

Joyner and Griffith Put UCLA Women Back in Running for Title

By MAL FLORENCE, Times Staff Writer

HOUSTON—Jackie Joyner is looking forward to tonight. It will be sort of a rest day for the versatile, seemingly tireless UCLA athlete.

She'll only run a leg in the finals of the 1,600-meter relay after working over Thursday night in the women's heptathlon Monday and Tuesday. Then, while watching television early Wednesday morning, she suffered a painful leg cramp.

"I thought I could loosen it up by running the 400 leg in the 1,600-relay trial Wednesday night," said the 5-10, 145-pound athlete.

Joyner was really busy Thursday night as she and Florence Griffith kept the Bruins alive in their quest for a second straight NCAA championship.

Joyner's evening began with a leg on the sprint relay team, which qualified for the finals. Then, she was second in her heat in the 100-meter hurdles with a personal best time of 13.62 and, still later, she was long jumping, qualifying for the finals with a jump of 20-10.

"I'm tired but I enjoy it," Joyner said.

Griffith was just as active. Her anchor leg in the sprint relay moved the Bruins from fourth to second in their heat. Then, she set a meet record of 51.31 in winning her heat in the 400—an event she seldom ran until this year. She then completed a tough triple, winning her 200 heat in 22.47.

So the Bruins, who faltered Wednesday night, are very much alive now.

Griffith, the defending NCAA 200 champion, will be very active Saturday when she competes in the sprint relay, 200 and 400. Her opposition in the 400 is first rate—Cal State LA's Denean Howard and Nebraska's Merlene Ottey and then it's Ottey again in the 200 along with Cal State LA's Diane Williams and Florida State's Randy Givens.

Although Joyner is already a proven athlete, her coach, UCLA assistant Bob Kersee, says, in effect, that you haven't seen anything yet.

"She still doesn't totally understand what she's doing in all of her events," he said. "Another year and this lady will be unbelievable."

Next year is, of course, the Olympic year and Joyner, a starting forward on the UCLA basketball team, will concentrate totally on her many events—and Kersee says she can substantially improve on all of her marks.

Willie Gault of Tennessee, the NCAA indoor sprint and hurdles champion, was the most impressive performer in the men's competition Thursday night. Gault is attempting the same double in the outdoor meet.

He won his 100 heat in a wind-aided 10.16 and was easily the class of his trial in the 110-meter high hurdles with a winning time of 13.51.

Gault, a wide receiver, was a first-round draft choice of the Chicago Bears and he has to make a decision soon about his future. He's inclined now to stay with track through the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles and then pursue his pro football career.

"I don't think I could get any worse in football if I lay off a year to concentrate on track," he said. "The Bears haven't put any pressure on me at all. They want me to finish my track career. I'm an athlete and I've been going back and forth between football and track all my life."

Gault said he's getting married June 11 to Dainnee Mathis, a Tennessee student. "Rinaldo Nehemiah will be the best man. Others coming are Stanley Ployd, Carl Lewis and Harvey Glance," Gault said. "We may get together and go for a world record relay at the wedding reception."



Associated Press

Washington State's Francis Dodoo lays in runway after pulling a muscle on his approach during triple-jump competition at the NCAA meet.

Barring a mishap, Gault should win the high hurdles final Saturday but he has more demanding competition in the 100. Alabama's Calvin Smith, the world's No. 2 ranked sprinter, won his heat Thursday night in 10.10 as did his teammate, Emmitt King in 10.05. Both times were wind aided.

In another noteworthy performance, Bert Cameron of Texas El Paso and Jamaica set a meet record of 45.27 while winning his 400-meter heat—and he was looking around casually at his opposition the last 150 meters.

Enar Vilhjalmsen of Iceland, who is representing Texas, led all qualifiers in the javelin with a throw of 295-3—also an NCAA meet record and the fourth best in the world this year. USC brought a six-man team to the NCAA and all of the athletes have qualified for the finals, including defending NCAA pole vault champion Dave Kenworthy and Darwin Cook in the 100.

UCLA's Marcus Allen, the Pac-10 high hurdles champion, hit a hurdle in his heat and finished third but he still qualified for the finals. The Bruins' Steve McCormack and Jon Butler also made in the 5,000, an event that is dominated by Kenyan athletes from

Washington State and UTEP.

NCAA Track Notes

Carl Lewis, who is a part-time student at Houston, has been a spectator at the NCAA meet. Lewis, the world's top-ranked sprinter and long jumper, said he plans to run both the 100 and 200 and long jump at The Athletics Congress meet June 17-19 at Indianapolis. "If I do well in the 200, I may compete in the three events at Helsinki (World Championships, Aug. 7-14)," he said. Lewis was timed in 20.16 in the 200 Saturday in the Jenner meet at San Jose, best mark in the world this year. UCLA's Jake Brenner (96-5/8) and USC's Hank Kuyshik (84-5/8) both qualified for the finals in the shot put. Oregon's Dean Cromar, the defending champion, had the best throw—67-9/4. UCLA's Ben Roberts finished ninth in his heat of the 1,500 and didn't qualify for the finals. Oregon's Joazele Grew of Brantley has qualified for the finals in the 1,500 and 800. Washington State lost possible points in six heats for the team title when virgin jumpers Francis Dodoo and Gary Milnes failed to qualify for the finals. Dodoo injured his leg on his second jump.

