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SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

# Trackmen host S.D. Relays

By Tracy Tucker

After two narrow losses this past week, the Aztec track team will attempt a comeback when it hosts the 16th annual San Diego Relays tomorrow at Choc Sportsman Track.

If their comeback performance is similar to the one it staged Tuesday in Northridge, the squad should have a good chance of winning.

The meet went to Northridge, 76-67, but things had not always been that close. At one point, the Aztecs trailed 40-5.

"We battled right on back," said Aztec coach Dick Hill. "All we needed was for someone to go from third to second and we would have won the meet. I was very pleased."

The Aztecs took the first event of the day, the 440 relay, but the field events followed, and the Aztecs started to have their problems.

"They killed us in the field," said Aztec hurdler Garry Greene.

In fact, had it not been for a comeback in the 440 relay, the Aztecs might have been shut-out at this point.

The team composed of Mark Ables, Harold Williams, Greene, and Quentin Wheeler posted a time of 42.6 to win, with the anchor leg being the highlight of the race.

Greene and Wheeler had trouble securing the hand-off, and what had been a tie at the start of the last leg, turned into a substantial lead for Northridge. However, Wheeler caught Northridge at the tape, to win the race.

"Quentin just swooped down on them (Northridge)," said Hill. "We just stole the thunder. It was a great run."

The Aztecs did end up outscoring Northridge in running events, 51-31.

Williams took the 100 and the 220 yard dashes, which has been the story all season long. His 9.9 won the 100, as did a time of 22.1 in the 220. Wheeler took second in the 220, clocking at 22.5.

What has become almost another sure point for the Aztecs this season is Odie Huffman's performance in the 880. He won the race, posting a 1:53.1.

"I wasn't happy with the time, but I was happy with the win," said Huffman. "I was trying to concentrate on winning and a good time, but all I got was the win."

Earl Robinson was right behind Huffman, finishing second with a 153.6.

One of the highlights of the afternoon was Mark Ables time in the 440 yard intermediate hurdles. His winning time of 53.3 was a new meet record.

"I was pleased with my per-

formance," said Ables. "I think I could have dropped a 52.7, but I had the mile relay to think about. Every point was critical so I was thinking about the point."

Ables did say however, that from now on he is changing his strategy.

"My whole goal now will be to qualify for the National Collegiate Athletic Association finals," said Ables.

Also impressive in the 440 hurdles was Dave Hoover, who finished second with a time of 53.7, equaling his lifetime best, and tying for seventh on the Aztec all-time list.

The mile picked up some points also, with Mike Avrea and Allan Hazard placing first and third respectively. Avrea had a run of 4:16.3, and Hazard was clocked at 4:17.5. The mile relay team of Brian Donahue, along with Greene, Huffman, and Ables, took an easy victory, having a mark of 3:18.

Other running points were picked up by Greene in the 120 yard high hurdles (second, 15.0), and Donahue in the 440 yard dash (second, 50.2).

Despite the one-sidedness in the field, there was one bright spot, that being the discus. The Aztecs swept the event, the first field event the team has swept all season.

Rich Comber took first place honors with a toss of 154 feet, 9½ inches.

"I thought it was pretty good, considering the weather (slight rain and wind)," said Comber. "I figured I would have to get my best toss off on the first one, because it was getting wetter and wetter."

Mark Stevens took second with a 146-3, and Tim Haag completed the sweep with a 139-4.

The majority of the scoring for the rest of the field events were comprised of third place finishes. Tom Bush in the long jump (20-3), Gary Shaw in the javelin (170-8), Mark Collins in the pole vault (14-6), Steve Parisen in the shot put (51-5), and Ron Hill in the high jump (6-0), all finished third. The only variation was Bush's triple jump performance, as he took second with a distance of 45-7.

#### AZTEC NOTES:

In tomorrow's relays, keep an eye on the two-mile relay team of Steve Wulf, along with Huffman, Robinson, and Donahue. Their lifetime bests add up to 7:27.5, six seconds better than the school record, set this year at the Easter Relays.

Also, the distance medley team of Williams, Huffman, Robinson, and Hazard could turn in a good performance. The action starts at 10:20 a.m.



photo by Rick Maciel

**GOT IT.** Earl Robinson receives the baton from teammate Steve Wulf in recent action from the Easter Relays in Santa Barbara. The Aztecs are coming off two narrow losses to Cal State Long Beach and Northridge and will host the 16th annual San Diego Relays at Choc Sportsmans Oval, beginning at noon tomorrow.