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Tracksters run second to Bruins

by Steven Koshnick
Staff Writer

The Aztec women's track team finished strong in the Women's Collegiate Athletic Association championships Saturday, placing second in the first half of their conference championship.

In the first part of the trial, UCLA came on top with 90 points while the Aztecs followed with 80 points, USC, 55, and Long Beach State, 47.

In the field events, the Aztecs were led by senior Donna Dietrich. Dietrich broke the school record in the discus with a throw of 139.7½ and won the javelin throw with a mark of 162.5.

Three Aztec javelin throwers (Linn Duntton, Monica Stoltenberg and Dietrich) are in a close

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threesome," said Aztec Coach Fred LaPlante. "Donna has troubles with injuries, but she has been performing great."

Stoltenberg finished second at Westwood with a throw of 154-6½ and Dutton helped in the sweep by securing third with a 151-1.

Stoltenburg also broke the school record in the shotput with a 44-1, besting her old record of 42-¾.

Janice Pope led the Aztec contingent on the track with a victory in the 400 meter dash with a time of 55.9. She combined with Chris Smallwood, Chemise Smith and

Maureen Abare to grab the win in the mile relay with a 3:50.

"Janice had a pulled muscle and burns that set her back early," LaPlante said. "We have been very careful with her, hoping to see a peak performance."

Smallwood broke a school and conference record in the 800 meter run with a 2:13.1.

"Chris ran an excellent race," LaPlante said. "Chris has performed well this year and has only lost one race. She has had an outstanding season considering this has been her first year in the 800. It has been a good learning experience for her."

U.S. record holder Deby LaPlante finished first in the 100 meter hurdles with a 13.33. She also finished third in the 100 meter dash and 200 meter dash. Her times were 12.04 and 24.2, respectively.

"She really wasn't trying to run that fast," LaPlante said. "She did a good job and ran her personal best in the 200."

The winner of the conference championship will be the team with the best combined score for the two day encounter. The second meet is here on May 11.

While the women were taking second place, the men were competing in the Long Beach State Invationals.

The 400 meter relay team of Michael Brown, Ed Daniels, Ned Armour and Hildria Newell won with a 40.8 and beat Cal State Bakersfield by a second.

David Russell finished third in the 100 meters with a 10.5. The winning mark in the race was a 10.2.

A third place finish was garnered by Chris Blaylock with a 47.8 while Rhan Sheffield took second in the 400 hurdles.