

Commentary

'Almost' was good enough

Mike Marino

CORVALLIS — Even if you came here dead-set on the notion that USC was going to win the Pac-8 track meet, Oregon's performance had to make you smile.

The Ducks, well, had their best meet in a long, long, time. And despite the fact that nearly everybody and his brother tabbed Troy as the favorite, Oregon made what might have been a yawner into a fun and exciting two days.

To think that the Ducks actually had a chance to win the meet was in itself a breath-taking feeling. They needed a dozen or more points in the 5,000, the second-to-last event — there was virtually no chance for points in the mile relay — and coach Bill Dellinger decided to stack the field with all the talent he had — Rudy Chapa, Matt Centrowitz, Don Clary, Alberto Salazar and Art Boileau.

The Oregon crew faced Washington State's Kenyans, Henry Rono, Joel Cheruiyot, Samson Kimombwa and Josh Kimeto, and for the first few laps the race looked like a dual meet between the two schools. It was a neat sight.

Of course, the dream didn't pan out in the end. Rono took off with four laps to go and looked like a quarter-miler through the finish. Chapa finished fourth — any better than his 13:44.35 was too much to ask after a 3:38.97 1500 earlier in the day — and Clary was sixth to give the Ducks only five points.

And the Trojans won it with the relay.

But there were no long faces wearing green. Too many good things happened. Most significantly, Don Coleman returned to the form that an injury had kept him from for a month, finishing second to USC's great Clancy Edwards in the 100 with a 10.39 clocking to Edwards' 10.34.

Afterwards, though, it was Coleman who took the victory lap — much to the delight of the 5,000 or so fans, most of them, I suspect, transplanted from Hayward Field.

"No one expected me to do well, but I did," Coleman smiled. "I didn't have to win, but I had to take a lap because I felt so good, so relieved." Coleman's non-victory jog caused a bit of confusion on the sidelines, among meet officials, who knew he had finished second, and especially with Edwards, who didn't know what was going on.

"I finished my lap and Clancy came over to me and asked, 'you didn't win, did you?' I said that I didn't think so, but that my fans wanted me to take a lap."

You could almost guess the jealousy that Edwards felt. Moreover, you can anticipate what's coming in the NCAAAs in 10 days time. "I only have to worry about the 100," Coleman said, "And that will help my training so I can concentrate on the 100."

Lack of training was what likely cost Coleman the 100 Saturday. He led the race for a good 75 meters before succumbing to fatigue and an in-shape Edwards, and those final 25 meters are likely the result of his layoff.

"Since the injury, I've been doing a lot of distance workouts, and doing things like jogging backwards on Pre's trails to get the leg in shape," he explained. "But you just jog around and hang with Clancy Edwards. You have to train and work out."

Which is what he and sprint-mate Andrew Banks — who was no slouch with third in the 100 and fifth in the 200 — will be doing, hopefully with the kind of sun that baked Wayne Valley Field for the weekend.

"Look at that beautiful sight," Coleman laughed, staring at the bright sky. "How come we couldn't have had this a month ago? A sprinter needs sun to warm up his whole body."

The sun also put Coleman in the spotlight — people are going to have to stand up and notice the 26-year-old who calls himself, "a basketball player from Louisville, Ky."

"I'm just an old country boy from Kentucky," he grinned. "No one is going to notice me with all these California sprinters around."

Don't bet on it. Previously unknown Ducks had a knack of coming out of the woodwork for a conference meet, like Bruce Nelson, who trimmed three seconds of his best time for third place in the 1500, and Vince Goldsmith, the football player-shot putter who finished fifth in the latter with a 59-5½ heave, which gave him a PR and closed him in on 60 feet.

"A couple of times I was over 60," Goldsmith said. "But I kept on falling out of the darn ring when I made my good ones. But I've been chasing it the whole year, and I know I can get 60 soon."

What was so significant about 59-5½ was that it was 5½ inches past the qualifying mark for the NCAAAs. "All I wanted to do was to qualify for the nationals," he said. "Now I can come home and try for 60 in front of our fans."

As I said earlier, though, many of them seemed to be in the stands here over the weekend. "The weather was hot, but the fans were great," Chapa said. "It seemed like they made me run faster when I didn't think that I could."

In blazing to his PR in the 1,500, Chapa perhaps exhausted his supply of energy for the five. But even then, the fans chanted "Rudy, Rudy, Rudy," and grew louder when he passed WSU's Kimombwa for fourth place. And in the cheers, there was definitely anticipation of the nationals in Eugene.

"You know, things are looking up," Chapa assessed. "We never really talked about winning nationals, but after this weekend, we might have to start."

It's not impossible. And wouldn't it be something?

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Pac-8

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with his efforts.

"I'm pooped out, I didn't have what it took today," Voorhees said. "I'm happy to win. I'd much rather win than throw far. I wanted a bit throw but I needed technique and it wasn't there today."

USC would have had a much easier time winning the meet if it hadn't been for its disqualifications and Don Coleman and Andrew Banks in the 100 meters. Coleman ran his first race in a month and finished second to USC's Clancy Edwards and Banks finished third, breaking up what would have been a Trojan monopoly at the top.

"I didn't see Clancy until the 75 meter mark, then my lack of workouts showed. I didn't have the speed endurance (to catch him)," Coleman said after his 10.39.100. "When I got to the 30 meter mark I heard the crowd and thought it must be for me."

"I could have blown the whole season today," he continued. "I was hoping and praying I'd do well today."

Banks had his own reason for wanting to finish well. "They told me if I get a place we can win," Banks said after the 200, where he placed fifth. "That's all I really wanted to do."

Controversy surrounded UCLA's Mike Tully's world record

Brown gets 30 as Sonics win

SEATTLE (AP) — Reserve guard Fred Brown scored 16 of his game-high 30 points in the final 9½ minutes and the Seattle SuperSonics erased a 19-point third-quarter deficit to beat the Washington Bullets 106-102 Sunday in the opening game of the National Basketball Association's championship series.

It was the 21st consecutive home-court triumph for the Western Conference champion Sonics and was fashioned before a noisy, capacity crowd of 14,098 at the Seattle Center Coliseum.

pole vault of 18-8 ¾ on Friday. Amateur Athletic Union and International Amateur Athletic Federation rules state the bar must be remeasured after the record vault, but when meet officials were moving the standards forward to remeasure, the bar blew off.

When the bar was replaced, it was found to be too low. Tully missed two more attempts at a "new" 18-8 ¾, but did not attempt a third vault when he was told the first vault would be counted.

"Everything was perfect today, good weather, good track, except for one thing, the meet officials,"

Tully said after his record vault. "They could have been quicker. I don't think they've had too many meets here."

"They changed the bar on me, then measured the bar after it had blown off by putting zero at the top and measuring down. I've never seen that before. I wish I had some energy left, I'd go after another world record, maybe over 19 feet."

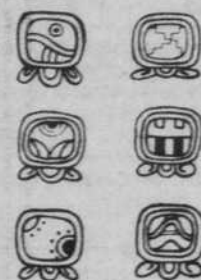
Saturday it was learned that Tully's record had to be remeasured after the jump and because it was not, probably will not count.

Pac-8 meet results (two-day)

Hammer — 1, Scott Neilson, Washington, 232-4.
Other — 2, John McArdle, Oregon, 196-7. 4, Ron Perkins, Oregon, 182-8. 5, Jeff Stover, Oregon, 175-3.
Steeplechase — 1, Don Clary, Oregon — 8:45.37. Other — 3, Mike Friton, Oregon, 8:57.79.
Javelin — 1, Duncan Atwood, Washington, 261-8. Other — 7, Ron Perkins, Oregon, 208-6.
Long jump — 1, James Lofton, Stanford, 25-9½.
Other — 8, Jon Ogard, Oregon, 22-2¾.
Shot put — 1, Jeff Stover, Oregon 64-9½. Others — 3, Dave Voorhees, Oregon, 62-10¼. 5, Vince Goldsmith, Oregon, 59-5½.
10,000 — 1, Henry Rono, Washington State, 27:45.55. Others — 3, Alberto Salazar, Oregon 29:27.34. 5, Bill McChesney, Oregon, 31:11.02.
Pole vault — 1, Mike Tully, UCLA, 18-8¾. Other — 4, Tom Hintnaus, Oregon 17-0.
400 Relay — 1, USC (Kevin Williams, William Mullins, Clarence Edwards, James Sanford) 39.27.
1,500 — 1, Rudy Chapa, Oregon, 3:38.97.
Others — 3, Bruce Nelson, Oregon, 3:41.85. 4, Matt Centrowitz, Oregon, 3:44.23.
High jump — 1, Dwayne Joseph, UCLA, 7-1.
Others — 7, Jon Ogard, Oregon 6-8. Jan From did not place.
High hurdles — 1, Greg Foster, UCLA, 13.68.
400 — 1, Donn Thompson, UCLA, 45.96.

100 — 1, Clancy Edwards, USC, 10.34. 2, Dan Coleman, Oregon, 10.39. 3, Andrew Banks, Oregon, 10.56.
Discus — 1, Dave Voorhees, Oregon, 196-8. Other — Amie Swan, Oregon, 172-5.
800 — 1, Conrad Suhr, UCLA, 1:46.78. 2, Greg Walton, Oregon, 1:49.16.
Intermediate hurdles — 1, Richard Greybehl, USC, 49.98. Other — 8, James Bell, Oregon, 52.80.
200 — 1, Clancy Edwards, USC, 20.08. Other — 5, Andrew Banks, Oregon, 20.86.
Triple Jump — 1, Willie Banks, UCLA, 54-11. Other — 9, Anthony Berry, Oregon, 29-3¼.
5,000 — 1, Henry Rono, Washington State, 13:20.23. Other — 4, Rudy Chapa, Oregon, 13:44.35. 6, Don Clary, Oregon, 14:07.70. 7, Matt Centrowitz, Oregon, 14:07.80. 8, Alberto Salazar, Oregon, 14:07.90. 10, Art Boileau, Oregon, 14:48.90.
1,600 relay — 1, USC (Joel Andrews, Rayfield Beaton, James Sanford, William Mullins) 3:05.29. Other — 8, Oregon, 3:18.07.
Decathlon — 1, Bengt Larsson, Oregon State, 7622. Other — 7, Paul Doyle, Oregon, 6986.
Team scores — 1, USC, 126. 2, Oregon, 119. 3, UCLA, 114. 4, WSU, 109½. 5, Washington, 60. 6, Oregon State, 56½. 7, California, 38. 8, Stanford, 28.

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We are closing by June 5th. All of our Mayan & Egyptian art is reduced to cost.

SOUTH TOWNE, 2815 OAK STREET, EUGENE,

VOTE NO ON BALLOT MEASURE 51

Last October, we, the undersigned professors of law at the University of Oregon, acting in our individual capacity, urged the Eugene City Council to amend the Human Rights Ordinance to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in employment, housing and public accommodations. Now, in the same way, we urge the citizens of Eugene to retain this Ordinance by voting "no" on ballot measure 51.

The Ordinance gives substance to the values of individual liberty and respect for individual worth on which our Constitution is based. Protection of individual liberty and toleration of individual differences are key to our country's greatness. This law, like other laws that protect basic human rights, is one that we should welcome and support.

The air has been filled with many contradictory public statements about this Ordinance. However, certain facts should be clear. The law does not give anyone or any group special rights. Instead, the Ordinance protects everyone from discrimination on the basis of their private, legal sexual relationships and their beliefs and from discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation. This is as it should be. In a just society, gay people should have the same opportunities to live and work as anyone else. Gay people are human beings and deserve protection of their human rights.

Eugene has taken the lead in guaranteeing basic civil right to these citizens. Now, as a citizen, you have an opportunity to support this step forward by voting "No" on ballot measure 51. We urge you to do so.

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