

WILLIE SKIPS 100; 'RAVEL' WINS — 9.3

BY HARLET TENKHAM

Times Staff Writer

MODESTO — Willie Deckard might still be the world's fastest human, but you couldn't prove it by anything that happened Saturday night in the 30th annual California Relays at Modesto Junior College Stadium.

The Trojan junior scratched from the 100, won by Westmont's Jean-Louis Ravelomanantsoa in 9.3, then got all he wanted in the relays from a pair of Jamaicans, ex-Trojan Lennox Mills and Trojan-to-be Don Quarrie.

Deckard held off Miller in the 440 relay as the Trojans won by a whisker in 2:4 but he couldn't overcome Quarrie's three-pair lead in the 880 relay and the Striders prevailed in 1:27.1, six-tenths of a second off the world record.

UCSC coach Vern Wolfe, asked why Deckard didn't run the 100, said, "If there hadn't been heats, he would have run. But it's too much to ask him to run two tough 100's plus the relays."

Deckard said he would run both sprints a next week against virtually the same people in the Kennedy Games at Berkeley.

Don't get the idea Willie wasn't running last Saturday night. He was. But Miller, silver medalist in the 1968 Olympic 100 meters, and Quarrie, a triple gold medal winner in last year's Commonwealth Games, also ran and a little.

100 Anchors

Deckard and Quarrie Bayd were timed in 10.7 on their 100 anchors. Miller closed about a yard on Willie in the 440 relay after almost catching Ravelomanantsoa in the open 100 with a powerful finish.

Deckard said, "I'm not used to people coming up on me. I think I lightened up a little."

Three of the meet honors went to Southern University's Red Milburn, with a meet record of 17.4 in the 120 high hurdles, but the meet satisfied medal winners were UCLA's John Smith and Davidson's Hugh Brown.

Smith was getting tired of his runaround role in the 100 Brown was getting tired of no role, period. They went 1-2 over Olympic champion Lee Evans, Smith winning in 48.1 and Brown, who closed faster than anybody, clocking 48.2.

"It went right according to plan," said Smith who overtook Tennessee's Darwin Reed coming off the turn, then put away a bid by Evans midway in the stretch. "The track was pretty chewed up which accounts for the slow time."

Smith previously had run 47.5 twice this year in finishing second to USC's Finkel Garrison in the dual meet and then second again to teammate Wayne Collett in the Pacific 8.

Collett Pades

Collett, who ran 47.7 in the Pacific 8, was a contender as the final leg but faded badly and wound up sixth at 47.0. Garrison didn't run.

Smith and Collett had hoped to come back and help carry the Bruins to a world record in the mile relay, but Warren Kilmonson dropped the baton on the second leg while running far back and the Pacific Coast Coast Club went on to win in 3:04.4.

Terry Masika anchored in 47.7 as the Pacific Coast Club lowered UCLA's previous world best of 1:07.2.

A disappointment in the dashes was Jim Green, the 8.2 sprinter from Kentucky. Green, who complained about the cold, overcast weather, finished third in the 100 in 9.4 and managed only fourth in the 200 in 21.8.

"I got left at the post in the 100," said Green.

Ravelomanantsoa, the 28-year-old Olympian from Madagascar, appeared to be a sure-thing winner in the 100, but he said, "I didn't get a good start. I didn't take command until after 30 yards. This is my last win of the year, because this was a good field."

Track Notes

Milburn, a sophomore, ran his 120 in a heat. Don came back to take the final in 17.1, overtaking Tommie Lee White of the Striders on the final hurdle. . . . Lance Babb of USC ran fourth in 12.5, an all-time best. . . . Wilson

said, "The heat was so hot that I thought I might get the world's record (11.2) in the final. But I hit a hurdle in the middle of the race and it straightened me right up."

. . . Willie Davidson, a Southern U. grad who flopped hard in the hurdles, said of Milburn: "He has unlimited potential. Before he's through he'll break all the records." . . . 100 coach Vern Wolfe shook up his relay team, dropping Ken Pharrish and adding Babb, who ran second, while Lane Brown moved to No. 3. . . . The attendance was 8,720.

Calaver's 8.2 sprinters, 1968 Branch and George Daniels, both failed to qualify in the 100. Branch running 9.4 and Daniels 9.6. Branch's time would have won the 100 at 1968 meet. . . . Fred De Bernardis of Texas A&M threw 214.4 for third in the discus, best collegiate throw of the year. USC's Joe Antawinski was the previous leader at 194.10. . . . USC's Henry Brown skipped the long jump because of a sore ankle. . . . Finland's Jarmo Kinnunen, world record holder at 309.17, failed to qualify for the javelin finale, making all three throws. One of the faults was approximately 280 feet.

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