

Maryland Star Becomes First to Run Hurdles in 13 Seconds Flat; Juantorena Loses

BY MAL FLORENCE

Times Staff Writer

The Shark struck as expected but the Horse broke down a bit.

Maryland's Renaldo Nehemiah is called the Shark by his coach, Frank Costello, because the young hurdler usually tracks down anyone that is ahead of him.

That's what Nehemiah did Sunday in the UCLA-Pepsi Invitational at Drake Stadium, where he caught Cuba's Alejandro Casanas in the 110-meter hurdles and went on to beat him in the world record time of 13 seconds flat.

Cuba's Alberto Juantorena, the 1976 Olympic Games 400 and 800-me-

ter champion, is known as the Horse because of his powerful build and long stride.

But Juantorena, competing for the first time in the United States, was obviously not in top condition. El Caballo didn't have his normal, withering kick in the stretch and finished third in the 400. Willie Smith, the fluid ex-Auburn runner, was the winner in 45.55.

The meet promised to be the best ever held in this area since the days of the Coliseum Relays and Compton Invitational—and it lived up to expectations for the sellout crowd of 12,862.

Nehemiah broke his world record of 13.16 (set April 14 at the Jenner

Invitational at San Jose) in a race that brought the three fastest high hurdlers of all time together in one race.

But Casanas, the former record-holder at 13.21, couldn't beat the 19-year-old Nehemiah despite a rolling start and UCLA's Greg Foster hit the second hurdle, staggered over the third and fell after banging into the fourth hurdle.

"If I had gotten the same start as Casanas, I would have run 12.6," Nehemiah confided to a teammate after a press conference.

As it is, the record may be submitted at 12.99 when the Accutrack photo of the finish is blown up and reexa-

mined.

Nehemiah's achievement was the most outstanding on a Sunday in which dark clouds gave way to sunshine and clear skies.

But there were other memorable moments, such as:

—Ireland's Eamonn Coghlan and Steve Scott leaning into the finish tape together in the mile. Coghlan was judged the winner by the barest of margins. Both were timed in 3:57.0.

—Houston McTear, once considered the logical claimant to the mythical world's fastest human title, winning the 100 in 10.17. McTear, by his own admission, had been blown out of races this season. But now he

has to be reckoned with again.

—Clancy Edwards, the NCAA and AAU sprint champion from USC, running down Cuba's Silvio Leonard in the 200. Edwards won in 20.51 after finishing a badly beaten sixth in the 100.

—Lorna Griffin, representing Sports West, breaking her American women's record in the discus with a throw of 190-6.

Nehemiah, also nicknamed Skeets, has had only two outdoor hurdles races this year—and has set a world record each time. This follows an indoor season in which he set world records at distances from 50 to 60

Please Turn to Page 8, Col. 2

NEHEMIAH DOES 13.0

Continued from First Page

yards.

Casanas came out of the blocks fast. So fast that he was recalled for a false start. In NCAA competition, the Cuban would have been disqualified. But the meet was conducted under international rules, allowing for one false start.

"That first false start was a psych game," Nehemiah said.

Once again, Casanas was out fast and had a half-meter lead over Nehemiah who closed in at the fourth hurdle and took the Cuban by the sixth. Casanas was a meter back at the finish—in a very fast 13.23.

"I think he (Casanas) jumped by two yards," Nehemiah said. "I was shocked and panicked and then I knew I had to go get him. I straightened up a bit. But his being ahead of me helped me."

In the 100, McTear got his usual good start but Leonard, No. 1-ranked in the 100 last year, was right with him. McTear didn't fold, as he does sometimes in the latter stages, and held off Leonard, who was timed in 10.18.

Juantorena, 6-2, 185 (he looks bigger), didn't lose at 400 meters last year and was ranked No. 1 in the world. He was in contention on the backstretch but couldn't match Smith's stretch sprint and faded to third behind Herman Frazier, who got the bronze medal in the 400 behind the Cuban at Montreal.

El Caballo will return to the U.S. for the Brooks meet June 9 at Berkeley.

The mile was more of a strategic race rather than one in which the runners were determined to get a fast time.

Jeff Jirele of the Santa Monica Track Club was the pacesetter for the first 2½ laps. Then Steve Lacy went into the lead, followed by Marty Li-

quori, Scott and Coghlan.

Scott, the former UC Irvine runner who was timed in 3:55.3 last week at Drake, jumped the pack on the last turn and had the lead at the head of the stretch. But Coghlan, the world indoor record-holder (3:52.6) and a strong kicker, closed in—and they both lunged into the tape together.

It was almost impossible to separate the pair after studying the photo but Coghlan was the winner by the slightest of margins.

Scott said that he had been sick with a cold during the week and didn't have good workouts. "I really wasn't mentally ready for the race," he said.

Coghlan, who hasn't competed since the indoor season, said that he has had difficulty training because of his work with the Irish Tourist Board.

"I was here for a vacation," he said. "I didn't know what shape I was in. The 3:57 was faster than I expected."

Track Notes

Jeff Nelson of Burbank High School set a national high school record (8:36.3) in finishing third in the two-mile. The old mark was 8:40.9 by **Craig Virgin** of Lebanon, Ill., in 1973 . . . Other notable performances by preps: **Leslie Deniz** of Gridley High set a prep girls' discus record with a throw of 175-10 and **Joetta Clark** of Maplewood, N.J., won the women's 800 in 2:03.6 . . . **Willie Banks**, the ex-UCLA triple jumper, won his specialty with a wind-aided leap of 56-6 3/4 . . . USC's **David Omwansa** finished a strong second (1:48.8) behind **James Robinson** (1:48.3) in the 800 . . . **Markku Tuokko** of Finland won the discus at 220-4 as **Al Oerter** finished third (209-9) and **Mac Wilkins**, the 1976 Olympic champ, was fifth (206-10) . . . Wilkins is still experimenting with a new technique . . . **LaMonte King** of UC Irvine beat a good long jump field with a wind-aided leap of 26-3 . . . **Franklin Jacobs** of Fairleigh Dickinson, bothered by a sore ankle, had to be content with a winning height of 7-2 in the high jump . . . **Reijo Stahlberg** of Finland, who heaved the shot 71-2—best in the world—Saturday night at the Fresno Relays, won again at 69-7.

UCLA TRACK MEET SUMMARIES

MEN

100 METERS—1. McTeer (All TC), 10.17 (wind 1.8 m.p.s. aiding); 2. Leonard (Cuba), 10.16; 3. Hari (Bay Area Striders), 10.20; 4. E. Brown (UCLA), 10.24; 5. Williams (Athletic Affic), 10.26; 6. Edwards (Tobias Striders), 10.34; 7. Lara (Cuba), 10.40; 8. Williams (USC), 10.44.

200—1. Edwards (Tobias Striders), 20.51 (wind 1.1 m.p.s. aiding); 2. S. Williams (Athletic Affic), 20.61; 3. J. Sanford (USC), 20.71; 4. Leonard (Cuba), 20.91; 5. King (UC Irvine), 20.95; 6. Lara (Cuba), 21.24; 7. Hampton (Bay Area Striders), 21.25; 8. Snoddy (Tulsa Spikers), 21.42.

400—1. Smith (Athletic Affic), 45.55; 2. Frazier (Philadelphia Pioneers), 46.04; 3. Juantorena (Cuba), 46.20; 4. B. Brown (Athletes in Action), 46.95; 5. Stapleton (Jamaica), 47.30; 6. Cameron (Jamaica), 47.39; 7. West (Bay Area Striders), 47.60.

800—1. Robinson (Inner City AC), 1:48.3; 2. Omwena (USC), 1:48.8; 3. Beiger (Athletic Affic), 1:49.4; 4. White (California), 1:49.4; 5. Troff (Idaho), 1:50.1; 6. R. Casselman (Pacific Coast Club), 1:50.1; 7. Clary (Santa Monica TC), 1:50.1; 8. Bolif (Tobias Striders/Kenya), 1:50.9; 9. Mack (Locke HS), 1:51.4.

MILE—1. Coghlan (Ireland), 3:57.0; 2. Scott (Irvine TC), 3:57.0; 3. Lacy (Wisconsin TC), 3:59.1; 4. Liquori (Athletic Affic), 4:00.8; 5. Clifford (Athletic), 4:05.3; 6. Medvin (LA University HS), 4:06.9; 7. Jirele (Santa Monica TC), 4:08.4.

TWO MILE—1. Lawson (Santa Monica TC), 8:31.4; 2. Schankel (Cal Poly SLO), 8:33.7; 3. Nelson (Burbank HS), 8:36.3 (national high school record, old mark, 8:40.9, Craig Virgin, Lebanon HS, Ill., 1975; also better all-time HS best of 8:40.0, set indoors by Gerry Lindgren, Rogers HS, Spokane, 1964); 4. Schots (Belgium), 8:40.5; 5. McCullough (Santa Monica TC), finished third but was disqualified.

110 HURDLES—1. Nehemiah (Maryland), 13.0 (world and American records, old mark, 13.16, Nehemiah, Maryland, 1979; wind, 9 m.p.s. aiding); 2. Casanas (Cuba), 13.23 (equals fifth best performance all-time); 3. Cooper (Bay Area Striders), 13.72; 4. Robertson (Maryland), 14.10; 5. Johnson (USC), 14.12; 6. Foster (UCLA), fell.

HIGH JUMP—1. Jacobs (Fairleigh Dickinson), 7-2; 2. Peterson (Idaho), 7-0; 3. Curtis (Arizona), 7-0; 4. Kotinek (unat), 7-0; 5. Arney (Arizona St.), 7-0; 6. Morris (Jamaica), 6-10; 7. Joseph (UCLA), 6-10; 8. Polli (Alemany HS), 6-6.

POLE VAULT—1. Tully (unat), 17-6; 2. Pullard (unat), 17-0; 3. Mulligan (USC), 17-0; 4. Tie among McDonald (Cal Poly SLO), Isaksson (Sweden) and A. Curran (UCLA), 16-6; 7. Tie between C. Brown (UCLA) and Warner (UCLA), 16-6; Hayate (Tobias Striders), no height (16-6).

LONG JUMP—1. King (UC Irvine), 26-3w (2.4 m.p.s.; 24-0w; legal); 2. Ehi-zuwa (Maccabi TC/Nigeria), 25-4w (2.2 m.p.s.; 24-7 legal); 3. R. Williams (unat), 24-11; 4. Calhoun (Maryland), 24-7w; 5. Lewis (Willingboro HS, N.J.), 24-5w; 6. Robinson (San Diego Southwest Ghetto Striders), 24-1w (4.0 m.p.s.; 22-11w; legal); 7. Williams (UCLA), 22-10w.

TRIPLE JUMP—1. Banks (Tobias Striders), 56-6w (2.7 m.p.s.; 55-3w; legal); 2. Butts (All TC), 54-10; 3. Durnee (unat), 52-8w (2.4 m.p.s.; no legal mark); 4. Taylor (Long Beach St.), 52-7w; 5. Ivory (Maryland), 52-1; 6. Marlow (California), 52-0w; 7. Benson (UCLA), 51-11w.

SHOTPUT—1. Stuhberg (Finland), 69-7; 2. Laut (UCLA), 67-0; 3. Dolegny (Canada), 67-0; 4. Feuersch (Athletics West), 65-5w; 5. Shrock (Tobias Striders), 63-8w; 6. Gordien (UCLA), 62-5. Stuhberg's series: 69-7, 69-4w, 69-2w, 69-3w, foul, foul.

DISCUS—1. Tuokko (Finland), 220-4; 2. Hjeltnes (Bay Area Striders/Norway), 214-2; 3. Orter (New York AC), 209-9; 4. Swarts (NYAC), 209-4; 5. Wilkins (Athletics West), 206-5; 6. Stadel (Tobias Striders), 205-6; 7. M. Gordien (UCLA), 187-4; 8. J. Binley (UC Irvine), 179-3.

WOMEN

100—1. Ashford (Maccabi), 11.2w (2.4 m.p.s.); 2. Boyer (Arizona St.), 11.3; 3. Douglas (USC), 11.3; 4. Carney (LA Mercurettes), 11.5; 5. Dunlap (Camden HS, N.J.), 11.6; 6. Fleetwood (Cal St. LA), 11.6; 7. Brosco (Los Angeles TC), 11.7; 8. Glover (Camden HS, N.J.), 11.7.

200—1. Rich (Cal St. LA), 23.20w (2.3 m.p.s.); 2. Loud (Westchester HS), 23.27; 3. Boyer (Arizona St.), 23.56; 4. S. Howard (San Geronio HS), 23.67; 5. Brisco (LATIC), 23.83; 6. Parker (California), 23.89; 7. Dunlap (Camden HS, N.J.), 24.02; 8. Cobbs (Arizona St.), 24.17.

400—1. Ashford (Maccabi TC), 52.21; 2. Penton (Cuba), 52.54; 3. S. Howard (San Geronio HS), 53.39; 4. Franklin Milibras Lions/Balboa HS, San Francisco, 53.54; 5. Bolton (California), 54.00; 6. Gorham (North Kansas City HS, Mo.), 54.35; 7. Acker (Arizona St.), 54.96.

800—1. Clark (Atoms TC/Columbia HS, Maplewood, N.J.), 2:03.1 (fifth best HS performer all-time); 2. R. Campbell (Florida), 2:04.4; 3. Vigil (New Mexico), 2:04.6; 4. Coleman (Issaquah HS, Wash.), 2:05.4; 5. Fromme (Redlands), 2:07.7.

MILE—1. Larrieu (Pacific Coast Club), 4:29.3; 2. Bremser (Wisconsin TC), 4:27.4; 3. M. Keyes (Cal Poly SLO), 4:27.9; 4. Williams (Oregon), 4:41.4; 5. Poor (Athletes in Action), 4:44.2; 6. Goen (North HS, Bakersfield), 4:46.4; 7. Trumbley (California), 4:47.8; 8. Bush (Rolling Hills HS), 4:58.1; 9. Beckford (Rindge and Latin HS, Cambridge, Mass.), 4:50.2.

100 HURDLES—1. LaPlante (KCBQ San Diego TC), 13.15 (7 m.p.s. aiding); 2. Anderson (LATIC), 13.62; 3. Machado (Cuba), 13.73; 4. Gourdine (UCLA), 14.11; 5. M. Hawthorne (California), 14.12; 6. Frederick (Pacific Coast Club), 14.17; 7. Calhoun (Arizona St.), 14.18; 8. McGee (Long Beach St.), 14.34; 9. Garnett (Kennedy HS, Seattle, Wash.), 14.82.

400 RELAY—1. Cal St. Los Angeles, 45.94; 2. Arizona St., 45.33; 3. USC, 45.78; 4. LA Mercurettes, 46.01; 5. California, 46.02; 6. UCLA, 46.02; 7. Texas El Paso, 47.02.

HIGH JUMP—1. Spencer (LATIC), 6-0 3/4; 2. Girven (Maryland), 6-0 3/4; 3. Walker (UCLA), 5-11 1/4; 4. Remmeling (UCLA), 5-9; 5. Tie between Burrill (Nebraska) and Garrison (Washington), 5-9; 7. Tie between McNeal (Carlsbad HS) and Alston (Chico HS), 5-9.

LONG JUMP—1. Ray (Florida), 20-10w (3.2 m.p.s.; 20-6 legal); 2. Anderson (LATIC), 20-10w (2.4 m.p.s.; 20-0 3/4 legal); 3. Loud (Westchester HS), 20-9 1/2w (3.6 m.p.s.; 20-1 1/4 legal); 4. Echevarria (Cuba), 20-7 1/4; 5. Walker (Club International), 20-0 3/4; 6. Gourdine (UCLA), 19-7; 7. Wats on (Club International), 19-0w (3.0 m.p.s.; 18-4 3/4 legal).

SHOTPUT—1. Seidler (San Jose Stars), 57-6w; 2. Devine (Texas), 54-4; 3. Frederick (Pacific Coast Club), 53-10; 4. Dole (Long Beach St.), 49-4; 5. Mecklenburg (Sports West), 48-4w.

DISCUS—1. Griffin (Sports West), 190-6 (American record, old mark, 188-4, Griffin, Sports West, 1979); 2. Connell (unat), 178-10 (fifth best U.S.

performer all-time); 3. Deniz (Gridley HS), 175-10 (national high school record, old mark, 169-2, Helene Connell, Memorial HS, Jackson, N.J., 1977); eighth best U.S. performer all-time; Griffin's series: 184-4, 179-9, 190-4, foul, 176-2, 185-7. Deniz' series: foul, 158-7,

159-5, 169-2, foul, 175-10. JAVELIN—1. Sulinski (Milibras Lions), 183-9; 2. Cannon (Milibras Lions), 172-0; 3. Nelson (Club International/Canyon HS, Anaheim), 166-4; 4. Camarig (Club International), 150-1; 5. Wilkinson (Arizona St.), 143-9.