It's a UCLA Show at Corvallis, and Devers Takes Most of Bows

By MAL FLORENCE, Times Staff Writer

CORVALLIS, Ore.—UCLA's Gail Devers was thrown into the steepiechase water jump pit by her teammates early Saturday eve-

ning.
It was the first time that anyone had caught up with the versatile athlete in the two-day Pacific 10

track and field meet.

Devers won four individual
events and ran a leg on winning 400
and 1,600-meter relay teams as the
Bruins won the team championship
with 121 points to runger-up USC's

It was a UCLA show on a warm day in the Northwest. The men's team avenged a loss to Oregon in last year's meet by compiling 176 points to 108 for the second-place Ducks. USC, which faltered on Friday, surged to fourth with 65

points.
"Thank God for Gail Devers,"
said Bob Kersee, UCLA women's
coach. "The Lord blessed me with
one fantastic athlete in Jackie
Lovner, (b)s wife and the world

s heptathlon record-holder).

"People say that you get an athlete like that once in a lifetime. Then, before Jackie graduates (from UCLA), I get Gail Devers."

Devers, who won the long jump

record a personal best time of 22.71 seconds in the 200. Earlier, she had won the 100 in 11.17 and, in her only close race of the meet, held off Arizona State's Lynda Tolbert in the 100-meter hurdles. Devers' winning time was 13.28, just ahead

of Tolbert at 13.29.

Devers has competed in as many eight events in dual meets. But Kersee said the work load will be

eased in 1988, an Olympic year.
"Next year she can do what she wants, pick the events she wants to

compete in," Kersee said.

Devers didn't have to run the anchor leg of the 1,600-meter relay, the final event, Saturday. The Bruins had already clinched the meet with 111 points to USC's 99. But that's not her style.

"I wasn't tired and I felt the Pac-10 meet wasn't over until the 1,600 relay was over whether we had won, or lost." she said while

applying ice packs to her legs.

While Devers was showcased in
the women's meet, the men's team
buried Oregon with more balanced
scoring. Among the contributors

were:

—Jim Banich, who won the discus at 194-3, to become the only double winner in men's competition. He won the shotput Friday and was named the male athlete of

the meet. You don't need to ask
who got the women's award.

—Henry Thomas was beaten by
USC's Pancho Morales in the 100
but returned to win the 200 in the

personal best time of 20.24.

-Kevin Young hit the ninth hurdle and struggled a bit, but still won the 400-meter intermediate hurdles in 50.06. Earlier, Danny Everett won the 400 in 45.52 with teammate Anthony Washington getting third in 46.16.

"Throughout both days we had remarkable good fortune," UCLA Coach Bob Larsen said. "We got excited about our possibilities after the first day, but we felt the same way last year and then Oregon had

a great second day to beat us."
UCLA's 176 points was the second highest point total in conference history, USC scored 180 points in winning the 1976 meet.
A track meet wouldn't be complete without some controversy

and protests. The Pac-10 meet held its own.

Fred LaPlante, USC's women's coach, protested that Devers had jumped out of order in winning the long jump on her last attempt Friday. She had, but an official

allowed her to do it and the protest was eventually rejected. USC's Leslie Maxie had to run virtually two races to win the women's 400 intermediate hurdles. The Accutrack timing mechanism and its backup facility malfunctioned after the start of the race. So a recall gun was fired, not once but twice.

Maxie said she didn't hear the first report until she was over the second hurdle and heard the second just before the fifth hurdle. Then, she slowed to a stop on the final turn—some 300 meters from the start—as officials franticaly.

waved flags.
So, 15 minutes later, the race was re-run and Maxie won in the time

of 57.29.
USC's Morales, whose career has been marred by injuries, surprised Thomas and Mike Marsh, UCLA's defending champion, in the 100

meters.

Morales bolted out of the blocks ahead of the Bruins and held his advantage all the way, winning in 10.45 while bucking a head wind.

"I just put everything together

today," said Morales, who came back to get second behind Thomas in the 200 in the personal best time of 20.44

of 20.44.
Other Trojans who contributed

were Eric White and Steve Klassen, one-two finishers in the pole

vault, and Eric Schermerhorn, who was fourth in the 800 in 1-48.74. Track Notes The USC women lost all chance of catching UCLA when Yvette Bates and Wendy Brewn finished third and fourth, respectively, in the triple jump. They were expected to go 1-2. Brown is the American

outdoor record-holder at 44-11%. Bates has the indoor mark at 45-3. Bates jumped 42-11 Saturday, while Brown settled for 42.2 "Fate was just never on our side." LaPlante said. "It all started a couple of weeks ago with the Sharer Hatfield incident and then Bates and two of our other athletes were involved in car accidents that weren't serious, but Hatfield, a pentathlete, has accused USC tailback Aaron Emanuel of punching her at a party and a court date is pending. Ernie Bullard, USC men's coach, said he can't explain it but the Trojans always seem to perform better on the second day of the Pac-10 meet than they do on the first. "It has been a complicated year." said Bullard, referring to inelgibility and injury problems, "but I liked the way we per-

formed today and we only had 16 people in

the meet. . . A makeshift USC 400-meter relay team finished third and the 1,600PACIFIC 10 CHAMPIONSHIPS At Corvallia, Ore. Men 100—1. Morales (USCI, 10.45; 2 Thomas (UCLAI, 10.59; 3 Mersh (UCLAI, 10.65; 4 Mahorn (Californai), 10.72; 5 Dannis (Oregon), 10.81; 6 Gossolin (C).

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