. Foster is ranked second.

Bush said that upon arrival here, he tried to get NCAA meet directors to alter today's schedule so the sprint relay and hurdle semifinals wouldn't be so close together.

They (NCAA committee) told me last year that they were going to move the hurdles up on the time table.

Bush said, "but they said it wouldn't be fair to other teams that left relay teams home because of the time schedule. "I'll buy that reasoning. But it cost us a shot at the na-

tional championship. UCLA has the second best 400-meter relay time (39.04) in the world behind USC's 38.91, and the Bruins figured to take second in the event in the NCAA meet, which would have meant eight points. They may not be able to make up the points in other events.

With UCLA pulling out of the sprint relay, only eight teams are now entered. So there won't be any qualifying heats, only Saturday's finals. Had the Bruins stayed in,

semifinal heats would have been necessary.

It appears that Texas El Paso is now the clear favorite on its strength in distance races and field events. Oregon, expected to extend UTEP, along with UCLA, had a setback Thursday when Tom Hintnaus failed to qualify for the pole vault. He was expected to get second or third in the event.

Otherwise, here were some of Thursday's developments: —Foster was an easy qualifier for the semifinals in the hurdles and 200, winning his heats. USC's James Sanford also advanced to the semis by winning his 100 heat.

—UCLA's Dave Laut led all qualifiers in the shotput with a mark of 65-9, and Anthony Curran and Jon Warner qualified for the pole vault finals. USC's Jerry Mulligan also reached the vault finals.

—Villanova's Don Paige, one of America's best middle distance runners and a possible factor in the 1980 Moscow Olympics, is attempting an 800-1,500 double.

Paige qualified Thursday for the 1,500 finals and ad-

vanced to the semis in the half mile. "I'm definitely going to stay in both events, regardless of whether or not the team needs the points," he said, "You bet I'm going into both races with the idea of winning. -More doubling: UTEP's Suleiman Nyambui and Mi-

chael Musyoki are attempting a 5,000-10,000 double in an effort to give the Miners the championship.

-UCLA's Eric Brown won his 100 heat but failed to advance in the 200. USC's David Omwansa was an easy qualifier for the 800 semis, but teammate James Walters went out too fast and didn't have it in the stretch. He finished sixth in a heat won by Paige in 1:48.2. Walters had a lifetime best time of 1:47.6 in winning the Pacific 10 recently.

Track Notes

Laut's shot didn't meet NCAA specifications. Officials said it wasn't "round enough," so the Bruin weightman had to purchase another shot in Champaign . . . The weather was muggy with overcast skies, more typical of a late summer day in the Midwest Heats in the 1,600-meter relay weren't necessary, so semis will be held today . . . Today's finalists: meter hurdles, 100 and 10,000

. . Sanford elected not to run in the 200 because he would have been required to compete in 200 semis, and possibly, finals, along with legs on the 400 and 1,600-meter relay teams Saturday Oregon sprinter Don Coleman looked sharp. He won his 100 and 200 heats eased up, timing 10.25 and 20.576 (both wind aided) . . . The Ducks, however, lost more potential points when Don Clary didn't qualify in the steeplechase . . . Nyambui loafed through his 5,000 heat, content to place sixth-and qualify. Same for Musyoki .

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