

Freshman Banks Leads Bruins to Win Over USC

BY HARLEY TINKHAM

Times Staff Writer

When's the last time you saw an organized rooting section at a track meet? When's the last time you saw a triple jumper actually cheered as he ran down the runway? When's the last time you saw a man carried off the field after winning his event?

It all happened at UCLA Saturday. The man they carried off was Willie Banks after the 19-year-old freshman from Oceanside carried UCLA to its fourth straight victory over USC with an astonishing leap of 55-1 on his final attempt in the triple jump.

The score was 75-70, clinching the national collegiate dual meet championship for the Bruins for the fourth straight year. The turnaway crowd was a record 15,069 on hand to see the best dual meet in memory.

Five meet records were set or equaled. Each school broke or equaled three school records. Four events produced the best marks in the nation this year.

In the end, however, the day belonged to Mr. Banks. For openers, he almost flattened the Trojans when he soared a wind-aided 26-2¼ in the long jump, leading a Bruin one-two finish over Olympic champion Randy Williams who incredibly failed to win in this meet for the fourth straight year.

The Trojans fought back grimly, getting a tremendous lift from Ken Randle's 45.1 upset of Benny Brown in the 440, but after Tom Cochee and Don Bryson had gone ahead of Banks in the triple jump, young Willie rode the cheers of Bruin rooters and took it all away from the Trojans with a jump that bettered his previous best by almost two feet. Had Banks not won, the meet would have been de-

cided by the mile relay.

Most track fans have always rated the 1971 USC-UCLA meet as the greatest ever—and it was a big one with such people as Willie Deckard, Edsel Garrison, John Smith and Wayne Collett—but look at some of the performances Saturday:

—Mike Tully of UCLA set a school record of 17-10 in the pole vault and came within a whisker of clearing 18-2 when the bar finally toppled after he landed in the pit.

—Rory Kotinek of UCLA won the high jump at 7-3/4, breaking the school record of 7-3 he shared with Dwight Stones. Kotinek earlier won the javelin with a seasonal best of 226-10.

—James Gilkes of USC won the sprints in 9.3 and 20.4, his 220 mark moving him to No. 1 in the nation this year.

—Tom Andrews of USC won the 440 hurdles in 50.2, equaling the meet record and handing UCLA's Lynsey Guerrero his first defeat in four years of dual meet competition. Guerrero fell over the last hurdle but Andrews already was long gone.

—USC ran a nation-leading 39.1 in the 440 relay and set a school record of 3:07.2 in the mile relay even though Randle did not run on the quarter.

So torrid was the competition that Bryson, with a school-record equaling 53-9 in the triple jump, could only manage to place third. Cochee's 54-3 for second cannot be accepted as a record because of an over-the-allowable wind.

Here's the picture as Banks took his final jump: UCLA would have led only 71-69 if Banks didn't improve. The Bruins were in deep trouble, going into the mile relay against a USC team that had run four seconds faster this year.

As Banks moved to the head of the runway, suddenly four Bruin students appeared from the stands and led rooters in a U-C-L-A spellout. When Banks started his run, the rooters burst into cheers urging the freshman on as he moved determinedly toward the takeoff.

Now, what you have to remember is, field event performers abhor any kind of noise during their approaches, just as Jack Nicklaus doesn't want anybody leading cheers while he's sizing up an 8-foot putt.

Willie Banks, it turns out, is different.

"I love it," he said, "I jump on emotion. It was just what I needed because, believe me, I was scared. When I heard those cheers, it really



MAN OF THE DAY—Willie Banks is congratulated by UCLA teammates after he clinched win over USC with leap of 55-1 in triple jump.

Times photo

pumped me up, and I told myself, 'Give it everything you have. Go for broke.'"

How could he exceed his previous best by almost two feet? He credited assistant coach Tom Tellez.

"He's an amazing coach," said Banks, a 6-2, 160-pounder who prepped at Oceanside High. "He knows how to teach you skills. Also, I'm a team jumper. The team needed the points, so I had to give it my best."

Head coach Jim Bush said, "Willie did an amazing job. All our kids did." They had to, because USC is a great team. USC was just as good as we were. We were lucky. But I'll take it. This has to be the greatest track meet ever held."

Track Notes

There was no wind aiding Banks in the triple jump. In fact, the wind was 2 m.p.h. against him. His previous best was 53-2. His previous best in the long jump was 24-5/4, although his Saturday mark goes in the wind-aided category. **Randy Williams**, third at 25-3/4, said, "I just couldn't get my step. I hit the board only once and then I only got a couple of spikes on it. I guess it just wasn't meant for me to win this meet. I have no excuses. I know I can jump farther than the winning mark today, but I didn't do it." In Randy's four losses to the Bruins, there have been four different Bruin winners—**Finn Bendixen**, **James McAllister**, **Jerry Hernandez** and Banks. "One thing," smiled Williams sardonically, "I've set a record that will never be equaled."

had a bad cold," said assistant coach Ken Matsuda. "He worked out only once last week." ... UCLA's **Curtis Beck**, winner of the mile, will be forced to quit for the year with a chronic back injury, according to assistant coach **Hal Harkness**. "He's been running in pain all year," said Harkness ... UCLA's win was his 35th straight and Bush is now 7-4 over USC.

SHOT PUT—1. Pagi (UCLA), 66-3; 2. Budnick (USC), 59-10; 3. Fruguelitti (USC), 55-10.

440 RELAY—1. USC (Abrahams, Simmons, Randle, Gilkes), 39.1 (equals meet record); USC, Williams, Brown, Querre, Deckard, 197.0; 2. UCLA (Wilson, Brown, O. Johnson, Bush), 39.3.

MILE—1. C. Beck (UCLA), 4:03.4; 2. Beaton (USC), 4:06.0; 3. Gilmore (UCLA), 4:09.7.

1200H—1. Jackson (UCLA), 12.5 (wind 4.9 m.p.h.); 2. M. Johnson (UCLA), 13.4; 3. Williams (USC), 13.8.

LONG JUMP—1. Banks (UCLA), 55-1 (wind 4.8); 2. Hernandez (UCLA), 53-2; 3. R. Williams (USC), 25-10; 4. Cochee (USC), 24-10.

440—1. Randle (USC), 45.1 (USC was 100-0 mark, 45.4; Edsel Garrison, 197.1; 2. Brown (UCLA), 45.2; 3. Campbell (USC), 47.7.

100—1. Gilkes (USC), 9.3; 2. Abrahams (USC), 9.4; 3. Bush (UCLA), 9.5.

800—1. Vesty (UCLA), 1:49.9; 2. Kern (USC), 1:51.0; 3. Heinzen (UCLA), 1:52.6.

DISCUS—Fruguelitti (USC), 194.6; 2. Elder (USC), 190-10; 3. Gunther (UCLA), 183.2.

220—1. Gilkes (USC), 20.4; 2. Brown (UCLA), 20.6; 3. Randle (USC), 20.8.

POLE VAULT—1. Tully (UCLA), 17-10 (meet record, old mark 17-11/4; Francis Trancanelli, UCLA, 1973; UCLA record, old mark, 17-9 1/4; Trancanelli, 1974); 2. Mosera (UCLA), 17-0; 3. Rogers (USC), 16-4.

440 RELAY—1. USC (equals meet record, Geoff Vanderstock, USC, 1967); 2. Gravelly (USC), 53.3; 3. Mills (UCLA), 52.8.

JAVELIN—1. Kotinek (UCLA), 226-10; 2. Helby (UCLA), 211-9; 3. Tosti (UCLA), 202-9.

TRIPLE JUMP—1. Banks (UCLA), 55-1 (meet record, old mark 54-0; Clarence Taylor, UCLA, 1974; UCLA record, old mark, 54-11); 2. Taylor, 1974; 3. Cochee, 53-3; 4. Bryson (USC), 53-0.

TWO MILE—1. Andrews (USC), 15:58.2; 2. Brown (UCLA), 15:58.2; 3. Nihl (UCLA), 9:09.6.

HIGH JUMP—1. Kotinek (UCLA), 7-3/4 (meet record, old mark 7-1; Dean Owens, USC, 1973); UCLA record, old mark, 7-3; Dwight Stones, 1972; and Rory Kotinek, 1974; 2. Mellier (UCLA), 7-2; 3. Haegeper (USC), 6-8.

MILE RELAY—1. USC (Connors 47.5, Gravelly 47.6, Andrews 46.6, Campbell 45.5); 2. UCLA record, old mark 3:07.4, 1974; UCLA did not finish.

FINAL SCORE—UCLA 75, USC 70. Attendance—13,661.

In the 440, Randle grabbed a one-yard lead over Brown coming off the turn, then refused to give it away in a stirring battle down the stretch. Brown was clocked in 45.2 but he was close enough to Randle that many thought he should have had the same time. "No excuses," said Brown. "He just ran a great race. I don't feel I lost it. He just won it. I'll tell you this, though—it won't happen again." Brown later collapsed in the mile relay, falling to his knees 30 yards from the finish after the Trojans already had wrapped up the race.

"I don't know what it is," he said later while clutching his stomach. "It just all of a sudden hit me." Bush said: "Benny was just physically and emotionally spent." Previously, besides running the 440, Brown had helped the Bruins run a season-best 39.5 for second in the 440 relay and had come out of the pack to get second in the 220 with a career-equaling 20.6.

USC, despite the loss, saw its NCAA hopes rise considerably. **Ralph Fruguelitti** moved into the discus picture with a career best of 194-6 and teammate **Darrell Elder** was right behind at 190-10. Andrews, who now has the best college time in the intermediates, said, "I guess I can start thinking about being in the top three. I think I should do 49.5 before the year's over." UCLA, of course, also will be tough in the nationals. In fact, Banks said, "We're gonna kill 'em." ... Tully, after his narrow miss at 18-2, said, "I can't believe the bar came off. I don't even remember hitting it." He said he has extended his run 12 feet to give him more speed and now feels he has a shot at **Dave Roberts'** world record of 18-6 1/4. "With a little more speed and a heavier pole, I think I can do it." ... USC's **Rayfield Beaton** dropped out of the 880 after finishing second in the mile. "He's

4. Owe

4. Ko

4. Disi

4. Tav