

FAST START FOR USC RELAY TEAM

Trojans Set 400-Meter Record With a 38.69 in Outdoor Debut

By MARK HEISLER

Times Staff Writer

All week, as USC's 400-meter relay team got ready to make its long-awaited outdoor debut, people kept asking James Sanford how fast they'd run. Sanford said 38-something. He says everyone thought it was way too early for that.

Saturday afternoon, before a crowd of 2,612 at Cromwell Field, the relay team of Kevin Williams, Billy Mullins, Sanford and his younger brother, Mike, blew away the competition and ran a 38.69, as promised, as the Trojans played host to their first meet, a nonscoring one, since they left the Coliseum in 1974.

The 38.69 was a national collegiate record, breaking the 38.85 set by USC two years ago. Williams said he and Mullins had trouble on the first exchange or they might have run 38.5

James Sanford said that none of the four of them had been doing any speed work or they'd have run faster, still. "After today," he said, "say . . . I'm kinda scared to say . . . like, say 37.9 or 37.8."

A 37.8 would be .23 seconds faster than the world record, the United States' 38.03 in the 1977 World Cup. That team was chosen from a pool of more than 200 million Americans. The USC track team represents a pool of 25,000 USC students.

"We knew we had good people," USC Coach Vern Wolfe said. Williams, Mullins and James Sanford were on last year's team that won at the NCAA championships with a 39.35 and Mike Sanford, a senior at Pasadena High last year, ran the 100 in 9.44, the fastest high school time in the country. "We knew they were going to run a good time but we didn't anticipate them running that fast.

"But the weather was perfect and we've been stoved up for 10 days inside because of the rain. Everyone was excited about competing on campus for the first time.

"You begin to wonder how fast they can go. A couple of the passes need a little attention. The first one was terrible, but you expect that. That's what early meets are for.

"In college, to pick up four kids that fast is almost unheard of. But our team with O.J. Simpson and Earl McCullough knocked a second off the world record. It's possible. If they think they can do it, if they have the desire to do it, it's possible."

James Sanford, ranked No. 1 in the world in the 100 meters, also won his heat of the 100 in 10.37, the fastest time of the three heats, running into what he said felt like a stiff breeze. Mullins had the day's fastest 200 meters in 20.85.

USC's Larry (Baby Ali) Doubley, back in school after almost two years away to get his head together, fought the same breeze, but long jumped 26-8¼ to win impressively.

"I had problems at first," Doubley said. "The wind kept dying in the middle of my run. I said, 'Aw, shoot.' I jumped 25-4 from behind the board. I kinda knew I had something but I didn't know I had 26-8."

Doubley thanked McCullough for calming him down before this meet and he thanked his girlfriend for believing in him. "She tells me how great I am," he said. "She's just like me."

NONSCORING MEET At USC

100 METERS (Race 1)—1. Lewis (LBCC), 10.79; 2. Reed (LBCC), 10.85. (Race 2)—1. J. Sanford (USC), 10.37; 2. M. Sanford (USC), 10.70; 3. Simmons (Tobias Striders), 10.71; 4. K. Williams (USC), 10.75.

200—1. Mullins (USC), 20.85; 2. M. Sanford (USC), 21.28; 3. Green (USC), 21.52; 4. Russell (SDS), 21.68.

400 (Race 2)—Tarrance (LBCC), 48.20. (Race 3)—Williams (unat), 46.97; 2. Edwards (Tobias), 47.36; 3. Fuller (SDS), 47.85; 4. Bethany (USC), 47.97.

800—1. Costa (Maccabi TC), 1:50.51; 2. Sallaz (unat), 1:51.14; 3. Savage (USC), 1:51.82; 4. Caesar (LBCC), 1:53.12.

1,500—1. Ornwansa (USC), 3:47.20; 2. Wang (unat), 3:49.24; 3. Huff (Cal Poly SLO), 3:52.15.

5,000—Chaidez (unat), 14:21.25.

3,000 STEEPLECHASE—1. Langford (unat), 9:03.01; 2. Betchart (SLO), 9:08.0; 3. Packer (CSN), 9:13.8.

110HH (Race 1)—Kennedy (CSN), 14.55. (Race 3)—1. Campbell (USC), 13.81; 2. Johnson (USC), 14.10; 3. McCrady (Maccabi), 14.18.

400IH (Race 1)—1. Fisk (LBCC), 52.52; 2. Stewart (USC), 52.96. (Race 3)—1. Graybehl (Pacific Coast Club), 50.66; 2. Campbell (USC), 51.76; 3. Hargrove (CSN), 53.53.

400 RELAY—1. USC (K. Williams, Mullins, J. Sanford, M. Sanford), 38.69 (national collegiate record, old mark, 38.85, USC, 1978); 2. San Diego St., 39.91; 3. LBCC, 40.02.

1,600 RELAY—1. San Diego St. (Blaylock, Daniels, McDonald, Simons), 3:08.15; 2. Pasadena CC, 3:11.58; 3. LBCC, 3:12.75; 4. Maccabi TC, 3:13.37.

LONG JUMP—1. Doubley (USC), 26-8¼; 2. Hays (USC), 25-3; 3. Fowler (SDS), 24-0.

JAVELIN—1. Petranoff (unat), 264-5; 2. Stuart (Maccabi), 225-6¼; 3. Riley (SLO), 211-4¼.

SHOTPUT—1. Hunter (unat), 54-1¾; 2. Traugber (CSN), 54-0.

HIGH JUMP—1. Saunders (CSN), 7-2; 2. Baker (LBCC), 7-0; 2. Katamine (Japan), 7-0; 4. tie between Schiefer (SDS) and Embree (unat), 6-10.

DISCUS—Robinson (LBCC), 171-2½.

TRIPLE JUMP—1. Gorner (Maccabi), 53-3; 2. Hays (USC), 50-2½; 3. Faison (USC), 49-6¼; 4. Montgomery (SDS), 49-1½.

POLE VAULT—1. Haynie (Tobias), 17-0; 2. tie between Jesse (unat) and Durham (Tobias), 16-6; 4. tie between Hintnaus (Oregon) and Takahashi (Japan), 16-6.

Attendance—2,612