

# UCLA sprints to claim Pac-10 championship



Photo by Jeff Paslay  
Oregon's Bob Gray (left) pushes it to the limit to beat Washington State's Mark Macdonald in the 110 hurdles. Later in the day, Gray won the 400 hurdles and beat his personal best by a full second.

By Dave Charbonneau  
Emerald Sports Reporter

UCLA got some timely performances and won the Pacific-10 Conference Track and Field Championships at Hayward Field during the weekend.

The Bruins scored 123 points, 20 points ahead of second-place Oregon. USC finished a surprising third with 80 points and Washington State — the pre-meet favorite — turned in the most disappointing performance of the meet with 79½ points.

After 11 events, UCLA led the Ducks by only one point, but the Bruins' domination in the sprints was too much for Oregon to overcome.

Tony Miller earned 20 points for UCLA, winning the 100- and 200-meter races, as the Ducks failed to muster a single point in either race. He won the 200 despite a cramp in his leg coming into the last 50 meters.

"I felt my hamstring grab and then let up," Miller said. "Then it cramped up again and didn't let up, but I only had a few meters left, and all I was thinking was 'I've got to win.'"

UCLA sealed up the team title with a first-place finish by Charles Rogers in the triple jump and a second-place finish in the 4x400-meter relay.

"The meet turned into a dual meet between us and Oregon," UCLA coach Bob Larsen said. "Oregon did a nice job. They made it very competitive this last day."

Oregon coach Bill Dellinger said there was not much more the Ducks could have done.

"I can't be unhappy. We did the best we could," he said. "UCLA was going beyond the form chart. They're lacking in distance events, but they made up for it in everything else."

The Ducks were able to keep up with UCLA thanks to some tough performances in a couple of events, in particular.

In the 1,500, Oregon's Alan Foster, Tracy Hollister and Tye Van Schoiack finished third, fourth and fifth, respectively, to close a 13-point gap UCLA held after the first day of competi-

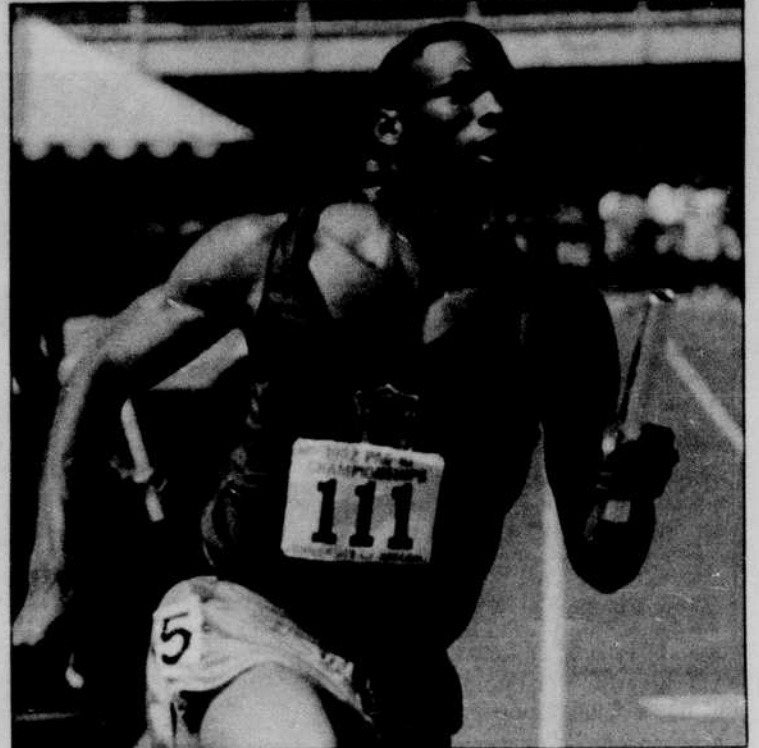


Photo by Jeff Paslay  
USC's Quincy Watts helped lift the Trojans to a third-place finish in last weekend's Pac-10 Conference Track and Field Championships.

tion.

Hollister said the runners were hoping for more.

"I wanted to go 1-2 with Alan," he said, "but we gave the Ducks a big boost, and I'm happy about that."

Oregon's Bob Gray ran a 49.83 in the 400 hurdles to win the race and set a personal record by a full second. Gray, who finished second in the 110 hurdles earlier in the day, said the Hayward crowd gave him a big boost.

"I came off the eighth hurdle, and I heard the crowd," he said. "After the ninth and 10th hurdles, I knew I had it."

The Ducks also got some much-needed points when Grady O'Connor and Erik Ylitalo finished fourth and sixth in the race.

Larsen said it was the 400 hurdles that made it interesting at the end.

"I felt we were cruising until Oregon went one, four, six in the hurdles and climbed back into it," Larsen said.

However, by the time Oregon got to the events where the Ducks could make up the most ground on the Bruins — the 800 and 5,000 — UCLA was too far out of reach.

"You're always worried that Oregon's 5,000 runners will rear up and bite you," Larsen said. "I told our team we had to have a cushion, and they responded well."

Shannon Lemora, the pre-race favorite in the 800, finished second to Washington's Mitch Leffler in the race. Lemora was obviously not pleased with his performance.

"I ran a stupid race," Lemora said.

Oregon's Pat Haller finished second to Arizona's defending Pac-10 champion Marc Davis in the 5,000. Davis also successfully defended his Pac-10 title in the steeplechase.

Davis said he was aware that Haller — who opted not to run in the 10,000 — would be fresh for the race.

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## Golden Bear throws to records

By Dave Charbonneau  
Emerald Sports Reporter

It may have been the best 24 hours of Ramon Jimenez-Gaona's life.

Jimenez-Gaona finished his last final to graduate from California on Friday and promptly jumped on a plane arriving in Eugene at 11 that night.

All he did in Eugene Saturday was set personal, Pacific-10 Conference meet, Paraguayan, and South American records in the discus throw at the Pac-10 Track and Field Championships at Hayward Field.

"The way I look at it," Jimenez-Gaona said, "this is my graduation present."

Jimenez-Gaona set the meet record on his second throw and then beat that record on his following toss of 210-11. His throw eclipsed the national mark in his native country of Paraguay and assured him a spot on the Paraguayan Olympic squad.

Before the Pac-10 meet, Jimenez-Gaona's lifetime best throw was 203 feet. His worst throw at Hayward on Saturday was also 203 feet.

"This was the best competition for me in my life," he said. "My worst throw today was my old personal record. This season I felt like I was stuck at 200 feet. Today I really felt good."

Jimenez-Gaona won last year's Pac-10 title and finished second at the NCAA Championships. Since 1986, Jimenez-Gaona has won the Paraguayan discus championship every year and also finished in the top 20 at last year's world championships.



Photo by Jeff Paslay  
California's Ramon Jimenez-Gaona hurled the discus for personal, Pac-10, Paraguayan and South American records Saturday at Hayward Field.

With all the success Jimenez-Gaona has had in the discus, getting his education is still the most important thing on his mind.

After earning his bachelor's degree in economics — he missed the ceremony because of the Pac-10 meet — he hopes to get accepted to graduate school at California. He said he now wants to return to Paraguay, where he feels his education can help his country.

"Discus is a short-term goal for me," he said. "My education is something that I will have my whole life. I think my education could be a force back home."

Jimenez-Gaona has one year of eligibility left in track and said if he is accepted to graduate school, he will continue to throw for the Bears.