## **Bullard Believes That More Is More**

By MAL FLORENCE, Times Staff Writer

EUGENE, Ore.-Ernie Bullard, USC's new track coach, wants to restore the Trojans to their once-prominent position in the sport. To do it, he figures he has to play a numbers game.

USC has won 26 NCAA track championships-far more than any other school-but it hasn't one since 1976, and isn't expected to win here this week. The Trojans won the 1978 meet here but were subsequently stripped of the title for using ineligible athletes.

Since then, USC has disappeared as a national power, or even a regional one. The once-strong dual-meet

program has virtually abandoned. USC's decline has been largely attributed to an NCAA

ruling several years ago that restricted track scholarships to 14, or the equivalency of that number. Dick Perry, the outgoing athletic director, has said

that the ruling discriminates against private schools such as USC. He said that a half-scholarship at the school would not be attractive to an athlete who would wind up paying at least \$5,000 out of his own pocket.

"I want to start working on a three-year program that would increase the number of scholarship-caliber

athletes." Bullard said

Bullard said he was looking into other areas of financial assistance, such as federal aid and academic scholarships that wouldn't count against the athletic grant, to add quality athletes.

Bullard, finishing up as coach at San Jose State, also wants to establish a cross-country program to attract distance runners. USC hasn't had any quality distance runners in recent years, making maximum use of the limited scholarships by relying on sprinters who could also compete in other events.

He also said he would continue to lobby-as Perry did-against the NCAA scholarship restrictions.

'Track is the only sport in which there are not enough scholarships for places on the team," Bullard said, noting that a team needed at least 25 athletes to be competitive in a dual meet.

Bullard, a USC pole vaulter in the late 1950s, also

wants to recruit multi-sport athletes.

If an athlete is, say, on a football scholarship but also competes in track, he wouldn't count against the numbers granted for track," Bullard said. "I've talked to Ted Tollner (USC's football coach) and he likes the idea of recruiting mutual-type athletes."

Bullard is not opposed to having some foreign athletes on his team. He has two competing for San Jose in the NCAA meet-Felix Bohni, a pole vaulter from Switzerland, and Kjell Bystedt, a hammer thrower from Sweden.

"President (James H.) Zumberge has said that USC is an international school," Bullard said, adding that it was good from a cultural exchange standpoint to have a few, selected foreign athletes.

Vern Wolfe, who is retiring as USC's coach after 22 years at the school, had said that the new coach wouldn't take the job unless he had a better recruiting and travel budget, and at least two full-time assistants.

Bullard said that he was negotiating with Zumberge to increase the budget and had already hired a full-time assistant, Larry Knuth, a distance coach and a former assistant at UC Irvine.

Leo Davis, a sprint coach who was at USC in the 1970s, is expected to become a part-time assistant, "But I'm trying to get him a good salary for that position," Bullard said.

Bullard, 46, comes across as positive and energetic. He said he was a fund raiser at San Jose by necessity because the school did not allot track scholarships. Still, he was successful, compiling an 84-22 dual-meet record in his 14 seasons as as coach.

It is generally believed that Ken Matsuda, Wolfe's assistant for 18 years, was bitterly disappointed that he wasn't promoted. Although he seemed distressed, Matsuda would not criticize the university.

"I'm just grateful to the school for allowing me to stay as long as I have," he said. "Vern and I couldn't ask for a better groups of kids than we have now on the team. We're not leaving the cupboard bare."

USC's Darwin Cook, the Pac-10 100-meter champion, qualified for Saturday's final but strained his right hamstring and will not be able to run. Cook's injury forced USC to scratch its 400-meter relay team from Saturday's final. "I was running well until 70 meters when it hit," said Cook, who finished fourth in his 100 heat. "I lost my balance and couldn't recover" . . . Kee Matsuda had tears in his eyes as he talked about Cook while putting his arm around another Trojan sprinter, Panche Morales. It seemed that Morales was consoling Matsuda . . . It wasn't a particularly good day for UCLA. either. Steve Kerbe, the conference champion in the 110-meter hurdles, couldn't run because of a muscle pull. Rea Reberts and Mike Parkinson didn't qualify in the 1,500 and Greg Stull didn't clear a height in the pole vault. John Bronner easily qualified in the shotput, however, setting up a showdown Saturday with SMU's Michael Carter, who has has won seven straight NCAA titles, four of them indoors.

Matsuda said he learned from a stranger at a shopping mall here Wednesday that Ernie Bullard had been given the USC coaching job. He said that when he called home, his wife, Jan, said a telegram from USC advised that he was not the school's choice. Matsuda, who has had an active role in coaching the USC team, said he would meet with Bullard today to make the coaching transition as easy as possible . . . Oregon, the host school, qualifed two runners each in the 1,500 and 5,000, and is expected to make a strong run for the team title against favored Washington State, which is not doubling distance runner Peter Koech, as anticipated . . . Desean Heward of Cal State L.A. has a slight muscle pull and didn't compete in the 400, her specialty. She ran the 800, instead, but didn't qualify Houston Coach Tem Telles, who was a finalist along with Matsuda and Bullard for the USC coaching job, said he hadn't gone all out to get the position. "We've got a good program at Houston and there's no reason to go elsewhere," he said. "USC made a good choice in

Bullard" . . . Qualifying concluded Thursday and finals will be held

in 10 men's and eight women's events today . . . Ellisten Stinson of

Rice was the fastest qualifier in the 100 with a time of 10.16.

