

March 10□

The Aztec Invitational was the focal point of SoCal track action this past weekend as the USC Trojans began flexing some of their relay muscles. In the 800 meter relay, the team of Sanford, Green, Mullins, and Sanford zipped to a 1:21.2 clocking, which is the third fastest of all-time. Then for an encore, the team of Mullins, Bethany, Sanford and Green cruised to a 3:04.2 timing in the 1600. Host San Diego State was also impressive as the Aztecs 400 relay team took the measure of a field that did not include USC in a time of 39.8 and then ran second to the Trojans in the 1600 in 3:06.9. Individually, USC's David Omwansa had a fine early season 800 time of 1:46.8 while Tom Petranoff popped a nifty 271-8 javelin throw.

There were also some excellent community college performances in this meet. Grossmont's Tim Varley won the open 10k in 30:36 while the Griffins Steve McCormick was second in the open mile in 4:11.3.

Glendale CC strongman, Joe Staub, became the early state leader in the shot with a toss of 60-2. While the GCC distance medley relay team had a fine early season time of 10:00. In the open 800, Santa Monica CC's John Gray established himself as a state favorite with a time of 1:48.4 behind Omwansa.

In dual meet action, UCLA was an easy winner over Cal State Long Beach 101-43 as Ron Cornell (3:44.9) and Lee Balkin (7-2) starred for the Bruins. The Bruin gals were also winners over Long Beach 67-55 as the 800 was the highlight of meet. In that one, Ruth Caldwell running as a guest competitor for Sub-4, showed she may be ready to give the Olympics another shot by virtue of her 2:05.2 clocking. Right behind Ruth was the Bruins Arlise Emerson with a PR of 2:06.9. Other duals saw UCI easily over UCSB 101-62, while UC Berkeley pulled a mild surprise in defeating San Jose State 80-74.

Those of you who attended the Long Beach Relays and were somewhat upset over the late starting time of many of the events should be advised that the meet director was blameless. It seems the AAU was at fault for the delay. Beginning this year, the AAU is charging \$250.00 per meet for the use of its officials, instead of their prior no-charge policy. Apparently, in an effort to have a big payday, the AAU split its officiating crew three ways to cover the USC meet, the UCLA meet, and the LB Relays. The result was that the relays had only about one-third the officials necessary to run things. So how was the meet able to go on at all?? You guessed it; the coaches ended up having to officiate it.