

Maxeymen Boast First Far Western Conference Track, Field Crown in 31-Year History of Local College

Coach Gene Maxey's Chico State College Wildcat track and field team came up with a supreme team effort all along the line Saturday afternoon to annex the 1955 Far Western Conference cinder and pit championship.

The title-winning effort by the 'Cat thinclads marked the first time a Chico State College track team has ever won a conference championship in the 31-year athletic history of the local school.

Closing with a rush in the late stages of the afternoon, the 'Cats squeezed out a four and one-half point victory over the San Francisco State College Gators in the

29th annual FWC track and field championships. The 'Cats totaled 51½ points for the afternoon, as compared to San Francisco State's 47.

Nevada (26¼), California Aggies (18), Sacramento State (12¼) and Humboldt State (9) trailed in that order in the team scoring for the afternoon.

The Wildcats, who were boasting depth for the first time this spring, suffered several injuries during the past two weeks and weren't given too much of a chance in the pre-meet dope sessions of dethroning the Gators as conference kingpins. Fighting for every point, the locals stayed within striking distance of the front-running Gators throughout the majority of the afternoon, then closed in during the final one-third of the meet to take the play away from Coach Ray Kaufman's San Franciscans.

Although it would be unfair to point out anyone who starred for the 'Cats, it was possibly Brian Aubin's surprise second place finish in the two-mile grind that ignited the 'Cats' final surge. Aubin picked up three valuable points, while San Francisco could garner but one in this event, a fourth place effort.

Norm MacKenzie and Ron Temple, two injured hurdlers added to the locals' chances with a second and fourth place in the 220 low hurdles, and lanky Gene Weston, on his next to last leap in the broad jump event, sailed out over 22 feet to surpass Sacramento State's defending champ Gordon Fong.

Ken Piercy added two more important points with a third place behind Fong and when Humboldt's Williams leaped into fourth spot it enabled the Wildcats to take over the meet lead by a mere point; the first time in the afternoon that the 'Cats were in front.

It remained for the mile delay race to supply the climax of the afternoon, and Chico's crack quartet of Keith Thomassen, Bill Bledsoe, Mike Adams and Bobby Barram proved equal to the task, although the issue was in doubt to the wire.

Thomassen got caught in the early going of his initial leg and had to turn it on down the back-

stretch to give the baton to Bledsoe. The Gators had the lead by about five yards and gained even more with a perfect exchange.

Bledsoe, biding his time, came off the final turn of his lap in fourth spot, but roared down the stretch to hand off to Adams in second spot.

Adams, trailing by a dozen yards, poured it on the entire distance, coming through with a less than 50-second, 440-yard effort to hand off to Barram about four yards off the pace.

Barram trailed the Gator anchor man until the head of the stretch, then poured on the gas to collar his opponent 25 yards from the tape and closed with such a rush that he had a good eight yards at the tape!

And, to add to the triumph the 'Cat quartet broke the school record with a clocking of 3:27.4.

The Gators made a last-ditch effort to get back in the running, hoping for a sweep in the discus throw, but Chico's Harry Buckman came through with a second spot to thwart the bid.

The pole vault also found San Francisco's top duo going out at 11 feet, and Jess Selby and Ted Crivello, Chico's only entrants, hung in for a third place tie and more Chico points.

In addition to the relay and broad jump, the Wildcats took one other first place when Mike Adams flashed home first in the 440-yard dash. Adams led the entire distance and Barram came out of the pack coming off the curve to fight his way into third place.

Adams proved to be Chico's top point producer of the afternoon with a second place effort in the 880-yard run. Gene Timmons of Nevada copped the quarter-mile event, but Bledsoe turned in a surprise finish for third place honors.

George Maderos, Chico's greatest all-around athlete, closed out a brilliant collegiate career adding 4½ points to the 'Cat cause with a second in the javelin and a tie for third in the high jump. Maderos was seven inches off the pace in the javelin, and he and teammate Ken Piercy were two inches behind in the high jump. Piercy also copped a third in the

broad jump.

Harry Buckman, who took an important second in the discus, also had a fourth in the shot put. Sprinter Mickey McGie took two "fourths," in the 100 and 220.

MacKenzie closed out his college career with a six point contribution. In addition to his second place finish in the 220 lows, "Mac" came up with a second in the 120 high sticks. (Saturday marked the first day MacKenzie had hurdled in a month due to a severe muscle pull.)

Chico's other "crippled" hurdler, Tom Ostrom, also surprised with a third place finish in the 120 high hurdles. Ostrom, who was on crutches Monday with a severely sprained ankle, surprised his mates and the coaching staff when he showed up for the time trials Saturday morning with his tightly bound ankle. He barely qualified when one of Sacramento's hurdlers fell, but he turned on the steam in the afternoon in his only appearance and assured the locals of another two points.

Roger Hull took a fourth for the locals in the javelin throw and Carl Yergensen surprised with a fourth place showing in the mile run.

Only one double winner appeared in Saturday's meet. Bert Cooper of Nevada took both the mile and two-mile runs. The diminutive Nevada freshman turned on the gas in the final 50 yards to take a close verdict from Sacramento's George Way, and Bill Burr of the Aggies. The three finished in blanket fashion, but Cooper had enough left in reserve to take the verdict in the run to the wire.

In the two mile, the Nevada ace opened up and left the field in fifth and sixth laps. Only Chico's Aubin threatened him over the final half mile, but Cooper finished strong for his double victory.

RESULTS

120-yard high hurdles: Landers (SF), MacKenzie (C), Ostrom (C), Longero (N); Time — 0:15.1

220-yard low hurdles: Blevins (SF), MacKenzie (C) Landers (SF), Temple (C); Time—0:24.1

100-yard dash: Elmore (SF), Threlkeld (CA), Gooden (H), McGie (C); Time — 0:08.8

220-yard dash: Threlkeld (C), Elmore (SF)

Golden (H), McGie (C); Time—0:21.1

440-yard dash: Adams (C), Leonard (S), Barram (C), Mayerhoff (N); Time—0:51.7

880-yard run: Timmons (N), Adams (C), Bledsoe (C), Kuykendall (S); Time—2:01.7

Mile run: Cooper (N), Way (S), Burr (CA), Yergensen (C); Time—4:38.0

Two-mile run: Cooper (N), Aubin (C), Hughes (H), Fairbanks (SF); Time—10:23.1

Javelin: Norris (CA), 169' 4³/₄"; Maderos (C), 168' 8³/₈"; Ellis (SF), 163' 5⁸/₈"; Hull (C), 157' 8³/₈"

Discus: Von Arx (SF), 138' 10¹/₈"; Buckman (C), 129' 2³/₈"; Conover (SF), 128' 7¹/₂"; Meder (N), 127' 3⁸/₈"

Broad jump: Weston (C), 22' 1⁴/₄"; Fong (S), 21' 10³/₄"; Piercy (C), 21' 2³/₄"; Williams (H), 21' 3⁴/₄"

Shot put: Bologna (SF), 45, 6"; Kidd (C), 44' 11³/₄"; Peters (SF), 44' 3⁴/₄"; Buckman (C), 43' 8¹/₄"

High Jump: Mathis (SF) and Gray (S) tied for first place, 6' 2"; Maderos (C) and Piercy (C) tied for third place, 6' 0"

Pole vault: Mabry (N) and Meder (N) tied for first place, 12' 0"; Calder (N), White (S), Crivello (C) and Selby (C) four-way tie for third place, 11' 6"

Mile relay: Chico State (Thomasson, Bledsoe, Adams, Barram), San Francisco State, Humboldt State, Sacramento State; Time—3:27.4 (*—New school record. Old record of 3:27.6 established in 1938 and tied in 1955.)

Final team scoring: Chico State 51¹/₂, San Francisco State 47, Nevada 26³/₄, California Aggies 18, Sacramento State 12³/₄, Humboldt State 9.

MORNING TRIALS

100-yard dash: (first heat) Threlkeld (CA), Young (C), Gooden (H), Jones (N); Time—0:09.8 (second heat) Elmore (SF), Bonnicksen (H), McGie (C), Jones (CA); Time—0:09.8

220-yard dash: (first heat) Threlkeld (CA), Gooden (H), Runnels (SF), Willoughby (S); Time—0:21.4 (Second heat) Elmore (SF), Thomassen (C), McGie (C), Jones (CA); Time—0:21.5

120-yard high hurdles: (first heat) Blevins (SF), Ostrom (C), Mackenzie (C), Bernard (N); Time—0:15.1; (second heat) Landers (SF), Longero (N), Ulrey (C), Briles (S); Time—0:14.9

220-yard low hurdles: (ifrst heat) Blevins (SF), Mackenzie (C), Hester (C), Jones (N); Time— 0:23.1; (second heat) Landers (SF), Temple (C), Longero (N), Sturdyant (H); Time— 0:24.1