Juantorena Breezes Into 800-Meter Final, **Lauds Coliseum Track**

By MAL FLORENCE, Times Staff Writer

The hair is thinning a bit now and he'll be 33 next December, but El Caballo isn't ready to be put out to

pasture.

El Caballo is Alberto Juantorena, the powerful striding Cuban, who overpowered the opposition in winning an unprecedented 400-800 double in 1976 Olympics at Montreal.

Juantorena was back on an Olympic track Friday at the Coliseum for trials in The Times/TAC International Summer Games. He has abandoned the 400 and is

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concentrating on the 800 now and the 1,500 may be in his future.

"As you become older you have more resistance

(endurance?), but not as much speed," said Juantorena, who apologized for his English although it wasn't necessary. Juantorena had just finished his semifinal heat in the

800, loafing into the tape with Johnny Gray of the Santa Monica Track Club and easily qualifying for Sunday's final.

Juantorena endorsed the new red-brick colored Rekortan running surface, saying, "The track was marvelous. It felt good for my old legs."

Juantorena, who is taller than most runners at 6-3, appeared in peak physical condition. He said he is no longer troubled by a sciatic nerve condition in his leg and tendinits. He is also trim at 182 pounds.

He was a struggling fifth in the 400 meters in the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow and it seemed that his track career had ended. But now he is looking forward to the August World Championships in Helsinki, Finland, and the Pan-American Games in Careas, Venezuella—and, of course, to the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

Juantorena, who previously held the world 800 record at 1:43.44, made an impressive comeback in 1982. He was ranked second in the world in the 800 behind Britain's Sebastian Coe and lost only one race, his last of

the season.

"Coe refused to meet me, "Juantorena said. "I don't know why. I don't think he's afraid of me."

Juantorena said he was timed in 1:44.9 in a recent race in Havana and added that he still enjoys competing.

"But I'm fighting against my age," he said, smiling broadly.

The United States meets East Germany today and Sunday in the dual meet portion of the Summer Games The dual meet begins at 2 p.m. today with pole vault competition, while the Summer Games get underway at 5-45.

Carol Lewis, The Athletics Congress long jump

champion, will not be able to compete, damaging the American team's chances of winning the combined title. Lewis was using a cane Friday. She said her right foot was burned when a chemical agent from an ice pack leaked on it. She'll be replaced by Angela Thacker, a

Lewis was expected to finish no worse than second behind East Germany's Heike Daute and it wouldn't have been a major upset if she won because she beat Daute in last year's dual meet at Karl-Marx-Stadt.

freshman from Nebraska.

It's likely now that East Germany will finish first and second in the long jump.

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Carol's older brother, Carl, who recorded an astounding triple—100, 200 and long jump—at the TAC meet,
will be seen only in the 400-meter relay today—and
Lewis says that a fast time is possible. The world record
is 38.03 set by a U.S. team in the 1977 World Cup at
Dusseldorf. West Germany.

Emmit King will run the first leg, Mark McNeill the second. Willie Gault the third with Lewis anchoring.

cond, Willie Gault the third with Lewis anchoring. "This particular team can run in the low 38s," Lewis

said Friday. "We've been working on our sticks (passing) in practice this week at USC and Cal State LA."

There were only five finals in the Summer Games Friday with qualifying in other events. Shiegenobu Murofushi of Japan won the hammer

throw at 241-4 (he intends to enroll at Long Boach City College): Bulgarais Maria Pelkova, a former world record holder, won the discus at 232-1; Ronald Waynes formerly of Call Poly (SLO) took the long jump at 25-11; Cuba's Mayra Vila was the women's javelin winner at 208-3 and Shuich! Yoneshige of Japan won the 10,000 meters in 29.34.69.

Track Notes Athletes interviewed liked the new, synthetic Coliseum track. Al Miller of Mt. San Antonio College, a heat winner and the State junior college 100 champion, said the track was bouncy. "It had a nice feel to it," he said. "The Mt. SAC track is harder and I think better but you can run some fast times on this track." . . . Quarter-miler Chris Whitlock of Washington State agreed with Miller: "It (the track) gives a good rebound and the 100 meter turns felt just right. They help a long striding runner like myself. The track seemed level all the way around and I believe we can run 45 flat on it." . . . Whitlock won his 400 heat in 46.01 . . . In Summer Games competition, only two Americans can qualify for the finals unless all competing foreigners have not filled up all the places in the finals. For example, Jeff Phillips won his 200 heat in 20.81, but he was only the fourth fastest American . . . The men's javelin throw begins at 2:10 today in the dual meet. It features competition between Tom Petranoff, the world record holder at 327-2, and East Germany's Detlef Michel, who has equaled the second longest throw of all time at 317-4.

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