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photo by Rick Maciel

AT THE TAPE is Aztec distance runner Mark Avrea, who anchored one of two relay winning events that SDSU captured Saturday in the 16th annual San Diego Relays. Avrea, Harold Williams, Odie Huffman and Allan Hazard breezed in the distance medley run. (Story on page 11)

Handful of Aztec cindermen grab medals in S.D. Relays

By Tracy Tucker

Quality, not quantity — that was the Aztecs' story at the San Diego Relays last Saturday.

In the 16th edition of the relays held at Choc Sportsman Track, the Aztec track team entered a total of four races, winning two of them, and taking second in another.

Having come off two meets in less than a week, many of the Aztecs were given a rest. The ones that did compete couldn't have performed much better than they did.

San Diego won the two mile relay and the distance medley, and placed second in the 440-yard intermediate hurdles.

The distance medley team composed of Harold Williams (220) Odie Huffman (880) Allan Hazard (1320), and Mike Avrea (mile), posted a winning time of 9:52.7, a seasonal high and an easy victory. In fact, almost too easy, according to the anchor-man Avrea.

"I wish we would have had some competition," said Avrea, who ran the mile leg of the race. "It was really hard for me to push myself. The whole race was like we were running by ourselves."

The two-mile relay team of Steve Wulf, Brian Donahue, Earl Robinson and Huffman had little trouble with their race either, coasting in with a time of 7:36, a good half-lap ahead of second place University of Nevada Las Vegas. Robinson and Huffman had times of 1:54 each, with Wulf a half

second above and Donahue a half second below the aforementioned time.

Had it not been for a slightly confused hand-off between Robinson and Donahue, the time might have been even faster.

"Earl got a little anxious trying to get the baton," said Donahue. "I thought he had it, but it started slipping off and down my arm."

In the 440 hurdles, Quentin Wheeler posted a season high of 51.6, to finish first in his heat, and second overall. However, like the distance medley team, Wheeler was slowed down by his competition.

"I could have run faster if I was in the faster heat," said Wheeler. "They (runners in his heat) were all slow."

Besides Wheeler, Mark Ables and Dave Hoover were also impressive in the 440 hurdles, both being clocked at 53.4, good for fourth place overall.

In addition to the running events, the field also saw some action, and did not go totally unrewarded. Ron Hill placed fifth in the high jump with a 6-2 jump, and Steve Parisen and Mark Stevens place fourth and fifth in the shot put, Parisen tossing 52-1½, and Stevens putting 52-1¼.