

Marion Dunn, sports editor

Dispatches From WAC Events in Provo



Dispatches from the combat zones of the 1981 WAC Spring Championships. final day Saturday.

Cougar Stadium — San Diego State sprinter David Russell had no sooner broken the tape to give him a sweep of the 100 and 200 meter dashes in the track and field competition Saturday when BYU sports information director Dave Shultness turned and said, "We might never see sprinters like that again in this stadium."

It was a sobering thought. BYU Stadium has been a showcase for some of the best collegiate track and field men in the world but the 81 WAC Championships might have brought down the curtain on track and field in the stadium.

The track is going to go when BYU enlarges the seating in the stadium. I don't know how soon work is going to begin but I assume it will be soon.

If the work starts this summer the 1982 NCAA Championships will be held in a new track and field stadium close by with the stadium used exclusively for football.

So Saturday's track meet could have been a hail and farewell performance.

The new scoreboard in BYU Stadium provided the good crowd of 2,000 or more with its biggest thrill of the day Saturday, and it might have been a mistake.

Late in the meet the scoreboard flashed the standings through 11 of the 20 events and it listed BYU in first place with UTEP second and San Diego State third. The crowd let out a roar.

But when the official tally sheet was released after 11 events it showed UTEP in first place with 95 points, BYU second with 92 and San Diego State third with 60.

It didn't really matter. The scoreboard's 11 events were probably different events than the 11 used in the official tally, but the Cougars had no chance regardless of which was right.

BYU doesn't have a sprinter and that doomed coach Clarence Robison's team right from the start. The injuries and one

'defection' took away from the little depth BYU does have. UTEP had this meet in the bag all the way and San Diego State had a lock on second.

UTEP's expected victory atoned for its loss to the Aztecs last year, but San Diego coach Dick Hill has an explanation for the difference.

"The administration cut our budget after we won last year. I had to leave athletes home because they had jobs and couldn't get away. What hurts me most is the fact our administration didn't think last year's win over UTEP was credible enough to support us and possibly help us win the NCAA."

BYU's great distance runner Doug Padilla finished second to Miner star Saleiman Nyambui in the 1,500 meters and trailed badly in the 5,000. He was plain tired in the second of his double and couldn't challenge Nyambui.

Riverside C.C. — To many club members and guests the 14th hole at Riverside Country Club is nicknamed "Amen Corner." The hole is a 340-yard

par-4 from the blue tees. Saturday it was about 280 yards to the corner and it was this hole that cost BYU junior Barry Willardson medalist honors in the golf tournament.

When Willardson stood on the tee at 14, he was 4-under par for the tournament. Hawaii's Brandon Kop had finished with a sparkling 66 for the day and was 4-under for the tournament. Willardson could force a playoff by parring in.

The husky Cougar star had been having putter and wood problems. He had 3-putted at 8 and 12, and his woods had been erratic. He used his 3-wood off the tee at 14 and drove the ball out-of-bounds to the left.

He rebounded brilliantly to escape with a bogey, but that bogey was to prove costly.

He got back to 4-under with a bird at 15, then flew past the green with his second shot at 18 and bogeyed there to leave Kop alone at 4-under.

University of Utah golfers played well on the final day but

Scott Brandt met the same fate Willardson did. The Ute ace was 4-under with two holes to play but 3-putted No. 17 to tie Willardson and BYU's Dick Zokol for second.

Zokol shot a fine 68 Saturday to make a great run at medalist honors. But once again the Cougars won the team title and failed to produce the medalist. That's the way it has gone all year.

OUTDOOR COURTS — San Diego State has its own sports psychologist along on this trip and he has been working with the Aztecs. No. 1 tennis player Troy Collins. It must have helped because Collins produced the most surprising upset of the Spring meet when he downed Utah's Jeff Robbins Saturday, 5-7, 6-4, 7-6 (tie-breaker 5-3).

"Mostly I work on helping Collins relax and get rid of his tensions," the Aztec shrink said before the match. "I have developed a program that helps him do this and he thinks he can upset Robbins."

He did just that. Robbins will be one of the favorites in the coming NCAA tournament so Collins' win must rank as one of the best of his career.

Well, they say 90 percent of sports is mental.

MARRIOTT CENTER — Yes, the Marriott Center. For the last three years a highlight of the Spring Championships has been the basketball game between the Northern and Southern Division Sports information directors. It has been an annual event and I've covered it in good faith.

Last week I went into training for the expected game this week by locking myself in a room and staring at the wall until I could go to sleep with my eyes open. Hey, man, I was ready for those Cats. This time around.

So, what do they do. They cancel the game. All that training wasted. Well, not exactly wasted. I can now sit at my typewriter and sleep with my eyes open and EYE Jensen can't tell the difference.

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