



**San Diego State**

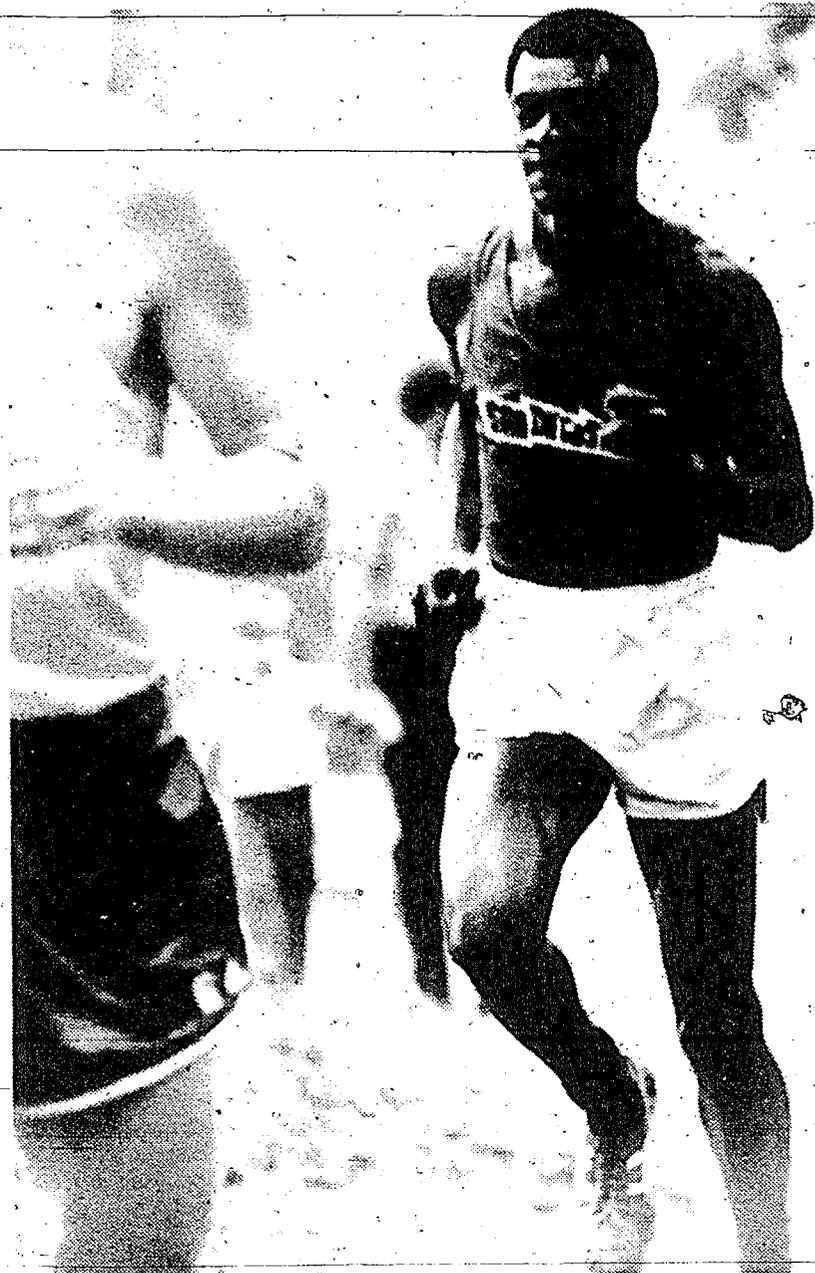
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# Martin takes crown; 49ers win team title

Otis Martin won the individual title, but couldn't get the support as the Aztec cross country finished second to Cal State Long Beach in Saturday's PCAA cross country championship meet at San Jose.

Martin won the meet in a new course record of 29:36, finishing two seconds ahead of second place Mike Woods of CSLB. Woods lead CSLB to a 30-38 win as the 49ers repeated as PCAA champions.

Host team San Jose State was third with 80 points followed by Cal State Los Angeles 126, Fresno State 133, UC Santa Barbara 135, and UOP no score.

The difference in the meet was Long Beach's ability to get five runners in the top ten, while the Aztecs were only able to get three.

For Long Beach, Wood was second, Bob Macias was third, Mike Wagenbach was sixth, Ron Pryor was ninth, and Mike Ritchie was tenth.

The Aztecs had John Jacobson was fourth in 29:54, and freshman Tom Wheeler was eighth in 30:26. However, illness hit the team as Roger Friend and Tom Davidson came down with colds that undoubtedly affected their performances.

Friend finished 17th while Davidson was 14th with other Aztec runners Bill Inglehart finished 11th and Dave Matheny finished 15th.

"Our first three runners ran real well," said coach Tony Sucec, "but we weren't healthy and our couldn't get the depth we had been counting on."

The depth of the Aztecs is what had carried them all season long, and when it failed, so did the Aztec chances for a title.

The two surprising performances of the meet were turned in by Wood and Wheeler. Wood had been runner fifth man all season long and then came Saturday's meet, and the Englishman running for the 49ers places second in the meet.

Likewise for Wheeler, who had been fifth man for the Aztecs, and then Saturday's meet comes along and he places eighth in the race, and was the third top finisher for the Aztecs.

"It was real surprising how well both these boys ran," said Sucec. "For Long Beach, it was just what they needed to pull out the win."

The future of the cross country season is now in the hands of the Athletic Council. The NCAA meet is Nov. 28 at William and Mary University in Williamsburgh, Va., and it is up to the Athletic Council whether or not State will be represented.

The Council will vote Wednesday whether to allocate funds to send the team, because the meet is open to all schools not just conference champions.

If the council vetoes the money, the season will come to a halt. If they pass the funds, Sucec will have his team ready and willing, to try and bring home an NCAA championship.

**I THINK I CAN, I KNOW I CAN** — Otis Martin stomps right along. At the PCAA meet this last weekend he broke the course record at San Jose and won the individual title. *photo by Ron Haase*