



Dishin' out thank-yous for NCAAs



HAKUNA MATATA

JEFF SMITH

Dear Angela Williams (USC winner in the women's 100-meter dash):

Thank you for speaking and not simply giving quotes (which, in turn, makes for the best quotes).

"Every time I get on the track, I try to do magnificent things. And I love this track the most. I mean, it's so fast! The moment you step onto it, you're like, 'Oooohh!' And look at the fans, they're out here the whole time cheering on everyone else.

"There's such a good feedback between athletes and fans. And that's what it's all about. We're here to put on a show.

"Eugene's a great town. The atmosphere is relaxing. People say 'hi' to you in the neighborhood. They treat us so well here. We've got a warm-up track over there, we get water, we get food ... you have it all here. It's just this whole chill atmosphere. Yeah, it's that chill way of living. And that's why athletes do so well here because they have no worries.

"But, well, I guess the only bad thing is the allergies. But I came prepared this time! I used my Allegra and it was all good. Last year when I was here for Pac-10s, I got hay fever and I could barely see; it felt like I had the flu.

"I tried to warn people about it this year, but they weren't listening. Nope. I told them it was coming. First two days, everybody's fine. And then what happens after that? Ha, everyone's all sneezing ... ahhh choo! Ha ha ... yeah, but I was fine though. Allegra — it does the trick.

"I see you could probably use some, too."

She was right.

Dear Texas Christian sprinters Lindel Frater, Darvis Patton and Kim Collins:

Thank you for treating the NCAA Track and Field Championships this past week at Hayward Field as your playground.

The three members of the Horned Frogs were part of the men's 4x400-meter relay team that won the national title Friday in a spectacular showdown against Tennessee. Then, as if that wasn't enough, 45 minutes after the relay, they all finished 1-2-4 in the semifinals of the 100-meter dash.

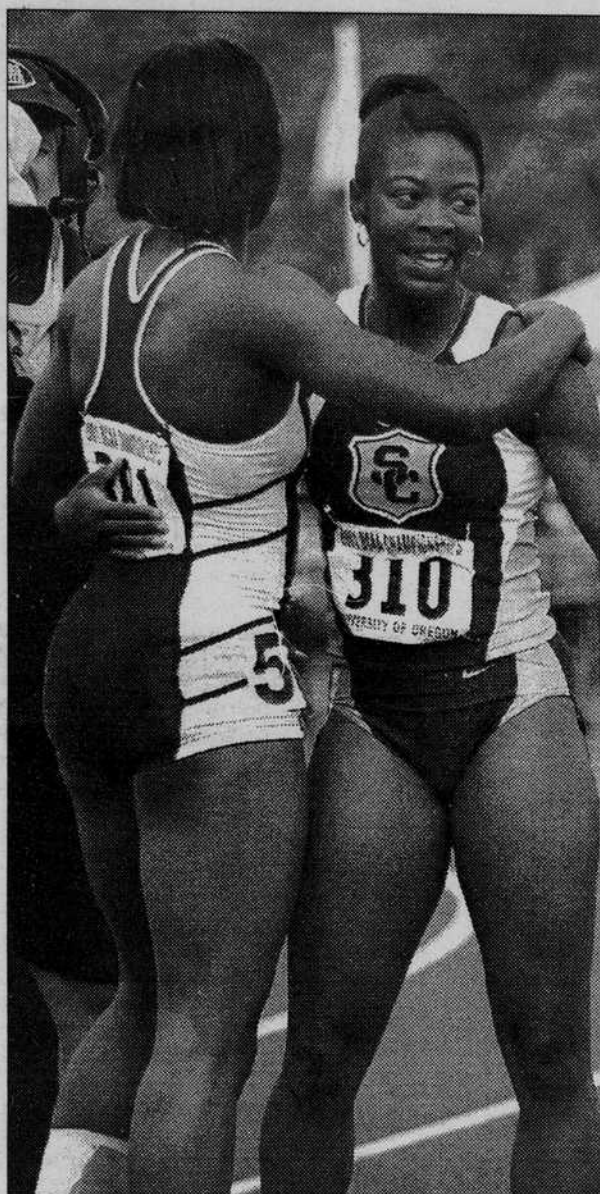
"It's like practice," Patton said. "We line up side-by-side in practice every day. I would love nothing more than to win the team title. Every point counts."

Added Collins: "After what happened at Indoors, believe me, every point counts."

Ah, the fateful words that would prove to be all too true on Saturday.

TCU, who lost the Indoor title this year by just one point after a dropped baton, entered the final day of competition ready to capture the school's first national championship since the 1983 women's golf team.

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Tom Patterson Emerald
Angela Williams (right) hugs Shakedia Jones after winning the 100.

Williams, USC oust UCLA to claim title

■ The southern California schools wage war down to the wire, with the Trojans claiming the title

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

For the Southern California Trojans, redemption was sweeter than a 10-second 100-meter dash.

The third installment of this year's great track and field rivalry between UCLA and USC turned out to be all Trojans. After the Bruins won a dual meet between the teams earlier this season and the Pacific-10 Conference Championships, the Trojans got the one that really counts Saturday: the NCAA Track and Field Championships.

The Trojans took the women's team title at the four-day meet at Hayward Field by nine points over the Bruins, riding the fleet feet of Angela Williams and a strong sprinting crew to their first-ever women's team championship.

"It's taken awhile to build this," USC head coach Ron Allice said. "This was our year."

The Bruins scored 28 points on the final day, but it wasn't enough to overcome the 13-point lead that the Trojans carried into Saturday's events. USC got key performances Friday and Saturday from Williams in the 100-meter dash,

Kinshasa Davis in the 200, Brigita Langerholc in the 800 and Inga Stasiulionyte in the javelin.

"It was expected that one of these teams was going to win," Bruins head coach Jeanette Boldon said. "Today, it was their perfect meet."

Arizona and Stanford also had strong showings, returning the Pac-10 to track and field prominence for the first time since Oregon dominated in the 1980's. Arizona ended in third, 11 points behind UCLA. Stanford was strong in Saturday's distance finals, and scored 26 points on the day to end in eighth overall.

Like a good baseball game, Saturday's competition at the NCAA Championships ended up being about key doubles and triples.

Williams became the first woman to ever win three-straight 100-meter titles. She took the 2001 race in exciting fashion, beating out UCLA's Shakedia Jones at the tape.

"I could see [Jones] in my peripheral vision," Williams said. "I felt like her momentum might carry her past me, but I just had to drive a little longer to the finish."

Arizona's Brianna Glenn single-footedly kept her team in third-place Saturday. The junior became the first woman to win the long jump and a sprinting title in the same year when she won the 200-meter dash. She also placed third in the 100, and therefore scored 26 of Arizona's 44 points.

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Tennessee sprints past TCU for victory

■ A false start in the 200 meters hands the Tennessee Volunteers the NCAA men's title, their second at Hayward Field

By Robbie McCallum
Oregon Daily Emerald

In a race against the clock, a thousandth of a second can count for a lot — toward and against you.

A thousandth of a second cost Texas Christian the 2001 NCAA men's track and field title Saturday in more ways than one. Tennessee won the championship by one point, 50-49, over TCU.

Oregon relinquished its three-day lead early Saturday, but still finished in ninth-place overall with 27 points. The top-10 finish and point totals are the Ducks' highest since 1992.

An epic battle between two sprinting powers — Tennessee and TCU — played out to its fullest as the two teams sat atop the team standings with one sprinting event to go, the 200 meters.

Each school had two runners in the 200-meter final with TCU having a slight edge in the team standings (43-36). Tennessee freshman sensation Justin Gatlin sat in lane five. Next to him, in lane six, sat TCU Olympian Kim Collins.

Gatlin had surprised the crowd of 5,936 45 minutes earlier by winning the 100 meters in 10.08 seconds, edging the favored Collins by five-hundredths of a second. Collins wowed the same crowd on Friday by exploding past Gatlin on the anchor leg of the 4x100 relay for the win.

The third battle between Gatlin and Collins never happened, though, as the TCU senior's anticipation got the best of him, and he flinched a fraction of a second before the starting gun, and



Jon House Emerald
Louisiana State's Walter Davis won the triple jump on his final leap despite an injured left hamstring.

was disqualified.

"I guess [Collins] was a little edgy," Gatlin said. "It could have happened to anybody. I think he was over-anxious to get out over everybody."

Gatlin went on to win with a wind-aided time of 20.11 seconds to complete the sprinting sweep. Volunteers teammate Leonard Scott followed Gatlin to the tape in sixth-place, both scoring 13 points to tie the Horned Frogs.

"I felt real confident coming into the finals," said Gatlin, who broke the meet and field record in the 200 in the preliminaries on Wednesday with a time of 19.86. "I thought, 'I might as well go for the double.'"

The 200 was the final event for TCU, while

Tennessee had the 4x400 relay yet to come, meaning all the Volunteers needed to do to win their third NCAA title was finish the relay without any disqualifications.

Tennessee did just that, placing last in their heat at a conservative pace with careful hand-offs.

"It was the worst mile relay I've ever seen us do but it was enough," Tennessee sprints coach Vince Anderson said jokingly.

"We had adversity and we stepped it up," said Volunteer head coach Bill Webb. "We got hurt in the 4x100 and people thought we were done. Nothing ever goes perfect in track."

The short-falling wasn't the first at an NCAA

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