

Running: Pre's Trail & Beyond

The Hayward Field Master's Classic of the June 25, 1983 weekend was a thrilling and inspiring event. Men and women, ranging in ages from 30 years to well over 80, competed in a variety of track and field events going from the 100 yard dash to 10,000 meters and from shot putting to the javelin. Competitors came to Hayward field for the two-day event from all parts of the U.S. and Canada.

The Eugene/Springfield area masters were particularly prominent with new records (for masters) falling in a number of events. The inspiration and thrills involved the extreme fitness of the competitors in a universe populated by persons who are tremendously unfit. The inspiring part of the master's competition is centered around the fact that these men and women, from ages 30 to 90 years, so well demonstrate what physical fitness and wellness can do for the human body. The Oregon Masters group are certainly to be congratulated for their efforts in bringing about this additional competition which truly makes Eugene/Springfield the track and field capitol and running capitol of the U.S.

The Portland Oregonian is certainly to be congratulated for the extensive coverage of Portland's big race, The Cascade Runoff. The final publication of the names of all the competitors in the race was an all-time first for a newspaper in Oregon reporting a major public-type running event. The Eugene Register Guard, by the way, did an excellent job of reporting the Master's meet at Hayward Field. The newspaper's coverage included detailed results, listing winners in all competitions.

Another of our area's major runs is scheduled for July 19 at (or near) Cottage Grove. It is the annual Bohemia Mining Days Half Marathon (13.1 miles) and is thought by many to be one of The best and "most fun" runs of its kind in the state. Of interest to T-shirt collectors, the race also offers one of the most colorful T-shirts. The run started in 1977 with some 200 registered participants and has grown to over 1300 last year. The event is held in conjunction with Bohemia Days.

Other races around and about include:

The Hobbensiefken Run at Creswell on Sunday, July 24, under the sponsorship of the Creswell Seventh Day Adventist Church. Competition will include 1,000 meters for kids through 10, 3.1 miles (5,000 meters) and 6.2 miles (10,000 meters). The location of the competition will be at the Creswell Middle School, 655 West Oregon Ave., Creswell. As most people know, the town of Creswell is located 10 miles south of Eugene on Interstate 5, exit west to Oregon Ave. Awards will be made in eight age divisions including wheelchair and 60 and above.

The Scandia Run, set for August 13 at Junction City, is part of the annual Scandinavian Festival. The flat 10,000 meter course winds through picturesque farmlands surrounding Junction City. We'll have more details in the next several issues of What's Happening.

A running plus event, a Triathlon, will be held Sunday, July 10, starting at 8 am at Cottage Grove Reservoir. This is a 1.5K swim event, a 35K bike duel and a 10K road race. The event is called the Oregon Triathlon and the multiple sponsors say they will accept a total of 175 individual competitors as well as a total of 25 team entries. Application blanks are available at the running stores in the Eugene/Springfield area. More information is available from the Willamalane Park and Recreation District offices in Springfield. The cost for individual entries is \$15 and \$45 for team entries. As the literature says, "Cottage Grove Reservoir, in the beautiful foothills of the Cascades, is the setting for the Oregon Triathlon."

—Jack Craig

(Jack Craig is available for running guidance, information and assistance by telephone 686-0812. He is now in his 7th year of daily running and contributes articles to running magazines.)



Skinner's Butte Open/ Horseshoes

Good ole days prevail "under the bridge" at the Skinners Butte Open. Under the Washington-Jefferson bridge at the north end of this multi-terrific park complex are 16 beautiful horseshoe courts. And on the weekend of July 16-17 this will be the scene of the aptly-named Skinner's Butte Open horseshoe tournament. Iron slingers from all over the state will converge on old Eugene's favorite hide-out.

If you haven't anything to do, bring a camera, a picnic basket, and Lord-a-mercy, it's free of charge—good old-fashioned horseshoe pitching contests and outdoor social.

Just to make it more interesting the local Emerald Horseshoe Pitchers are leading in the Oregon Horseshoe Pitchers League standings; they'll be trying, as a team of course, to maintain their rating against the other clubs in the state.

Just recently two Springfield "iron swingers," Larry Flanary and Bill Johnson, were added to the rolls of EHPA Oregon plaque winners. Both did it on the same day (Fathers Day) at Salem, Larry claiming D and Bill E Class in the big tourney there. P.S. That makes 22 plaque winners on the EHPA club. Along with the Northwest League's baseball Emeralds, "they're the hottest thing goin'."

Lowell Davis of Creswell, three-time state champion and an EHPA record holder in the Skinner's Butte Open, will be matching his talents against two-time defending champ Ben Wiedrich of Oregon City—and these two, folks, average 70 to 80% ringers much of the time! don't take my word for it, see you under the bridge, both days.

Tournament pitching starts at 9:30 am both days, check-in at 9 am. 42% and over pitch Saturday; below 42% pitch Sunday. Registration deadline is July 14. Send \$6 entry fee to Jerry Gorton, 85111 Kensington Dr., Pleasant Hill, OR 97455.

—Lloyd Kilgore



Photo by Rob Fisher

Paul Spangler finishes the Mile in The Northwest Open Senior Sports Festival held last week. Spangler, who is 84 years old, was raised in Eugene and is now living in San Luis Obispo, California. In this photo he is establishing the newest of his 44 world records in his age group. Fifteen minutes after finishing his mile race, Spangler again established a new age record for the 10K. Age classifications for the ten sports began with 50-54 age group, with Collier Wheeler (90 years old) from Portland being the most senior of the seniors, participating in five track and field events.



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