UCLA's Phillips Advances in NCAA

400-Meter Hurdler Isn't Ready to Concede It's No Contest

By MAL FLORENCE, Times Staff Writer

BATON ROUGE, La.—The official program for the NCAA track and field meet summarizes each event, and by this account, the 400-meter intermediate hurdles race is already history:

"No contest here. It will be David Lee of Southern Illinois all the way. The real race will be for second among Nate Lundy of Indiana, Andre Phillips of UCLA and Paul Langford of Penn State."

Phillips found this appraisal interesting inasmuch as he has the world's second best time (48.62 seconds) in 1981—behind world record-holder Edwin Moses (48.61.). Lee has run 49.20 this year.

"If he (Lee) wants it, he'll have to take it," Phillips said as he qualified Thursday night for the semifinals tonight while finishing an eased-up third in his heat.

Five advanced to the semi finals and Phillips almost cut it a little too fine. He was looking around in the stretch, conserving energy, and all of a sudden there were six bodies at the tape.

"Last year in the NCAA meet, I was stricken by the heat at Austin and finished seventh or eighth," Phillips said, "so I wanted to be cautious tonight. Maybe I was a little too cautious."

Lee was the 1980 NCAA 400 hurdles champion and finished third in the Olympic trials last June in a race in which Phillips almost fell going over the third barrier and wasn't in contention.

But Phillips, a senior from San Jose, is stronger this season. He led the virtually unbeatable Moses for eight hurdles in the Mt. San Antonio Relays last April before losing. Most hurdlers only see Moses' back for most of the race.

"I'm able to bench-press 225 pounds," said Phillips, the two-time Pacific 10 400 hurdles champion. "Last year I could only press 175 pounds."

Phillips doesn't have to run any relay legs in this

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year's meet as he did in 1980, so he shouldn't be physically drained for his anticipated showdown with Lee Saturday in the final.

UCLA sprinter Eric Brown advanced to the semifinals in the 100 and 200, as easily as Phillips-did, on a formful night. There were no major upsets in the qualifying rounds. There will be more trials with some finals tonight and it's all finals Saturday night.

Lewis Advances Twice

The weather was muggy as anticipated but relatively mild, according to the natives at Bernie Moore Track Stadium. They're used to more humidity and even thunderstorms at this time of the year.

Carl Lewis was the oustanding performer Thursday night. He took only one jump in the long jump to qualify and what a jump it was—26-8½ and a stadium record. He also won his 100 heat in 10:34.

Lewis is attempting to win the long jump and 100 for the first time since the legendary Jesse Owens did it in 1936.

UCLA had only one setback. Dave Daniels finished seventh in the 3,000-meter steeplechase and just missed qualifying for the final as six advanced in his heat.

He was in a contending position most of the race but so were several others. Then he stumbled on the last water jump and didn't have enough to catch up with the pack.

"I just missed the mark I had set for myself at the last steeple," said Daniels, who was timed in 8:46.81 compared to a season's best of 8:35.5. "There was no way to get in position during the race because a lot of runners were jostling each other."

UCLA doesn't have much chance of winning the NCAA meet. Texas El Paso and SMU, with stong foreign contingents, are expected to fight it out for the team title.

UTEP showed its usual strength in the distance races by qualifying three for the 5,000 final Saturday—Suleiman Nyambui, who won both the 5,000 and 10,000 in the 1980 meet; Matthew Motshwarateu and Michael Musyoki.

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