

# The Problem With Dual Track Meets

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By Al Moss

Is the dual meet in college track and field a thing of the past?

USC thinks so. The Trojans, a perennial power in the sport, ran just two dual meets last year, against Cal and UCLA — and lost them both. This year, they've dropped Cal but will meet Stanford in a double dual with Cal and UCLA at Berkeley April 4.

At least, they probably will. "Erv (Cal coach Erv Hunt) and I thought five different times we had it worked out, and four times it came unraveled," Stanford coach Brooks Johnson said. "But I think we have it nailed down now."

The Trojans have taken a lot of

heat in the Bay Area for dropping Stanford last year and the Bears this season. But Johnson, for one, can see their point.

"I think their problem may become everyone else's problem," Johnson said. "With inflation, travel costs rising, and the limit on the number of scholarship athletes in track (18), the triangular or quadrangular meet may be the coming thing.

"There are probably less than ten teams in the country that can give you overall quality, and six or so of them are on the West Coast.

"There are enough good athletes to go around, there just aren't enough in a dual meet. But if you

take Cal, Stanford, San Jose State, Fresno and Hayward in one meet, for example, you'll get a lot of good performances."

On Saturday, March 21, the Cards host Army, Oregon State, Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo and Fresno. "Army and Oregon State both are coming to California anyway to train," Johnson said. "None of those five teams will go out and pin your ears back in a dual meet, but with all five it will be darned interesting."

Johnson has some other ideas.

"I think we'll see a lot more home-and-home meets, in the same season, between natural rivals like Cal and Stanford. One of the

present drawbacks is that Stanford doesn't have the overall balance Cal does right now to make the meet interesting. If we did, I'd propose it now because it would be one more meet where we wouldn't have to travel to hell and gone.

"Carrying that one step further, I can see a time of round-robin duals, or triangulars — say Cal, Stanford and San Jose State, at San Jose, then at Cal, then at Stanford, over a period of two months or so.

"It's going to take a lot of cooperation, but it's a must. We just cannot afford to go our separate ways anymore."

Cal will host a dual meet this

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Saturday against Cal Poly-SLO. That's not as easy as it sounds.

"They are a Division II team in name only," insisted Cal assistant coach Mike Hurd. "They're well-balanced, and on paper they're every bit as good as we are."

The Mustangs have class sprinters in Mark Kent, who ran 10.3 for 100 meters last week, and Joe Siai Siai, who did 10.4 and has run faster. Siai Siai also has run 21.3 in the 200 this year, and the Mustang relay teams have 1981 bests of 39.99 (400 meters) and 3:09.1 (1600).

Pat Croft has a 47.3 400, Vernon Sallaz a 1:50.1 800, Paul Medvin a 3:48.1 1500, David Tucker a 24-6¾ long jump, Mark Kibert a 16-0 pole vault, Brian Faul a 58-0 shot and Robert Riley a 228-10 javelin — and

those all are this year; in most cases their life bests are better.

Cal, meanwhile, set eight meet records in a triangular with Cal State Hayward and Sacramento State last week, one of them on a 59-7¾ shot put by soph Bruce Parker, just one inch off the school record held by Dave Maggard, now the Cal athletic director.

"Dave said he had the magnet out on Parker's last couple of throws," Hurd said, "to keep him from breaking the record. But we've gotten around that — I've ordered a brass shot for this week."

Parker, who had four throws over 59 feet — his previous best was 58-4 — was named Northern California university division field athlete of the week. Cal's Larry Cowling won track honors for his double

of 13.7 in the high hurdles and 51.8 in the intermediates.

William Long of Hayward was the college division honoree for a 24-3¼ long jump, a full foot over his life best. Top JC athletes were Ralph Prelman of Foothill, 16-3½ in the pole vault, and Skyline's Virgil Rosborough, who won the 100 meters in 10.8 and ran on winning 400, 800 and 1600-meter relay teams in the Coast Conference Relays.

Cal State Hayward hosts San Francisco State Saturday. "I don't know much about them," admitted Hayward coach Norm Guest, "but they haven't been too strong over the last few years." Gators coach Dave Fix is in his last year; he'll replace his father as head coach at Lewis & Clark next year.