

Will tuba player star in Big Meet?

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By LARRY LAVELLE

It's sort of a spring ritual, Payton Jordan reminding the press of the tuba player who came out of the stands to win the Big Meet.

Actually, the tale dates back to the days of the late California coach Brutus Hamilton.

It's been told and re-told so often you forget whose tuba player won what for whom. Or whether it really happened at all.

Stanford has virtually zero chances of winning Saturday's 81st Big Meet at Stanford Stadium.

But there is still that million-to-one shot some tuba player actually will come charging out of the stands to give new meaning to that old yarn.

Jordan's hopes were bolstered this week with the disclosure that the Stanford band, will be on the scene.

So keep your eye on the kid with the tuba. Uh, the Stanford band does have a tuba player, doesn't it?

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"We'll be highly emotional," promised Jordan at the weekly Northern California Track Writers luncheon Tuesday.

"The spirit of the Big Meet will be there . . . the spirit of Walter Christie, Dink Templeton, Brutus Hamilton and Jack Weiershauser . . ." Yeah, and the spirit of Payton Jordan, too.

Jordan, on the other side of 55 now, probably could run a leg on one of the relay teams. Just last weekend he flashed an 11.2 hundred without drawing a deep breath.

Some of his key athletes may not be as ready. Physically.

Biggest question marks are senior hurdler Dave Bagshaw and freshman distance runner Stacy Geiken, a pair of Palo Alto products.

Bagshaw suffered a badly sprained ankle in a pickup volleyball game several weeks back and Geiken stepped on a rock in the dual meet with USC two Saturdays ago.

"We hope Bagshaw can get on his

ankle and go," said Jordan. "We're not counting him out, at least for the highs, but the intermediates area little more difficult because of the conditioning.

"Geiken is probably out of the meet, but he has been working out."

Matt Hogsett, the defending Pacific-8 Conference intermediate hurdle champion who pulled a hamstring muscle during the USC meet, will compete somewhere. But not necessarily in his specialty.

"We don't know how far along he is to run the kind of race he has to run," said Jordan.

If Jordan thinks Hogsett isn't quite ready — for the intermediate, it's possible the Newport Beach junior may run a flat 440 instead, certainly in the mile relay at least.

"Everyone of them wants to compete," said Jordan. "This is probably as fine a group of youngsters as we've had because of their attitude, spirit and courage."

Mike Langford, whose Big Kick made him a Big Game hero last fall, will make his first track appearance for Stanford in the Big Meet as a shot putter.

The 6-3, 220-pounder from Atwater whose final second field goal beat Cal last fall, has been over 49-feet in practice but hasn't put competitively this year "because he has been too busy with football," according to Jordan

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Stanford came away with three thirds and two fifths at the Mt. San Antonio Relays last week.

Tony Sandoval set a school record 29:57.6 (fifth) in the 10,000-meter run, qualifying for the NCAA six-mile.

John Foster ran 14.1 (third) in the high hurdles despite kicking one over, Steve Crowley clocked 4:13 (third) in the mile and Jack Bellah 9:23.1 (fifth) in the steeplechase.

Foster also unleashed a 21.3 furlong leg in the 880-yard relay, where the Cards finished third.