

UCLA's Brenner Puts Shot a World-Best 71-3½

By MAL FLORENCE, Times Staff Writer

UCLA's John Brenner erupts with a Tarzan-like yell whenever he throws the shot. On his last throw in the dual meet with USC Saturday at Drake Stadium, he also screamed, "Oh no."

For a split second he wasn't pleased with his effort. He didn't think his form was what it should have been. But the result was most gratifying.

Brenner, a senior, became a member of the elite 70-foot club with an impressive series climaxed by a mark of 71-3½ on his last throw. It was the third best collegiate throw of all time, equaled the best throw in the world this year, and improved his school record.

Moreover, Brenner, 6-3½, 285, beat American record-holder Dave Laut, a former Bruin, for the second time this season.

Brenner's performance early in the day was easily the highlight of the dual meet which UCLA won, as expected, 93-68. The Times had forecast UCLA winning, 95-68.

The UCLA-USC dual isn't the classic meet it once was when world-class athletes performed before a capacity crowd of 15,000 at Westwood. Saturday's meet, which attracted about 4,500 fans, was competitive to a degree, but NCAA scholarship limitations have diluted the strength of both teams.

It was a nostalgic meet in the sense that it would end the rivalry between the UCLA and USC coaches, Jim Bush and Vern Wolfe, who are retiring at the end of the season.

Brenner, who also won the discus at 196-5, had three throws over 70 feet in the shotput. His series: 68-7½, 69-6¾, 70-3, 70-3½ and then the big one at 71-3½.

Terry Albritton is the collegiate record-holder with a throw of 71-8½ while competing for the University of Hawaii in 1976.

"I thought I would have a better series," Brenner said. "I thought I would open up at 70 feet, but I got too excited and overdid it in warmups."

The ever-improving Brenner has now established himself as a strong candidate to make the U.S. Olympic team. He'll be favored to win the NCAA competition next month in Eugene, Ore.

"I didn't feel that I was fully extended over the board on my last throw," Brenner said. "But I got a good leg lift and had a lot of speed coming across."

Brenner reportedly had seven of 10 throws sail past the 70-foot line in practice, so he wasn't surprised to officially become a 70-foot thrower. He said he concentrated on the 72-foot line rather than aiming for 70 feet and that perspective helped him.

Brenner has been a versatile competitor for UCLA this season, competing in the javelin and hammer throw as well as the discus and shotput. But he has a sore left shoulder and competed in just two events Saturday.

He is disproving the theory that shotputters need considerable upper body strength to excel. He said he hasn't done much upper body weight work in three months and says it's more important to develop leg strength with squats.

Laut, the U.S. record-holder at 72-3, who had a best throw of 69-7, had mixed emotions about losing to Brenner on his former home turf.

"I'm the American record-holder and everyone is coming out to beat me," said Laut, who was third to two 70-foot throwers, Brian Oldfield and Augie Wolf last



AURELIO JOSE BARERRA Los Angeles Times

Retiring track coaches Vern Wolfe of USC (left) and Jim Bush of UCLA share a laugh Saturday.

Sunday at Mt. SAC. "They can beat me all they want and get it out of their system. I know where I'll be."

Laut said that this is the farthest he has ever thrown so early in the season and that he usually gets his best marks in June and July. He is just coming off weight training and although his strength is there, his technique isn't. He has also been bothered by a sore lower back and inflammation in his knees.

"I've matured past the point where I have to win early," he said. "This is an Olympic year and you have to keep everything in perspective. My technique isn't there but I still armed it out 69 feet."

Another thrower, Czechoslovakia's Imrich Bugár, got off the best discus throw of the year, 227-3, in a special competition that opened the meet. Bugár, the world champion, will compete in the Pepsi Invitational May 13 at Westwood.

USC and UCLA alumni and unattached athletes also competed in the meet along with the collegians and there were some creditable performances, namely:

—Greg Foster, the world's top-ranked high hurdler, won the 200 in 20.55. He held off Don Quarrie, a former Olympic gold medalist, and ex-Trojan Clarence Edwards on the backstretch.

—Günther Lohre of West Germany won the special pole vault competition with a vault of 18-1. Three French vaulters, Thierry Vignerot, Pierre Quinon and Patrick Abada, came in at this height and didn't make it.

Bush greeted friends after the meet, his last appearance at Westwood as track coach.

"I'll miss a lot of things but I won't miss recruiting and worrying about the eligibility of athletes," he said. "I like Vern very much and I'm unhappy that he lost but I'd rather it was him than me. Their athletes did a good job—and so did ours—but we have a few more than the do."

"As for John Brenner, he is going to throw a lot farther."

Track Notes

John Brenner will compete against Brian Oldfield and Augie Wolf next Saturday night in the California Relays at Modesto. "I think I'm proving myself," Brenner said. "But you can't say you're the best until you meet and beat the best." UCLA's Alvin Bush ended his coaching rivalry with USC's Vern Wolfe with a 13-6 advantage in dual meets. USC's Darwin Cook won the 100 in 10.26, while his teammate, Pascho Marquis won the 200 in 20.83. UCLA's Lee Balkin won the high jump at 7-2¼, beating USC's Anthony Craig, who had beaten Balkin last year in the dual meet.

The Trojans' Terry Ivey was the surprise winner of the 400 with a time of 46.14. Larry Stuart had the unique distinction of competing for USC-Wolfe in his first and last meets. Stuart threw the javelin for the Trojans in 1963 and competed Saturday in a special competition. . . Brenner's previous school shotput record was 69-11, which he reached last March. . . USC's Ed Tave won the long jump at 24-11¼ but had three foul jumps in the triple jump.

. . . Ivey pulled up with a leg injury in the first leg of the 1600-meter relay, forcing the race to the Bruins. . . UCLA got the ultimate number of points, 7½, while sweeping the 1,500, 5,000 and steeplechase. . . Brenner said he was more pleased with his winning discus throw because he had been throwing in the 180-foot range until Saturday. . . USC's John Wallarsky improved his school record to 214-9 in winning the hammer throw.

COLLEGE-OPEN

USC (88) at UCLA (93)

100—1 Cook (USC), 10 26 (wind 1 45 m p s aiding), 2 Foster (unat), 10 30, 3 Morales (USC), 10 41, 4 White (UCLA), 10 53, 5 D Quarrie (Jamaica), 10 54, 6 C Edwards (unat), 10 61, 7 Costanzo (UCLA), 10 65

200 (Race 1)—1 Morales (USC), 20 83 (wind 67 m p s aiding), 2 Cook (USC), 20 85, 3 White (UCLA), 21 20, 4 Savage (UCLA), 21 46 (Race 2)—1 Foster (unat), 20 55w (4 35 m p s), 2 D Quarrie (Jamaica), 20 76, 3 C Edwards (unat), 20 79, 4 Phillips (unat), 21 10, 5 Banks (unat), 21 60

400—1 Phillips (unat), 45 94, 2 Ivey (USC), 46 14, 3 T Banks (unat), 47 25, 4 Carls (UCLA), 47 42, 4 Manning (USC), 47 79, 5 Bradford (Jamaica), 47 88, 6 Biggers (UCLA), 48 14

800—1 Prejers (UCLA), 1 48 2, Young (USC), 1 49 9, 3 Phillips (UCLA), 1 51 0, 4 Fisher (USC), 1 52 2

1,500—1 Theriot (unat), 3 42 40, 2 Ortiz (unat), 3 42 87, 3 Roberts (UCLA), 3 43 78, 4 Parkinson (UCLA), 3 44 67, 5 Butler (UCLA), 3 48 34, 6 Thebault (USC), 3 51 35, 7 Russell (unat), 3 52 46, 8 Brownsberger (UCLA), 3 55 5

5,000—1 Ayyad (UCLA), 14 56, 2 Marsh (UCLA), 14 57 00, 3 Brownsberger (UCLA), 14 57 01

110 HURDLES—1 Campbell (unat), 13 36w (2 15 m p s), 2 Kerho (UCLA), 13 72, 3 Tave (USC), 14 66, 4 Gold (UCLA), 14 71

400 HURDLES—1 Crisman (USC), 51 91, 2 Knowles (USC), 51 92, no third

3,000 STEEPLECHASE—1 Junkermann (UCLA), 9 13 16, 2 Orr (UCLA), 9 53 63, 3 Nugent (UCLA), 10 13 79

400 RELAY—1 USC (Ivey, Morales, Cook, Manning), 39 70, 2 UCLA (Coburn, White, Costanzo, Savage), 40 41

1,600 RELAY—1 Guest team (Theriot, Banks, Russell, Phillips), 3 14 50, 2 UCLA (Connolly, Lewer, Prejers, Carls), 3 14 55, USC, did not finish

HIGH JUMP—1 Balkin (UCLA), 7 2¼, 2 Carr (USC), 7 0, 3 Del Davis (unat), 7 0,

4 Meisler (unat), 7 0, 5 Haines (UCLA), 6 10

POLE VAULT—1 Stull (UCLA), 16 10, 2 Pullard (unat), 16 5, 3 Owens (USC), 14 6 SPECIAL POLE VAULT—1 Lohre (West Germany), 18 1, 2 Kenworthy (unat), 17 9, 3 Hintnaus (Brazil), 17 3¼, Vigneron (France), Quinon (France), Abada (France), no height (18 1)

LONG JUMP—1 Tave (USC), 24 11¼, 2 R Williams (unat), 24 10¼, 3 Taylor (UCLA), 23 8½, 4 Tataschiere (UCLA), 23 4

TRIPLE JUMP—1 Taylor (UCLA), 50 4¼, 2 Hays (unat), 49 7, 3 Countryman (USC), 48 4, 4 Robbins (USC), 45 7

SHOTPUT—1 Brenner (UCLA), 71 3¼ (UCLA record, old mark, 69 11, Brenner, 1984) (series, 68 7½, 69 6¼, 70 3, 70 3½, 71 3¼) → 2 Laut (unat), 69 7, 3 Kraychir (USC), 65 1½, 4 Banich (UCLA), 60 2¼, 5 DeJean (USC), 57 10

DISCUS—1 Brenner (UCLA), 196 5, 2 Kraychir (USC), 191 11, 3 Banich (UCLA), 178 7 SPECIAL DISCUS—1 Bugar (Czechoslovakia), m 227 3, 2 Valent (Czechoslovakia), 217 1, 3 McSeveney (unat), 200 1, 4 Binley (unat), 200 0, 5 K Mills (unat), 184 5

HAMMER—1 Wolitarsky (USC), 214 9 (USC record, old mark, 209 5, Wolitarsky, 1984), 2 Banich (UCLA), 164 7, 3 Connolly (UCLA), 159 10

JAVELIN—1 Connolly (UCLA), 231 3, 2 Bender (unat), 228 11, 3 Gold (UCLA), 203 6, 4 Gonzales (USC), 200 1 SPECIAL JAVELIN—1 Atwood (unat), 274 5, 2 Adamec (Czechoslovakia), 263 2