

## Bryant wins NCAA shot put national championship

BY ANDRES NUÑO

andres@coastalview.com

USC senior Noah Bryant, class of 2002, has become the first Carpinteria High School graduate and first USC Trojan since 1962 to be king of the shot put ring. Bryant won the 2007 NCAA Indoor Track & Field Championships held at the University of Arkansas on March 10.

He shattered his Pac-10 championship mark of 64- $\frac{1}{2}$  with a personal best, and school record throw of 67- $\frac{5}{8}$ .

"I deserve it," said Bryant of his championship. "I put in hundreds of hours of hard work."

In high school he won the state shot put title as a Warrior—one of only four Warriors with that honor: Ralph Woods (1935), Tom Grewe (1982) and Coley Candaele (1990)—with a throw of 65-10  $\frac{1}{4}$  in 2002. He then set his final PR in his prep career with a throw of 67-6  $\frac{1}{2}$  at the Golden West Meet; it was the third best prep mark that year.

Coming from a small high school, Bryant said his hard work and coach's support was all he needed to get to a big track and field school like USC, which boasts 29 NCAA track and field championships.

Bryant's latest accomplishment comes just two years after he was seriously injured while competing in the hammer throw in 2005. He missed most of the season due to multiple fractures in his face and hand.

*See BRYANT continued on page 22*



KIRBY LEE/IMAGE OF SPORT

*Noah Bryant celebrates after his winning throw at the NCAA Indoor National Championships.*

## BRYANT

*continued from page 1*

Riding a high of momentum and being stronger than last year, Bryant now he could top his mark he had in the Pac-10s. "I'm stronger than last year, I lost 20 pounds and the combination helped a lot," said Bryant.

His senior season is far from over, as

the outdoor season, where he believes he can throw further, began in February and will run through June where he expects to be on the podium once again.

"It was good to finally be up there," said Bryant. "There is so much emotion involved and I'll be in my best shape."