



Wayne Lockwood

SAN JOSE — Brian Oldfield is on a campaign to convince the world he belongs in the Olympic Games.

Yesterday, he made his most important convert. He convinced Brian Oldfield.

It was no easy job, certainly. It never has been easy to convince Oldfield of anything, and now that he is approaching his 39th birthday (June 1), he has grown even more set in his ways, if that is possible.

"Show me," is Oldfield's motto. The flip side of that, of course, is "I'll show you."

On a sunny and windy afternoon in his adopted hometown, Oldfield did both during an eventful Bruce Jenner Michelob Light Classic.

He showed himself that, after two decades of competition, he remains among the leading shot putters in the world. And he did so despite a painful attack of hemorrhoids that forced him to abandon all training and just about everything else during the past 10 days.

What he showed everybody else is that he is still, well, Brian Oldfield, a man capable of things beyond the capacity of mere mortals to comprehend.

After two throws, Oldfield was laboring along behind the pack in what was to prove the highest-quality shot put competition ever.

"I knew it would take (a throw of) 70 feet to beat me," Brian recalled, "and I was in fourth or fifth place because they were *doing* it."

"They" were such competitors as John Brenner, Dave Laut and Michael Carter, each of whom proceeded to launch throws longer than 70 feet. No previous meet ever had seen more than two men surpass that distance.

OLDFIELD, WHOSE BEST throw in the meet at that point was 69-9½, took a deep breath and sent it chasing explosively after a throw that just kept going.

When the thing finally landed, it kicked up blue chalk, a sign that Oldfield was within range of a world record.

It was measured just short of that, but the throw of 72-9¾ resulted in an American record, an inch less than the world mark set by East Germany's Udo Beyer last year.

Even more importantly, from Oldfield's standpoint, it was enough to win this meet.

"A meter," Brian chortled. "I came up a meter on them (his competitors). A silly little meter."

Everyone enjoys winning, of course, but this is special. Oldfield is embarked upon a crusade to prove

