

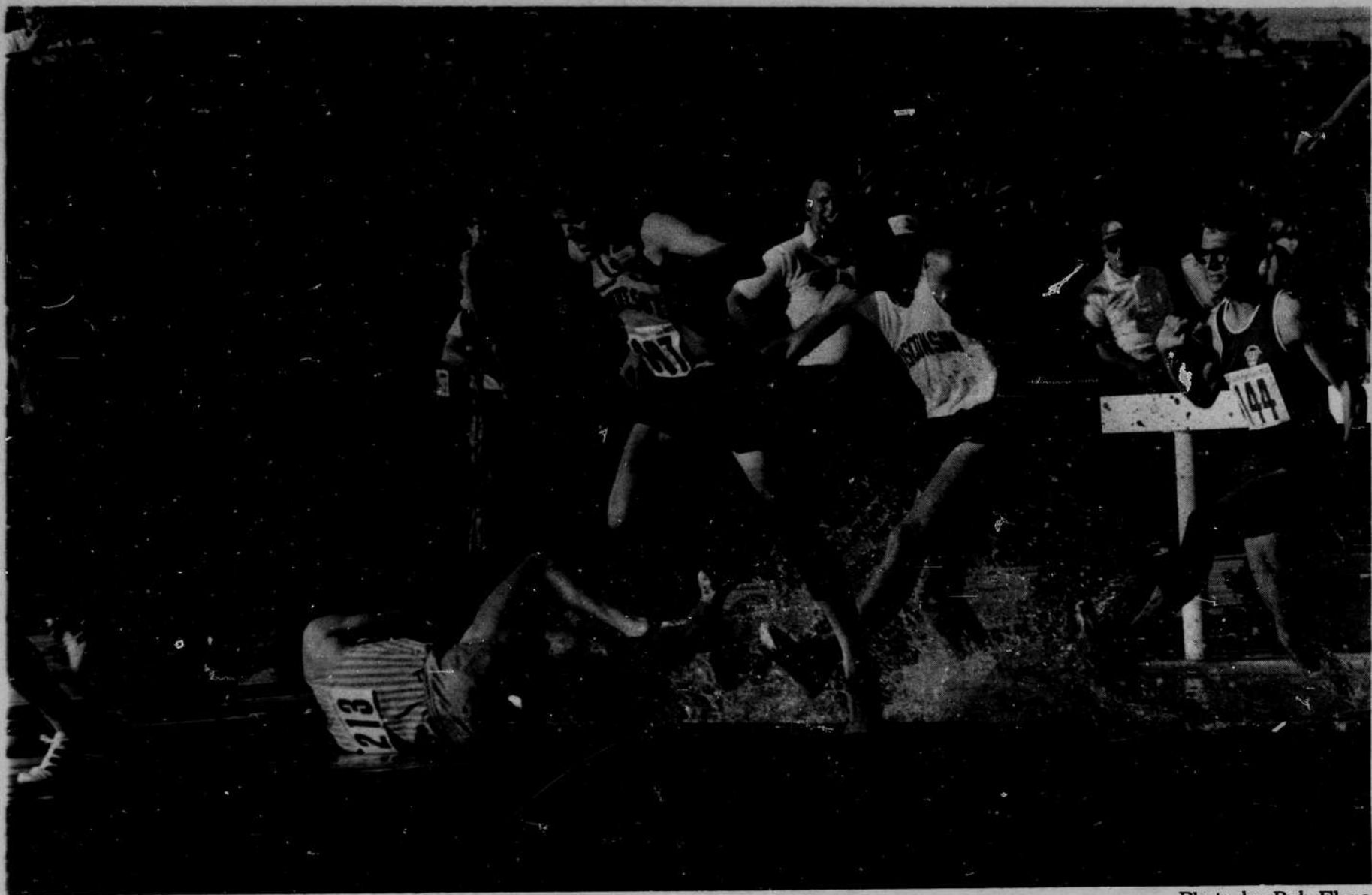


Photo by Bob Flora

Thus it begins

The Olympic banner only unfurled over Hayward Field yesterday.

But already the U.S. track team to be entered in this summer's Munich Games has begun to take shape.

After only one heat of the first event—the 800 meters—7500 persons attending the opening day of Eugene's Olympic Trials knew that Jim Ryun would be putting up quite a fight for a double-berth in Germany, but that Mark Winzenried wouldn't even be making the trip.

And before the day was over, two other events—the 3000 meter steeplechase and the 10,000 meter run—had begun the process of narrowing down all of the potential representatives of Uncle Sam in each event to three men.

Besides Ryun, shown at right in the heat he won in 1:48.7, other notable runners advancing to the 800 semifinals today included Dave Wottle, Tom Von Ruden, Rick Brown, Ken Swenson and Juris Luzins.

Besides Winzenried (number 275 at right) NCAA champion Willie Thomas, veteran Art Sandison and young Oregon hopeful Steve Bence were eliminated from competition. (See story page 11 for details.)

In the steeplechase, favorites Steve Savage, Mike Manley, Sid Sink, Joe Lucas, Bob Price and unknown quantity James Dare were among those surviving the cut-off for finals Sunday at 7 p.m.

But the going was somewhat rough.

Mike Manley had to recover from a first lap spill (above) to win his heat in 8:34.8.

And his fall was only one of several that took place during the two steeplechase heats. Washington's Bill Koss also went down in the water pit—while he was leading the race after three laps—lost his left shoe and had to be helped away from the track. (See story page 14 for details.)

The heats of the 10,000 meter marked the first time heats had been necessary in the Trials for this event since at least 1916. When they had finished, Frank Shorter and Jack Bacheler had emerged as the forces to reckon with. (See story page 15 for details.)

The 10,000 meter also told a little about the character of a race that won't even be run until next week—the 5000 meters. By not showing up for the 10,000, veteran distance runner George Young started a great deal of speculation that he was waiting a week to meet Oregon's Steve Prefontaine at the shorter distance.

Today, the elimination process will spread into four more events: the 400 meter intermediate hurdles (see stories pages 4 and 7), the discus (see stories pages 8 and 9), the triple jump (see story page 12) and the 100 meter run (see story page 11). Complete lane assignments and heat entries for these events appear on pages 2 and 6.

The elimination in the 800 will continue into semifinals. Lane assignments for that event are printed on page 14.



Photo by Sam Mikulin
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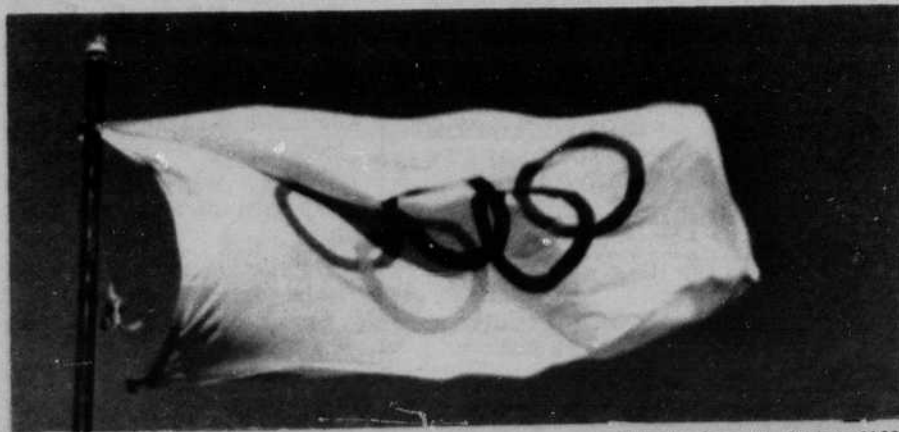


Photo by Al Shirtcliff