

sports

Ducks come close but Trojans win Pac-8

By MARK STEWART
Of the Emerald

CORVALLIS — Oregon loaded up its six-shooters with two events remaining, but failed to gun down the heavily-favored University of Southern California, as the Trojans won their fifth straight Pac-8

track championship here Saturday at Wayne Valley Field.

Oregon trailed USC by just two points, 116-114, with two events left due to the disqualification of two Trojan winners, Billy Mullins in the 400 and Rayfield Beaton in the 800 because of running violations.

So coach Bill Dellinger placed

five entrants — Rudy Chapa, Matt Centrowitz, Alberto Salazar, Don Clary and Art Boileau — in the 5,000 hoping to get the 13 points needed to give the Ducks the championship.

But Washington State countered with its four Kenyans — Henry Rono, Joel Cheruiyot, Josh

Kimeto and Samson Kimombwa, who finished 1-2-3-5 to give the Ducks only five points with Oregon's year-long nemesis, the 1,600 relay, left to be run.

USC's relay team needed only a fourth place finish to give the Trojans the meet — they finished first — while the Ducks needed a

miracle. The miracle did not come, Oregon's team finished last and the Trojans won the meet with 126 points. Oregon took second with 119.

"We got a few breaks and competed well with the exception of one event (the high jump)," Dellinger said after the relay. "In the 5,000, 13 points would have won this meet (for us.) We had to go for it, but the Kenyans were too tough, that's all."

The Kenyans and Chapa left the rest of the pack behind right away, but the heat and torrid pace finally got to Chapa, who had won the 1,500 just an hour and a half earlier, and he finished fourth behind Rono, Cheruiyot and Kimeto.

"They knew I'd drop, I shouldn't have let them go so early," Chapa said after the race. "They were worried about killing me off with their spurts. I have a tough time running in the heat. After two miles I started feeling it."

Rono surprised everyone by dropping out of the meet's first race, the steeplechase, because of a bruised left heel.

The steeplechase world record holder was allowed to enter the 5,000 and 10,000 after meet officials determined he had not violated the "honest effort" rule, which stated an athlete must make an honest effort to complete each event entered or face disqualification from further competition.

"I was quite surprised," said winner Don Clary. "With two laps to go I looked ahead and he wasn't there. I hadn't been alert to it (Rono dropping) at all. I was trying for second."

Chapa won the 1,500 with a time of 3:38.97, a new meet record and personal best, edging out a surging David Omwansa from USC.

Centrowitz, Chapa and Bruce Nelson went out fast, with a first lap of 55.8 seconds. Chapa took the lead with 300 meters to go and held off Omwansa with 20 meters to go.

"I had a feeling Matt was going to take the pack out to a very fast pace," Chapa said. "If he hadn't, I would have."

Oregon went 1-3-5 in the shot, as Jeff Stover's lifetime best throw of 64-9½ beat UCLA's Dave Laut's toss of 64-5¼. Dave Voorhees placed third with a personal record of 62-10¼ and Vince Goldsmith fifth with a PR of 59-5½.

"I know what kind of competitor he is," Stover said about getting psyched for Laut, whom Stover beat for the first time in three meets this year. "I know if I got off a good throw he's the kind of guy to pop a better one off."

Voorhees won the discus title for the first time, but wasn't happy

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Photo by Mark Stewart
After WSU's Henry Rono dropped out one lap into the steeplechase, Don Clary took over and led all the way for the win. Teammate Mike Friton (134) was third.

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KEN BYLUND has refused to give special treatment to developers, speculators and rich investors.

- Ken ended assessment discounts of 40-60% for owners of large subdivisions.
- Ken put commercial and industrial property on the same yearly adjustment program that homeowners have faced for years.
- Ken has fought to maintain fair values against the appeals of rich and powerful property owners.

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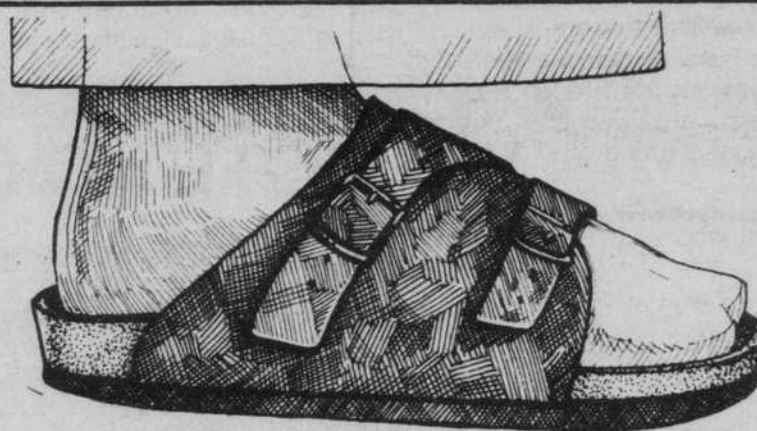
- Ken has refused to discriminate in hiring and promotion on any basis whatsoever. His department has the best affirmative action results in county government.
- Ken has appointed women to posts as appraisers and tax collectors. There were no women in these traditionally male jobs when he took office.
- Ken ended invasions of privacy by appraisers who formerly were instructed to search homes for marijuana and report back to the District Attorney.

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