

NEWS RELEASE

PAC 8 MEET AT U.C.L.A. FEATURES

May 11, 1970

TIMING BREAKTHROUGH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Los Angeles, May 11--Competitors, fans and officials at the Pac 8 Title Meet in U.C.L.A.'s Bruin Track Stadium on May 15 and 16 are expected to applaud a new timing/scoring system. This Data-Time system affords crystal controlled Bureau of Standards accuracy to 1/100th of a second with instantaneous posting of the winning times on an illuminated scoreboard.

The Portland, Oregon firm's system permits electronic timing of as many as nine runners at once--accurate to 1/100 of a second--and simultaneously flashes the running time via illuminated spectator boards at the finish lines. The spectator board, incorporating solid state electronics, is an innovation of American Sign and Indicator Company, Spokane, Washington.

According to Ed Stanley, president of Data-Time Sales, the system "is in keeping with the excellence of the Bruin Stadium, one of the finest meet facilities in the country. I almost said Bush Stadium, because Jim Bush of the Bruins is one of the world's great track coaches."

Stanley stressed that the Data-Time system "assists in administering the meet by providing more accurate data--more quickly and reliably than ever before possible. This permits races to be completed with much less delay and confusion."

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"The disputes, challenges and conflicts that often mar these contests are noticeably absent", he added, "when Data-Time systems are used."

The system at Bruin Stadium will include twelve electronic timers, each with separate digital read-outs to 1/100th of a second, plus the American Sign & Indicator spectator boards which instantaneously display the same official time being generated on the Data-Time panel.

For the first time in track meet history spectators and TV viewers will be able to see simultaneously the runners cross the finish line and the boards flashing the official time.

The A S & I spectator board adds excitement to meets because it gives graphic proof of record breaking performances while they are happening.

Of the twelve electronic timers, three will be allocated to timing first place and one will be assigned to each of the nine lanes. All of the electronic clocks will be started by the median reaction time of the three first-place timing judges as they push their stop watches. The official first place time will similarly be the median time of the three first place finish judges. The A S & I scoreboard will flash running times as the race progresses and will stop on the official first place time. The Data-Time panel will show instantaneous timing on first through ninth place. After the race the A S & I scoreboard can flash the lane numbers and times in the order of finish.

In addition, Data-Time will use a video attachment at the finish line as a supplemental aid for judges who are determining the order in which runners finish. The video unit records the last 20 seconds of a race at 60 frames per second. Track officials will then be able to run the tape at any desired slow-motion speed and see the results on a monitor screen. One advantage of this

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system is that it eliminates ties because the runners' times (in hundredths of a second) will be shown on the video tape of the A S & I board as they cross the finish line.

The Data-Time system in use at Bruin Stadium will make use of stop watches in the starting and finishing of the race but will eliminate the inconsistency error due to variations in human reaction time. Studies have shown that the reaction time of a watch-holder can vary from one to three-tenths of a second delay in starting--which means, in effect, the runner gets a head start. Over a two-mile run, this error won't make a lot of difference, but in the dashes, a sprinter can travel 12 feet in three-tenths of a second.

Stanley says that "when coaches are willing to accept somewhat slower times for more accurate time, the starting gun will be used to activate the timers and eliminate the possibility of error due to human reaction time. The Data-Time System now does this for swimming."

The Data-Time System will next be used at the NAIA Outdoor Championship meet in June in Billings, Montana.

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