

Title holder. Nasser follows through on his swing as he watches the ball. Nasser won the 95th Annual California State Amateur Championship in Pebble Beach, Calif. Saturday. He is the first Trojan to win since Nick Jones in 2000.

Nasser takes amateur title

USC golfer clubs other players at the 95th Annual California Amateur Championships.

By ASHLEY ZELDIN
Sports Editor

USC senior Jordan Nasser, 22, defeated players twice his age on the way to winning the 95th Annual California State Amateur Championship Saturday at Pebble Beach Golf Links in Pebble Beach, Calif. This championship is Nasser's first since his days on the junior circuit in 2002, and the first title by a Trojan since Nick Jones in 2000.

Anaheim Hills-native Nasser upset Jeff Gilchrist, 34, of Carmichael, 3 and 2, clinching the match on the 16th hole of the second round of their 36-hole match-play face-off. Nasser was 4-up on Gilchrist after the first round and extended his lead to 5-up on the first hole of the second round and kept dominating through five holes before Gilchrist whittled Nasser's lead to two.

Both Nasser and Gilchrist posted pars for the 401-yard par-4 16th, but Nasser had gone 3-up on Gilchrist again after scoring par on the 15th while Gilchrist three-putt from 25 feet away for a bogey. Gilchrist came close on the 393-yard par-4 13th as Nasser horseshoed a putt from four feet above for a three-putt bogey of his own.

Nasser got a lucky break on the 201-yard par-3 12th to go 3-up again, when he hit his drive in the deep rough 30 yards to the left of the green but hit a long pitch to come within two feet of the hole. Gilchrist meanwhile hit his tee-shot short of the green into a bunker, and his explosion shot stayed in the bunker. Gilchrist remained within striking distance through the 373-yard par-4 11th, but both he and Nasser

missed easy birdie putts to remain two strokes apart.

Gilchrist also took advantage of hard breaks for Nasser on the last two holes of the front nine. While Gilchrist settled for pars, Nasser hit his approaches into a greenside bunker on the eighth and off the cart path into the rough to the left of the green on the ninth.

Gilchrist started to edge up on Nasser with a birdie on the 500-yard par-5 sixth after remaining five strokes behind Nasser through the first five holes of the second round.

Despite what seemed like a disastrous start to the second round for Nasser, who hit his tee shot under a tree, hit a tree with his second shot, and overshot his approach into the back fringe behind the green, he prevailed over Gilchrist on the first hole, sinking a 39-foot downhill putt with a 15-foot break to hold onto par. Gilchrist, who had been down by four strokes to end the first round, fell back further when he missed a three-foot putt for par on the troublesome 376-yard par-4.

A strong finish over the back nine of the first round foreshadowed Nasser's win. He built a 4-up lead with a par over the 543-yard par-5 18th, after upping a 2-shot lead to 3 strokes with pars on the 14th and 15th while Gilchrist bogeyed both. Until the 201-yard par-3 12th hole, on which a two-stroke birdie put Nasser 2-up for the first time until his bogey on the 353-yard par-4 13th, Nasser and Gilchrist stayed within just one shot and were even over four holes.

Gilchrist's only lead came when he took a four-shot birdie on the sixth whereas Nasser bogeyed, before he bogeyed the ninth to set himself even with Nasser, who took a par on the 462-yard par-4 ninth to Gilchrist's bogey to put him ahead for good.

Powell earns first U.S. title in hurdles

Incoming USC freshman Shana Woods won the junior heptathlon with 5,533 points.

By JEFFREY DAVENPORT
Staff Writer

Virginia Powell, who culminated her career at USC with back-to-back NCAA championships in the 100-meter hurdles, appears to have not missed a beat as she shifts to the professional ranks.

At the USA Outdoor Track and Field Championships, which concluded Sunday at Michael A. Carroll Stadium in Indianapolis, she earned her first U.S. title after winning the 100-meter hurdles.

Powell's time of 12.63 seconds was just slightly faster than runner-up Damu Cherry's 12.64.

USC's Candice Davis advanced to the semifinals of the event, but did not run in the final after posting a 13.21.

Incoming freshman Shana Woods won the junior heptathlon with 5,533 points, becoming the first ever female high school competitor ever to score more than 5,000. Woods outscored the 2005 USA junior heptathlon champi-

on Shevell Quinley, who finished with 5,426 points.

Other Trojans competing at the championships included 2006 NCAA high jump champion Jesse Williams.

Williams, who set a school-record jump of 7 feet 7 1/4 inches at the NCAA Championships, finished seventh at the U.S. championships seven inches off at 7-0 1/4.

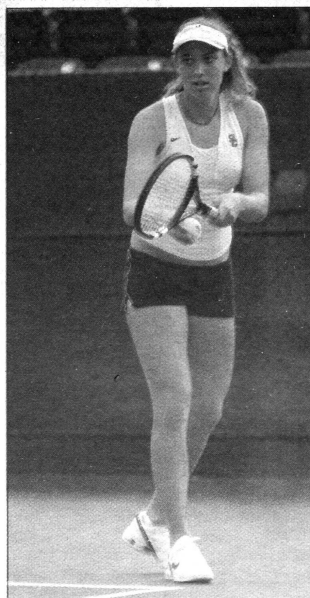
Duane Solomon placed seventh in the 800-meter finals with a time of 1:47.54 and Raphael Asafo-Agyei reached the semi-finals but did not advance, finishing 11th at 1:49.35.

In the semi-finals of the 400 meters, USC's Lionel Larry ran a personal best 45.40, but did not advance to the finals, coming in 11th as well.

Also competing on the track but not advancing was Garry Jones and Jessica Onyepuntuka (100-meter dash) and Kai Kelly (110-meter high hurdles).

On the field, Noah Bryant finished 19th in the men's shot with a throw of 61-5 3/4, while Karen Freberg took 10th in the women's shot at 54-0. Adam Midles finished 15th in the hammer (211-10).

Powell and former Trojan great | see **Track**, page 11 |



Getting ready. Amanda Fink, the ITA National Rookie of the Year and No. 4 American player, prepares to serve.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Fink, Nelson to get exposure to the USTA Pro Circuit

Fink was automatically accepted into the program and Nelson won the wild card.

ITA National Rookie of the Year Amanda Fink and NCAA singles runner-up Lindsey Nelson will represent the No. 3 USC women's tennis team on the USTA Summer Collegiate Team. The program was created to give top collegiate tennis players exposure to the USTA Pro Circuit during their summer off. This is the first appearance on the elite squad for Fink and Nelson.

The USTA Summer Collegiate Team fields six male and six female players who compete in USTA Pro Circuit events in July. The selections are determined by automatically taking the top four American men and women ranked in the Fila national singles rankings with two wild card spots filled by USTA Player Development staff selections.

Fink, the No. 4 American player, No. 8 in the nation overall, received an automatic bid, while national No. 9 Nelson received the wild card as a result of her stunning postseason performance, upsetting No. 1 Audra Cohen of Miami in the semifinals and falling in the championship match.

Freshman Fink and sophomore Nelson, who was a Honda Award finalist, will be coached by Bryan Shelton of Georgia Tech.

Former USC defensive lineman Frostee Rucker, who | see **Briefs**, page 15 |