

# Annual Hayward Relays Begin Today

## William Hayward Coached 44 Years

By Phil Johnson

"Greatest guy I ever knew." That's Oregon Track Coach Bill Bowerman's description of the famed Colonel William Hayward, whose memory will be honored once again this afternoon when hundreds of high school athletes compete in the annual Hayward Relays.

Hayward directed Oregon's cinder stars for 44 years, gaining international recognition for himself and for the University.

During his interesting and eventful career, he guided his great athletes to 14 National A.A.U. individual championships. Hayward's performers set five new world records, including one (Les Steers, high jump) which has never been broken.

He developed such men as Ralph Spearow, who captured Pacific Coast Conference championships in three separate jumping events, and George Rasmussen, who not only was one of Oregon's great pole vaulters but also seized the Northern Division crown in the 1948 high jump.

### A Gentleman

However, Hayward's fame did not rest solely upon the success of his athletes. He also was known as a gentleman. His teams never attempted to take unfair advantage of their opponents. Hayward's competitors remained within the spirit of the rules as well as the letter of the rules.

Unfortunately, Hayward did not live to see all of the results achieved by his industrious efforts. Rasmussen vaulted to the Pacific Coast Conference title almost two years after Hayward died. Another Hayward pupil, Bill Bowerman, attained his greatest cinder success only last spring when he directed the Ducks to their third team championship in Northern Division track and field history. His Ducks scored Oregon's highest score in history for a Northern Division title meet.

Bowerman, a quarter-miler on Hayward's 1934 Webfoot squad, also was sports editor of the Emerald. Having a strong admiration for old Colonel Bill, he frequently mentioned the Duck Track mentor in his daily column, "Joe Cinders."

Bowerman sometimes wrote about Duck Shortstop Joe Gordon ("He's a ball player") or described how one Kit Carson Shoemaker, present holder of the Northern Division 100-yard dash record, suddenly spurted ahead to win a relay race for Oregon (it subsequently developed that he was stung by a bee), but more often than not, Bowerman would devote the bulk of his column to the Colonel.

Bowerman told how he became a quarter-miler on the day when he first turned out for one of Colonel Bill's track squads:

"I wandered out on Hayward Field and the old Colonel says, 'What can you do, Bowerman, throw a javelin?' I remarked that I can't even throw a baseball, whereat the Colonel intimated that I was a quarter-miler."

Bowerman became a quarter-miler. Later, he switched to the half-mile (880).

### A Tough Opponent

Bowerman frequently wrote about the extreme difficulty one encounters when attempting to beat Colonel Bill in any kind of a contest ranging from track meets to sliding-seat scull races.

For example, there was the occasion when the powerful Washington Huskies expected to take an easy dual meet victory over Hayward's Ducks.

Joe Cinders wrote:

"So! Mr. Hec Edmundson will bring his University of Washington track team to Eugene fresh from a tremendous and overwhelming victory over O. S. C. with the idea in mind of humbling Bill Hayward. And on Junior Weekend, too."

"That may be well and good. Mr. Edmundson expected to beat Oregon last year when they had a veteran team. Perhaps he should feel a bit more confident now that many of those veterans are gone, and that he still has many of the veterans who ran for Washington last year."

"On thing that Mr. Edmundson seems to overlook. Mr. Bill Hayward is a very difficult person to humble. Witness the many tight places he has squeezed through. Yea, witness the six games of golf that the writer has played him. In the first one the writer shot a 55 for nine holes and the Colonel rang up a 54 to win by one stroke. In the other five matches it was the same story. The writer shot everything from a 40 to a 49, and that old XXX won by one stroke in every match."

"Yes, Mr. Edmundson, on paper Colonel Hayward has a green team. He also has two Northwest champions in Bob Wagner and Gardiner Frye, and he also has that very capable find and the ability to give that certain something to the men who work for him."

Incidentally, Hayward squeezed through another tight place as his squad upset Mr. Edmundson and his Huskies 67-64.

### Bowerman for the Defense

In his final column, Bowerman found space to defend Hayward against attacks launched against him some 12 months previously.

Bowerman wrote:

"I have long wished for the opportunity to put last year's editor of the Barometer straight on a little matter concerning how Colonel Hayward coaches his men in the unsportsmanlike tricks in their running. After the Oregon State meet last year there were a few burning lines that ran the Colonel into the ground because two of the Oregon State runners had the misfortune to jump the gun in the hundred yard dash."

"Asperations were cast to the effect that Hayward had set men in the race to lead the Beaver men away from the block. No! that is not so. The Colonel is a very foxy man, I will grant you that, but he will never resort to foul trickery to win a race, in fact Colonel Hayward before a meet will tell his men not to willfully put the opponent at the disadvantage. In his own words yesterday afternoon, the Colonel said, 'Boys, if any of you are planning to box the Oregon State men, forget it, that is poor sportsmanship.'"

Bowerman later coached at Medford High School, where he compiled the greatest Oregon prep track-coaching record in the history of the state. Taking his teams to the Hayward Relays eight times, Bowerman pocketed seven championships.

Hayward did not confine his talents to track alone. He was proficient at rowing, lacrosse, wrestling, boxing, and ice hockey. He once played in the world championship lacrosse finals for the Ottawa Capitals.

During his long career, he acquired many friends, including such well-known personalities as Gentleman Jim Corbett, Zane Grey, Ty Cobb, Hugo Bezdek, Doc Spears, Howard Jones, Amos Alonzo Stagg, Gil Dobie, Andy Smith, Jack Dempsey, and others.

He once journeyed across the country with Jim Corbett's vaudeville show. Hayward's task was an Indian club-swinging routine. According to Corbett, he was an outstanding clubswinger and "could make those clubs whistle."

### Albany Wins Meet, Loses Coach

The University hired Hayward after his underrated Albany College track team upset both Oregon and Oregon State during the same season.

Hayward arrived on April 18, 1904. His arrival was described 29 years later by an Emerald editor:

"This institution was in its infancy when a swarthy young fellow in a turtle-necked sweater

piled off a musty day-coach and loped up Willamette Street to apply for a position in the University of Oregon athletic department."

The "Swarthy young fellow" was Bill Hayward. The Emerald editor was Richard Neuberger, now considered by many to be the outstanding member of the Democratic Party in the state of Oregon. Incidentally, Neuberger, during his earlier months as sports editor, also found himself in occasional disagreement with the Oregon State Barometer.

Hayward became mortally ill during the winter of 1947. Hundreds of friends and sports fans from all parts of the nation sent letters of comfort and cheer.

He died in December. The last sounds to reach his ears were the beautiful songs of the Wesley House choir. Then the world lost a great gentleman.

"Greatest Guy I Ever Knew"

The Great Gray kangaroo jumps 30 feet and the gazelle can do 40. Man's broad jump record is 26 feet, 8 1/4 inches. However, the little jerboa, five inches in height, can leap 15 feet. A comparable jump for man would be 40 yards.

In 1950, 1,799,800 Americans were injured in traffic accidents.

**HEILIG** Dial 4-9311

"Stage to Tuscon"  
Rod Cameron  
Wayne Morris  
"Last of the Buccaneers"  
Paul Henried  
Jack Oakie

**MAYFLOWER** Dial 5-1022

Judy Holliday  
"Born Yesterday"

**LANE** Dial 4-0431

"Young David Boone"  
with David Bruce and  
Kristine Miller  
"Hoedown"  
with Eddie Arnold and  
Jeff Donnell

**McKENZIE** Dial 7-2201

"Great Missouri Raid"  
with MacDonald Carey  
also  
"Steel Helmet"  
with Gene Evans, Steve Brodie

**VARSITY** Dial 7-3407

Lon Chaney, Jean Parker  
"Dead Man's Eyes"  
also  
"Nightmare"  
with  
Diana Barrymore, Brian Donlevy

**CASCADE**  
Drive In Theatre  
"Winchester 73"

with  
James Stewart, Shelly Winters  
also  
"Peggy"  
with  
Diana Lynn, Charles Coburn

*Flowers*  
ALL KINDS



*Eugene's Flower Home*  
13 N. S. PATTERSON ST. EUGENE, OREGON

The **Up Front** funniest book to come out of the war

Bill Mauldin's **Up Front** now a hilarious motion picture



"WILLIE and JOE" ... those laughable, lovable G-I's who declared war on the Enemy, the Army and each other!

Starring **DAVID WAYNE** as "Joe" and **TOM EWELL** as "Willie"



with **MARINA BERTI • JEFFREY LYNN • RICHARD EGAN**

Screenplay by Stanley Roberts • Produced by Leonard Goldstein • Directed by Alexander Hall • A Universal-International Picture

**HEILIG** Dial 4-9311

**STARTS SUNDAY**