

UCLA better drop the baton

The scene is all too familiar to Jim Bush. His highly-favored sprint relay team enters a big meet as a sure thing — and drops the baton. It's happened four straight times in the NCAA and they practiced last year by dropping the stick in the Pac-8 championships, too.

He'd hate to see it happen Saturday at Hayward Field. In a meet where Oregon figures to dominate the distances and UCLA the field events, the sprints just might make the difference.

And the sprint relay is the first sprint race in the 12:30 meet.

The first event of the meet is the hammer throw — an event Oregon should dominate since UCLA doesn't have anyone entered. The first field event in the stadium will start competition at 1:15 p.m. and the first running event, the 3000 meter steeplechase, begins at 2 p.m.

The weather may become a factor in the meet before the afternoon ends. There's a chance of showers and that would make it good track weather — for Ducks.

Tickets for the meet are still on sale at \$3 for reserved seats, \$2 for general admission and \$1 for student tickets. If the

skies are too threatening, you can sit at home and watch the meet live on KEZI-TV, channel 9 in Eugene beginning at 2 p.m.

While the Oregon-UCLA dual will take the central spotlight, the meet isn't direct competition between just the two schools. It's a quadrangular with those two teams and Nebraska and Washington State.

Between the four teams, Saturday has a good chance of producing some outstanding individual performances.

For Oregon the meet will mark the return of two injured runners, with Knut Kvalheim competing in the 880 yard run and Randy James running the three-mile.

Another Oregon runner just returning to form has the best chance of winning the day's first race, the steeplechase. Todd Lathers, who looked strong last week after an off-year of competition as a sophomore, should pick up ten points in the meet scored on a 10-8-6-5-4-3-2-1 basis.

Even with a poor Oregon showing in the sprints — which is quite possible considering UCLA has the likes of Benny Brown (lifetime best 20.7) and Gordon Peppers (20.8) in the 220, Dave Peppers

(9.5) and Ronnie Welch (9.4) in the 100 and Brown (45.3) and Maxie Parks (46.3) in the 440 — the running events should remain fairly close in score between Oregon and the California school.

Albert Hearvey (9.4, 100; 20.7, 220) and John Mays (9.2w, 100) hold the biggest Oregon chances for points in the dashes. But it's the distances where Oregon should really keep up with UCLA.

Besides Lathers, Oregon has Mike Long (8:49.0 lifetime best) as a potential scorer in the steeple. With two other entrants having bests under nine minutes (UCLA's Gordon Innes, 8:55.8, and WSU's Dean Clark, 8:58.6), the race should be a good one.

In the mile, Steve Prefontaine (3:56.7), Scott Daggatt (4:05.1) and Mark Feig (4:05.1) have a good chance of grabbing the first two places (only the first two finishers from each school count for points in each race).

Steve Bence (1:48.6) should get some stiff competition from WSU's Dale Scott (1:48.5) and Nebraska's Jim Hawkins (1:48.7) in the 880.

And WSU's African runner, John Ngeno (13:16.0 lifetime, 13:39.8 this year) should give Oregon's James (13:40.0), Bob Grubbs (13:49.8) and Gary Barger (13:56.2), Nebraska's Bob Unger (13:36.2) and his own Cougar teammates, Dan Murphy (13:41.6) and Phil Barkwist (13:29.8) a highly competitive distance race.

Should the meet be close, there's also a possibility that Pre would come back to double in the longer race; he'd like nothing better than beating the Bruins.

But don't hold your breath for the top two schools to be that close.

UCLA's world class performers in the field events should make a clear difference in the meet. People like Francois Tracanelli (17-8½ pole vaulter), 60-foot shotputters Dave Schiller and Kent Pagel, 26-foot long jumpers James McAllister and Finn Bendixen, 7-foot high jumper Rick Fletcher and 53-foot triple jumpers Harry Freeman and Milan Tiff stand to pick up a lot of points for the Bruins.

Too many, as far as Oregon is concerned.

UCLA wins, 225-202

The form chart

What does Oregon have to do to beat UCLA? That burning question no doubt has plagued Bill Dellinger all week.

Consensus at the Emerald is this: Unless the NCAA champion Bruins fall flat on their faces in several areas, there's no chance. If UCLA dropped the baton in both relays the Ducks would win by five points in our scoring.

UCLA picks up 18 points in the pole vault, 16 more in the high jump, and 18 in the triple jump. End of meet.

Bruins should win 225-202, or close to that. Oregon wins 210-205 if UCLA can't hold on to the batons.

QUADRANGULAR SCORE CHART

Scoring 10-8-6-5-4-3-2-1 for running and field events, 10-6-4 in relay events. (Season bests in parentheses.)

STEEPLECHASE—1. Lathers, Ore. (8:49.2). 2. Long, Ore. (9:01.8). 3. Innes, UCLA (8:55.8). 4. Clark, WSU (8:58.6). 5. Mejia, UCLA (8:55.8). 6. Fetig, Neb. (nt). 7. Leland, WSU (9:37.2). Ore.—18, UCLA—10, WSU—7, Neb.—3.

440 RELAY—1. UCLA (Dotson Wilson, Benny Brown, Ronnie Welch, Gordon Peppers), (40.0). 2. Oregon, (40.7). 3. WSU, (41.4). 4. Neb., (nt). Ore.—24, UCLA—20, WSU—11, Neb.—3.

MILE—1. Steve Prefontaine, Ore. (4:03.2). 2. Scott Daggatt, Ore. (4:05.1) or Mark Feig, Ore. (4:05.1). 3. Lynn Hall, Neb. (nt). 4. Ron Johnson, UCLA (4:07.4). 5. Richard Gazal, WSU (4:11.1). 6. Anthony Veney, UCLA (4:09.0). 7. Dan Speck, Neb. (nt). 8. Mark Hiefield, WSU (4:21.3). Ore.—42, UCLA—28, WSU—16, Neb.—11.

1200 M—1. Charles Rich, UCLA (13.7). 2. Clm Jackson, UCLA (13.3w). 3. Fisher, Neb. or Anderson, Neb. (nt). 4. Kip Ngeno, WSU (14.2). 5. John Woodman, Ore. (14.3w). 6. Stan Whigham, Ore. (14.4w). 7. Steve Smith, WSU (14.4w). 8. Gary Gressett, Neb. (nt). Ore.—49, UCLA—46, WSU—23, Neb.—18.

440—1. Benny Brown, UCLA (46.3). 2. Leighton Priestley, Neb. (nt). 3. Maxie Parks, UCLA (46.3). 4. Vincent Buford, Ore. (47.7). 5. Dave Hegmeier, Ore. (47.5) or Doug Chapman, Ore. (47.6). 6. Dave Herlad, WSU (49.6). 7. Eric Iverson, WSU (49.8). 8. Chuck Malito, Neb. (nt). Ore.—58, UCLA—62, WSU—28, Neb.—27.

100—1. John Mays, Ore. (9.4w). 2. Ronnie Welch, UCLA (9.6). 3. Albert Hearvey, Ore. (9.6). 4. Dave Peppers, UCLA (9.6). 5. Karl Webb, Neb. (nt). 6. Gary Minor, WSU (9.7). 7. Bert Peters, WSU (10.1). 8. Jim Novak, Neb. or Doug Gregory, Neb. (nt). Ore.—74, UCLA—75, WSU—33, Neb.—32.

880—1. Steve Bence, Ore. (1:49.6). 2. Jim Hawkins, Neb. (nt). 3. Dale Scott, WSU (1:50.1). 4. Anthony Veney, UCLA (1:51.5). 5. Knut Kvalheim, Ore. (nt) or Mark Feig, Ore. (1:52.7). 6. Ricco Sanchez, UCLA (1:53.2). 7. Chadwick or Wisemiller, Neb. (nt). 8. Vern Stoffel, WSU (1:54.5). Ore.—88, UCLA—83, WSU—40, Neb.—42.

440 IH—1. Lynnsey Guerrero, UCLA (52.6). 2. Reggie Macklin, WSU (53.6). 3. Paul Wilkinson, Ore. (53.7). 4. Wes Leonard, Neb. (nt). 5. Gary Gressett, Neb. (nt). 6. Larry Minor, WSU (53.8). 7. Larry Mazzone, Ore. (54.2). Ore.—96, UCLA—93, WSU—51, Neb.—51.

220—1. Benny Brown, UCLA (20.9w). 2. Gordon Peppers, UCLA (21.2w). 3. Albert Hearvey, Ore. (21.3). 4. Bob Martin, Ore. (21.7). 5. Gary Minor, WSU (21.8w). 6. Jim Novak, Neb. (nt). 7. Karl Webb, Neb. (nt). 8. Bert Peters, WSU (22.5). Ore.—107, UCLA—111, WSU—56, Neb.—56.

3-MILE—1. John Ngeno, WSU (13:39.8). 2. Dan Murphy, WSU (13:41.6). 3. Bob Grubbs, Ore. (13:49.8). 4. Bob Unger, Neb. (nt). 5. Gary Barger, Ore. (13:56.2) or Randy James, Ore. (nt). 6. Jim Salcido, UCLA (13:52.6). 7. Mike Fertig, Neb. (nt). 8. Kushner, UCLA (14:23.8). Ore.—117, UCLA—115, WSU—74, Neb.—63.

MILE RELAY—1. UCLA (Jerome Walters, Jr., Ron Gaddis, Maxie Parks, Benny Brown), (3:10.5). 2. Ore. (3:16.0). 3. WSU (3:15.4). 4. Neb. (nt). Ore.—123, UCLA—125, WSU—78, Neb.—63.

HAMMER—1. Tony Tenisci, WSU (189-1). 2. Mac Wilkins, Ore. (184-11). 3. Mike Bolliger, Ore. (177-10). 4. Jack Nevin, WSU (174-11). 5. Steve Cook, Neb. (nm). 6. Bob Keesling, Neb. (nm). Ore.—137, UCLA—125, WSU—93, Neb.—70.

SHOT PUT—1. Kent Pagel, UCLA (61-5¼). 2. Mac Wilkins, Ore. (59-10½). 3. Dave Schiller, UCLA (60-10¼). 4. Don Philpot, Ore. (55-5). 5. Dean Moore, WSU (54-8½). 6. Bob Keesling, Neb. (nm). 7. Steve Cook, Neb. (nm). 8. Bill Hodgson, WSU (50-8½). Ore.—150, UCLA—141, WSU—98, Neb.—75.

JAVELIN—1. Dan Labbee, WSU (212-3). 2. Bill Hodgson, WSU (187-11). 3. Jeff Carter, Ore. (221-4½). 4. Obie Wilbur, Ore. (182-3). 5. Wayne Ritchie, Neb. (nm). Ore.—161, UCLA—141, WSU—116, Neb.—79.

LONG JUMP—1. James McAllister, UCLA (25-8½). 2. Finn Bendixen, UCLA (25-1½). 3. Ron Childs, Neb. (nm). 4. John Delamere, WSU (25-9½w). 5. Ross Blackman, Ore. (24-7¾w). 6. Hopeton Gordon, Neb. (nm). 7. Gary Minor, WSU (23-7¾w). 8. James Holloway, Ore. (22-10½w). Ore.—166, UCLA—159, WSU—123, Neb.—88.

POLE VAULT—1. Francois Tracanelli, UCLA (17-5). 2. Ron Mooers, UCLA (16-7½). 3. Craig Brigham, Ore. (16-4). 4. Rich Baggett, WSU (15-0). 5. Judd Eddy, Ore. (15-0). 6. John Coski, WSU (14-6). 7. Kent Loeffler, Neb. (nm). Ore.—176, UCLA—177, WSU—131, Neb.—90.

HIGH JUMP—1. Rick Fletcher, UCLA (7-0). 2. Bob Niehl, WSU (7-0). 3. Rory Kotinek, UCLA (6-10). 4. Craig Brigham, Ore. (6-8). 5. Dan Brooks, Neb. (nm). 6. Steve Eymann, Neb. (nm). 7. Ed Bilusak, Ore. (6-4). Ore.—183, UCLA—193, WSU—139, Neb.—97.

DISCUS—1. Mac Wilkins, Ore. (202-3). 2. Roger Freberg, UCLA (194-10). 3. Dale Gordon, UCLA (193-7). 4. Mike McCourtie, WSU (177-2). 5. Jed Miller, WSU (172-2). 6. Dick Heard, Ore. (165-8½). 7. Bob Keesling, Neb. (nm). 8. Steve Cook or Steve Jepsen, Neb. (nm). Ore.—196, UCLA—207, WSU—148, Neb.—100.

TRIPLE JUMP—1. Harry Freeman, UCLA (53-1). 2. Milan Tiff, UCLA (52-3). 3. Hopeton Gordon, Neb. (nm). 4. John Delamere, WSU (48-4¼). 5. Ed Bilusak, Ore. (49-5¼). 6. Gary Minor, WSU (47-7¼). 7. Marc Hadenfield, Ore. (48-4). 8. Ron Childs, Neb. (nm). Ore.—202, UCLA—225, WSU—156, Neb.—107.

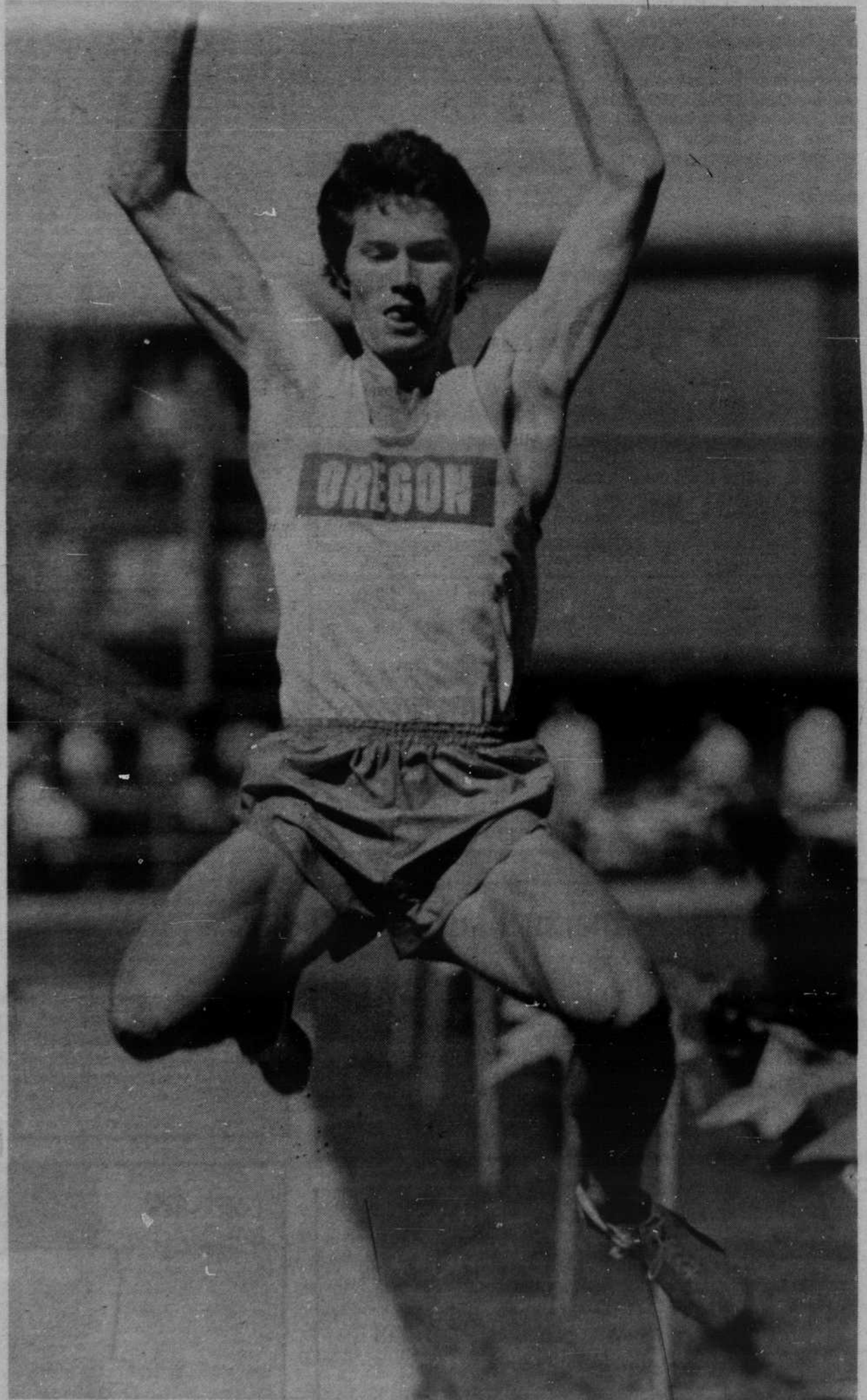


Photo by Phil Waldstein

Ross Blackman's airborne in long jump