

World's only 70-footers battle in shot

The only three men in the world ever to put the shot more than 70-feet will lead a field of nineteen competitors into competition for the United States' three shot put berths in the Olympics this afternoon.

World record holder Randy Matson (71-5 1/2; best this year 69-6 3/4), Al Feuerbach (70-3 1/2) and George Woods (70-1 3/4) have to be the favorites in the competition for the three team spots simply on the basis of their 70-foot performances.

But should any other man be able to crack the 70-foot barrier—and several may be ready to do just that—then the three favorites might be hard-pressed to pick up their passage to Munich.

Among these more than willing to provide a challenge are Fred DeBernardi (68-7 3/4), Brian Oldfield (67-4), Doug Lane (66-11 3/4) and Oregon's Pete Schmock (66-5).

Each of these four has the potential to join the elite 70-foot club any time he flings the 16-pound iron ball.

Schmock has shown that potential by improving his own personal best more than three feet this year. By the end of the season, he does not seem too have peaked; he thinks he's still improving.

And then there's Lane, who improved his personal record almost three feet in one day—the Pacific Eight Championships at the end of the dual meet season. Although unable to keep his momentum going in the NCAA, Lane would like to keep seeing that rapid improvement. He—like Schmock—will be trying to do so with 70-foot puts this week (finals in the event are Saturday at 6:30 p.m.).

But not until others live up to their potential, the three current kings will ride herd over the field.

Defending Olympic champion Matson (who says he lost some of his competitive urge after taking home the gold from Mexico City) will be hard pressed by the other two just to remain at the top of the current group—not counting the competition from the insurgents.

Matson's best this year is nine-inches shorter than Feuerbach's U.S. best for the year and seven-inches behind Woods' season high. The 1968 gold medal winner comes into this meet only the third best U.S. shot putter for the year.

And if he doesn't have all of his competitive edge back, he could be in trouble.

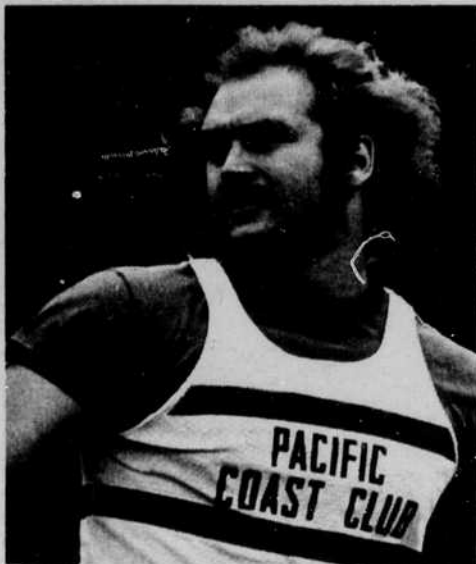
The biggest trouble could come from Feuer-

bach, who has consistently been at the top of America's—and the world's—putters all year. Big Al seems to have the competitive edge Matson may be missing, since he hasn't tasted Olympic victory. And he'll be going all out to beat Matson here.

But while those two are combatting for the king-of-the-hill title, don't be too surprised if Woods takes a crack at sneaking past them to the number one spot on the U.S. squad. The most recent of the 70-footers, Woods should be going all out to improve from second to first ranking in the world.

No matter who emerges as the U.S. three Munich entries, they should be among the favorites in Germany (especially if they go over 70-feet to win in Eugene). Currently, world rankings show Feuerbach first, Woods second, Matson fifth, DeBernardi eighth, Oldfield ninth, Lane twelfth and Schmock fifteenth in the world.

The only thing standing between this stellar group of putters and a medal sweep in Munich is a



Al Feuerbach

group of three East German putters (all over 69-feet this year).

Currently, Feuerbach, Matson and Woods are given the edge in Munich.

But that could all change here. Any one of them could fall victim to one of the eager, hungry pack of good putters on the verge of the 70-foot barrier.

If that happens, you can bet whichever man breaks into the top three will also have to break into the top three in the world to pick up his plane ticket.

If it doesn't happen, you can bet that the current big three will be going all out to prove themselves in Munich as the world's premier putters.

Official entries

2 p.m., Shot put

Top 12 (or any over 62-4)
qualify for FINALS

FLIGHT 1			
1	(281)	DOUGLAS LANE	66' 11 1/4"
2	(270)	ALLAN FEUERBACH	70' 3 1/2"
3	(455)	RICHARD MARKS	65' 3/4"
4	(199)	BRUCE WILHELM	65' 0"
FLIGHT 2			
1	(474)	FRED DEBERNARDI	68' 7 3/4"
2	(187)	SAM WALKER	65' 6"
3	(346)	GREGORY BORN	60' 9"
4	(125)	COLIN ANDERSON	62' 1 3/4"
FLIGHT 3			
1	(99)	RICHARD BILDER	60' 7"
2	(482)	BRIAN OLDFIELD	67' 4"
3	(52)	JESSE STUART	65' 9 3/4"
4	(393)	STEVE WILHELM	65' 7 3/4"
FLIGHT 4			
1	(100)	GEORGE TYMS	60' 3"
2	(577)	DAVE DAVIS	60' 7"
3	(120)	GEORGE WOODS	70' 1 3/4"
4	(230)	PETER SHMOCK	66' 5"
FLIGHT 5			
1	(168)	RANDY MATSON	69' 6 1/2"
2	(400)	KARL SALB	65' 7 1/2"
3	(73)	STEVE ADAMS	61' 0"

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