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Sports

Bruins pulverize tracksters; vaulter injured

by Bob Sly
Daily Aztec staff writer

Quantity before quality. Or is it quality before quantity? In the case of SDSU's dual meet with UCLA Saturday at Choc Sportsman Track, it was the Bruins' quantity of quality that enabled them to make the Aztecs their 25th straight dual-meet victim, 105-49.

The Bruins placed first and second in seven events, including a sweep in the steeplechase.

"I don't think anyone can beat us head-to-head," UCLA Coach Jim Bush said. "We have a lot of good athletes; even when I put them in

different events, they get personal records. The Aztecs competed very well against us, but we just have a very fine team."

The meet was marred by the second serious pole vaulting injury in the past two years at Sportsman Track. Former Aztec Bill Halverson, who holds the school record (17-6), fell into the box and fractured his skull during an extra vault after the competition had ended.

Halverson was taken to the hospital and was unconscious and in critical condition yesterday afternoon.

"He stalled out and decided to go under the bar," Aztec pole vaulter

Clark Eliot said. "But when he twisted his body toward the pad, the pole slipped out and he fell down into the box."

The other accident occurred April 4, 1980, when Cliff Schnedar, a Point Loma College graduate, died after he missed the pad during a workout and hit the back of his head on the concrete slab next to the box.

UCLA ended its dual-meet season undefeated (9-0) for the third consecutive year, as the Aztecs' fell to 1-2. The salt in SDSU's wound was that it faced the powerful Bruins without its No. 1 sprinter, Chris Blaylock, who had a 104-degree

temperature and was in and out of the hospital all weekend.

"I felt a little sorry for Dixon (Farmer, men's head track coach), whom I'm very close to, since I coached him in college," Bush said. "If Blaylock was there, it would have given us a real tussle in both relays and the quarter (mile)."

"Everyone knew we weren't going to win the meet," said Aztec Kevin Shields. "But there were going to be some real good races (with Blaylock running)." Shields won the 100-meter dash for SDSU with his third 10.4 of the season.

"I feel more confident at home," he said. "I got out ahead of everybody, but it wasn't one of my best starts. I hadn't been concentrating like I should, so that's what I've been working on, my concentration."

Shields' main competition from UCLA was Eric Brown, who Shields beat in the 50- and 60-yard dashes in the Jack in the Box indoor meet, but Brown false-started and was disqualified.

"I was going to win the race either way," Shields said. "He kept looking at me when he was warming up, like he was trying to psych me out."

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Daily Aztec photo by Manuel Cenicerros

LOOKING HEAVENWARD—Mike Scarlett throws the javelin at Choc Sportsman Track. The Aztec men's team lost to UCLA 105-49 in a dual meet last Saturday. UCLA has won its last 25 dual meets. The Aztecs are 1-2 this season.



Daily Aztec photo by Ian Tapp

HURDLE ON—SDSU's Carrie McLaughlin races in a meet at Choc Sportsman Track. SDSU's women are coming off a good performance at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Games, held April 2-3 at Stanford. The Aztecs' next meet is April 24 at the Mt. SAC relays.

Kanuka breezes to win at Stanford track meet

by Kevin Kragen
Daily Aztec staff writer

STANFORD—After finishing 15th in the women's world cross country championships the week before in Paris, Lynn Kanuka could have been excused for a less-than-spectacular performance at the Martin Luther King Jr. Games here April 2 and 3.

The lingering effects of jet lag and the tough competition were bound to take their toll on the SDSU women's track long-distance runner.

But Kanuka ran as if unburdened. The Regina, Saskatchewan, native breezed to an easy win in the 5,000 meters and then anchored the victorious SDSU distance medley team as the Aztecs transported themselves well in the world class meet at Stanford Stadium.

On the first day, Kanuka outran Stanford's Kim Schnurpfeil to win the 5,000-meter run. Kanuka's time of 15:59.2 afforded her a 23-second advantage.

Saturday, Kanuka came back to run the anchor leg of the distance medley relay, going head-to-head again with Schnurpfeil.

SDSU's Monica Joyce had overcome Stanford's early lead in the race to give Kanuka about a seven-second margin over Schnurpfeil entering the mile-long final leg.

Schnurpfeil was well-rested in comparison to Kanuka. For a brief moment, it looked as if she might have enough to catch the leader. Schnurpfeil closed

the gap in the first two laps.

Kanuka, however, held her own and ended up pulling away on the final lap. The Aztecs' time of 11:11.4 was just three seconds off the world record.

"She was a little tired, but she did a good job," SDSU Coach Fred LaPlante said of Kanuka. "When you're ahead, it's hard to run sometimes. You're just looking to get home and get it over with."

LaPlante said the world record might have fallen were it not for the inclement weather.

For the second time in two meets, an Aztec was victimized by officials' errors. The 5,000-meter run was 27 yards too long. LaPlante said such a distance would add "at least two or three seconds" to Kanuka's time. Although it was a school record, Kanuka almost assuredly would have shattered her Canadian record of 15:58.

Joyce set a stadium record with a time of 9:09.5 in an easy win in the 3,000 meters, bettering the week-old 9:16.9 mark set by Tennessee's Kathy Bryant. Despite the absence of her sister and national record holder, Regina, who was supposed to run in the race, Joyce won handily.

In the same race last year, Joyce set a meet record by running 9:20.4.

Stanford's Regina Jacobs had given the Cardinals a big lead with a blistering 2:06 in the 880-yard leg of the distance medley.

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Bruins wallop thinclads; Aztec vaulter hurt

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but I might have psyched him out instead. I knew he was thinking about it (the Jack in the Box meet), because I know I remember when someone beats me."

Brown came back to win the 200 meters in 20.9, as Shields finished second with a lifetime best of 21.2.

Another standout Aztec performance was Richard Slaney's school-record-tying discus toss of 197-1. Slaney, who tied his own record, let loose with a gargantuan throw of 199-plus on his next try, but it kicked up chalk on the right boundary and was ruled a foul. The 300-pound Bri-

ton threw his disc down in disgust after the ruling, in a rare show of anger from the even-tempered chap.

"That's the sort of decision you should get on your home track; I've never gotten that close," Slaney said. "If I didn't foul, I would have been quite happy with 197, but since it (the 199 throw) landed one inch out of the sector, I'm a little angry."

Slaney's seasonal best was 192-3, but he threw farther four times on Saturday and feels the presence of UCLA could have helped.

"I was quite tense because the two

UCLA guys had thrown real good," he said. "You have to get nervous to compete well sometimes, but the more you compete, the more you can handle it (the pressure). I've had a lot of experience, so I can compete under pressure quite well."

To the Aztecs' credit, they held their own against the Bruins after the first six events, in which UCLA outscored SDSU by 36 points. The Bruins managed to increase their lead by only nine points in the next nine events, as SDSU won four of them.

In the only one-two finish for the

Aztecs, Austin Shanks won the 400-intermediate hurdles in 52.7, and Eldridge Tayler, who later cramped up in the 1,600 relay, forcing SDSU to drop out, took second in 53.4.

"I wanted to go sub-52.5," Shanks said. "I've been too nervous lately, but in the middle of the race, I try to stay relaxed and concentrate on my race plan. Once I start running, the nervousness goes away, but I can mess up my race plan if I'm not concentrating."

The other two wins for SDSU were turned in by high jumper Frank Schiefer and distance standout Graeme Fell. Schiefer went 7-0 to beat UCLA's Del Davis (6-10 1/4), as Roger Laubacher (6-8) took third for SDSU. Aztecs Bill Graber and Randy Foss also went 6-8, but Laubacher won because of fewer misses.

Fell, who lost his first race ever at Sportsman Track when he finished third in the 1,500 meters, came back to win the 5,000 in 14:14.4 despite wearing a cast on his left wrist, which he broke in a fall during an early-morning run.

FINISH LINES: Dual meets are scored five points for first, three for second and one for third... John Hansen took second in the javelin with a seasonal best toss of 219-3 to beat teammate Mike Scarlett (218-10) for the first time.

Joyce sets record at meet

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Joyce, running the third leg of 1,320 yards, caught and passed Stanford freshman phenom Ceci Hopp and provided Kanuka with a comfortable cushion.

SDSU's Anne Lindemuth captured second in the university version of the 400-meter hurdles in 61.54, and Cheryl Kennedy took sixth in the shot put with a heave of 45-2 1/2. Margaret Demarest of the Stanford Track Club nosed out Lindemuth with a time of 61.31.

Lindemuth might have won, according to LaPlante, if she had been in a different lane.

"On a track inside a football stadium, the turns are usually sharper (than normal)," LaPlante said. "She was in lane two. She might have won had she been in lane five or so."

Regardless, Lindemuth's time was the second best in SDSU history.

LaPlante was particularly pleased with Laura DeSnoo's third-place finish in the discus.

"DeSnoo's discus was terrific," LaPlante said of the freshman's personal and school record toss of 167-3. "Her whole series was good — all six throws. She was

going up against some good people."

Eva Ernstrom finished fourth in the 1,500-meter run, and Patti Stafford finished fourth in the high jump. Stafford cleared 5-8.

SDSU's 400-meter relay team of Linda Bourn, Lori Smith, Pam Hatley and LaTanya Sheffield finished second to Coast Athletics Track Club.

Following the Martin Luther King meet, the Aztecs hosted Long Beach State and the L.A. Naturite Track Club at San Diego last weekend.

SDSU'S Lori Smith won the 100-meter dash in 11.5, and Linda Bourn took first in the 100-meter hurdles in 13.9.

The Aztecs took the first four spots in the 3,000 meters, with Kanuka, Ernstrom, Debbie Chaddock and Liz Baker finishing in places one through four.

Joyce blazed to a 2:06.9 win in the 800 meters, and Stafford's high jump of 5-9 notched her first place. SDSU's 400-meter relay team of Bourn, Sheffield, Smith and Donna Charles finished second to L. A. Naturite, but its time of 45.8 was a school record.