

March 29, 1977

STANFORD--Stanford's fast-improving track team, coming off a strong performance in the National University of Mexico Invitational last weekend, opens the Pacific-8 Conference season Saturday against powerful UCLA.

The Stanford-UCLA meet, part of a double dual that also features Cal vs. USC, begins at 1:15 in the Bruins' Drake Stadium.

"UCLA has to be considered one of the better dual meet teams in the nation," said Stanford coach Payton Jordan. "They always maximize their potential. They coach that way, and they compete that way."

The Bruins are led by 1976 U. S. Olympians James Owens, sixth-place finisher in the high hurdles, and sprinter Millard Hampton, silver medalist in the 200 and gold medalist in the 400 relay.

Other top performers on Coach Jim Bush's team are pole vaulter Mike Tully (18-1½), triple jumper Willie Banks (55-1), and quarter-miler Bennie Myles (45.8).

Jordan feels his Cardinals match up well against the Bruins and have enough talent to make it a close meet.

"In many respects, UCLA is like us this year," he says. "They have a number of outstanding people, but they also have some weaknesses.

"How the top matchups are decided will determine how the meet goes for us. There should be very good competition in the sprints, jumps and relays. We hope to score very well against them in the weights this year."

Jordan's optimism stems in part from an impressive showing by his troops in Mexico City last weekend. In all, the Cards recorded 12 lifetime bests in the competition against athletes from several Central American countries.

All-America long jumper James Lofton upped his lifetime best to 26-9, setting a meet and stadium record in the process.

The Cards' 400 meter relay team of Marvin Holmes, Lofton, Gordon Banks and Alan Sheats came within one-tenth of a second of the school sprint relay record with a 39.8 clocking.

Banks took the 100 meters in the 10.4, closely followed by teammate Holmes in 10.48. Both times were life bests. Holmes also turned a 20.9 200 meter relay leg.

Life bests were also recorded by high jumper John Littleboy (6-9), triple jumper Clay Bullwinkel (48-2, 23-1) hurdlers Tom Shellworth (14.4) and Mike Monmouth (14.9) and half-miler Mark Hadley (1:51.9r).

But Jordan was most pleased with the performance of soph weightman Doug Greenwood, who won the shot and discus. Greenwood added nearly three feet to his best mark in the shot with a 53-1½ put, and made an eight foot jump in the discus with a 152-9½ throw.

STANFORD ENTRIES (best 1977 marks in parenthesis):

100 Meters--Gordon Banks (10.4), Marvin Holmes (10.48)

200 Meters--Gordon Banks (21.1), Marvin Holmes (21.7, 20.9r)

400 Meters--Alan Sheats (46.6), James Lofton (46.6), Earl Gerfen (48.9)

800 Meters--Dave Wells (1:50.7), Paul McCarthy (1:53.9), Scott Hickman (1:52.9)

1500 Meters--Steve Crowley (3:49.7), Mark Hadley (3:52.8)

5000 Meters--Jeff Parietti (14:31.4), Roy Kissin (14:35.0), Jerry Emory (14:33.6)

3000 Meter Steeplechase--Bill Gail (9:46.7), Bill Haldeman (9:20.5)

110 Meter High Hurdles--Tom Shellworth (14.4), Mike Monmouth (14.9), Carl Johnk (15.1)

400 Intermediate Hurdles--Tom Shellworth (52.9), Mike Monmouth (57.1)

400 Meter Relay--Marvin Holmes, James Lofton, Gordon Banks, Alan Sheats (39.8)

One Mile Relay--Tom Shellworth or Earl Gerfen, Gordon Banks, Alan Sheats, James Lofton (3:10.9)

High Jump--John Littleboy (6-9), Kent Doyle (6-5½)

Shot Put--Terry Albritton (63-8, 70-6½ indoors), Doug Greenwood 53'1½"

Discus--Rick Buss (164-1½), Terry Albritton (162-10), Doug Greenwood (152-9½)

Javelin--Ricky Brown (213-1), Tom Ellis (184-0)

Triple Jump--Clay Bullwinkel (48-2)

Long Jump--James Lofton (26-9), Carl Johnk (21-7), Clay Bullwinkel (23-1)

Pole Vault--no entries