

Spikers In Action At Fresno Today

By the time the chimes toll midnight tonight, a quartet of University of Oregon runners may be the new holders of the world record in the four mile relay.

And even if the world standard eludes them, and it may be just a bit out of their reach, they're still almost certain to crack the American and collegiate marks. All this is scheduled to happen tonight during the 35th Annual West Coast Relays at Fresno, California.

THE DUCKS are the heaviest favorite in any event on the entire program, although they face Oregon State, which last week chased Western Michigan to a new collegiate record, and a foreign-staffed Houston squad. The crack Texas team is made up of three Australians and a Pole.

Vic Reeve, a converted two-miler, will team up with Dyrrol Bursleson, Keith Forman and George Larson, the nation's three fastest college milers, when the Ducks try to set another world record on the lightning-fast clay track at Ratcliffe Stadium.

THROUGH THE long history of the Relays, 31 world records have been set or tied. And combining the best times of the four Duck milers, Oregon would break the world mark set by a Hungarian National team in 1959 by nearly three seconds.

The spotlight at Fresno will not shine on Oregon's four mile relay team alone tonight. The West Coast Relays, biggest track and field carnival in the country, annually attracts the world's best athletes. This year is no exception.

THE 17,000 or so fans who will crowd into Ratcliffe Stadium will be holding their breath during the 100 yard dash, hoping to see the world record tumble at long last.

Dennis Johnson, speedy San Jose State sophomore, has been the biggest news in track circles this season. He's tied the record of 9.3 four times and run one wind-aided 9.2 already this spring.

Will Johnson crack under the

pressure of the great crowd and equally great field of competition? Or will he be inspired just enough to run an official 9.2 century?

AMONG THOSE that Johnson must outprint if he is to win are several other co-holders of world sprint marks. Oregon sophomore Harry Jerome has been clocked in 10 flat in the 100 meters, a world record, and has run several 9.4's in the 100 yard race.

And Roscoe Cook, who last weekend showed signs of a return to his old form, has equaled Johnson's time of 9.3, although doing so in 1959. Cook, however, usually runs best in hot weather, and the odds are fairly good that he'll like Fresno's San Joaquin Valley temperatures.

COOK AND Jerome will team up with Mike Gaechter and Jim Puckett, hoping for an upset victory in the 440 relay. Puckett has run the 100 in 9.5 and Gaechter in 9.6, but Oregon still must play the underdog role. Although any of the three could win, Abilene Christian and San Jose will be the co-favorites.

It will probably be a two way duel for first place in the distance medley relay between Oregon and Abilene Christian, but don't get any ideas about who's going to win the meet. It won't be Oregon at all.

Nobody in Oregon needs be reminded of the powerful University of Southern California Trojans. USC has made a habit of defeating everyone they've met for the last decade, and they've got 13 straight West Coast Relays titles to their credit. 1961 will probably be the fourteenth.

SEVERAL other Webfoots are entered in individual events, including agile hurdler Jerry Tarr. He'll be matching strides with USC's three swift stickmen, Brian Polkinghorne, Rex Cawley and Bob Pierce, plus a handful of the nation's other top hurdlers.

Other Oregon entrants will be Dave Steen in the shot put and Jerry Stubblefield in the discus. While both will be badly outdistanced by the winners in both events, they've got a good chance to place or show!

Flaming Mishap Kills Driver Bettenhausen

A missing bolt, a touch on the brakes, a fiery crash.

THIS IS HOW veteran speedway driver Tony Bettenhausen was killed at Indianapolis Friday.

The happy-go-lucky Tony normally wouldn't even have been on the track. But he was doing a favor for a friend. Paul Russo had asked Tony to test his car.

TONY, A veteran driver of 14 years at the speedway, had swung Russo's car into the home straightaway.

It was less than 24 hours before qualifications were to begin for the Memorial Day 500-mile race at Indianapolis. Tony was a favorite to win the pole position in today's qualifications.

SUDDENLY, Russo's car veered.

ed. It headed towards the inside wall at full speed. It climbed the wall upside down, tore through an eight-foot high wire fence, then burst into flames on impact.

Bettenhausen was killed instantly.

HE WAS THE fourth participant in the 1960 Indianapolis classic to meet death in the past year.

Others were Johnny Thomson, Al Herman, and 1957 500-winner Jimmy Bryan. The last driver to die during the Indianapolis race was Pat O'Conner in 1957.

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