



Photo by Nick Lacy

OREGON'S GREATEST COACH



HEIR BILL DELLINGER

'Spring Break Meet'

Pre sets record in 27:09.4 six-mile

Steve Prefontaine's latest American record came under somewhat trying circumstances at Bakersfield last weekend. The Oregon track team had to bus to the training meet from Eugene and the exhausting 20-hour trip was the major topic of conversation.

Pre took on the six mile and produced a 27:09.4 — fourth fastest of all time and 13 seconds better than his previous lifetime best.

He did it without anybody offering competition and with blistered feet the last two miles. The 22-year-old senior started off with a 4:36.8 mile and lowered each successive mile from there.

IT WAS ENOUGH to give Pre the outstanding performer award and afterwards he was off to Los Angeles to catch the pro meet at the Forum.

"Nothing he does surprises me anymore," said newly-named Head Coach Bill Dellinger after the latest Prefontaine record.

Also not exactly a surprise is Pre's interest in the Pro Track circuit. He's interested, but right now the money doesn't look that good. "It will take more than \$25,000 to buy my amateurism," he said after his Bakersfield performance.

WHILE PRE GOT a transistor for his American record, Duck weightman Mac Wilkins was named outstanding field athlete of the meet after coming up with three lifetime bests.

Wilkins came up with the greatest day of his life. He threw the discus, his specialty, an astounding 202-3, heaved the shot 59-10½, and pushed the hammer 176-10. It was good for first place in every event, and the discus throw is the longest by any American this year.

SPRINTER AL HEARVEY took both sprints in 9.6 and 21.3 and on the track Oregon runners won eight of 13 events.

Bowerman 'retires' after 24-year reign

Bill Bowerman called an end last Friday to the greatest coaching record in the history of Oregon athletics with his decision to step down as head track and field coach in order to "put all of his energies into the current fund raising campaign in progress for the restoration of the west grandstand at Hayward Field."

With Bowerman announcing his intentions of devoting full time to getting Hayward Field rebuilt, the head coaching responsibility of Oregon's highly successful track program has been turned over to Associate Coach Bill Dellinger, who has been Bowerman's assistant for the past five years.

"We have a major stadium project facing us and the Hayward Field project is of such importance that it is going to take the full time of one man in the athletic department to achieve the objectives that we need," Bowerman explained.

"Of course another major area of importance is replacing the old west grandstand itself. Without covered stands, we could no longer host such events as the Olympic trials, NCAA championships and even our own conference championship," Bowerman added.

"Our first deadline is April 15 on the Hayward Field restoration drive and June 1 is our final deadline and I will know then if my decision in applying myself to spend full time on this project was a good one," Bowerman concluded. "My last and best contribution I can give the University of Oregon is to put all of my energies into getting a facility for the athletes, students and community that is a major first class facility," said a very sincere Bowerman.

"The richest experience a man could possibly have," Bowerman said while reflecting on his coaching career at Oregon. "It was an honor to follow the tradition started by Bill Hayward and to have the cooperation of the athletes and the great encouragement from the athletic department and the administration and organizations such as the Oregon Track Club and the Oregon Club."

While the 62-year-old Bowerman, who also doubles as assistant athletic director, has announced his "retirement" as the Ducks' active head track coach, he certainly hasn't left the team picture. "Any free time that I have will be put in as assistant to Bill Dellinger in any area he feels I can help and with the athletes that he feels that I can be most helpful with," said Bowerman.

Bowerman's decision to turn the head coaching post over to his able right hand, Bill Dellinger, ends a magnificent era at Oregon. In 24 years as head track coach, Bowerman has had numerous accolades and many honors. His 24-year dual meet record now stands 114-20, a percentage of .843.

Under Bowerman the Ducks have won four NCAA track and field championships and one NCAA cross country title. His coaching career received the highest tribute he could possibly attain when he was named head coach of the 1972 U.S. Olympic track and field team.

Bowerman has produced 24 NCAA individual champions, 38 conference champions, 28 Olympians and has coached 51 All-Americans. In 15 of the last 20 years, Oregon has finished in the top 10 in NCAA competition and only two coaches in history, USC's Dean Cromwell (12) and Jess Mortensen (7), have produced more NCAA titles than Bowerman.

Bowerman and Athletic Director Norv Ritchey were wholehearted in their approval of Dellinger as head track coach. "Of the many men who have worked for me, Bill Dellinger has proven himself as an All-American athlete, an Olympian, an outstanding high school and junior college coach and in the past five years as my assistant he has demonstrated the qualities such as leadership, desire and teaching that make for an outstanding coach," Bowerman evaluated.

"Bill has had most of the responsibility this year and now he should have the title to go along with it. He is ready for the job," Bowerman insists.

Dellinger, 39, is a 1956 graduate of Oregon and a former three-time collegiate All-American. He was a member of the U.S. Olympic team in 1956, 1960 and 1964 and was a bronze medalist in the 5,000 meter run in the '64 Olympics. At one time, Dellinger held the American record in the 1,500 meter run (1954 at 3:41.5) and also held two World indoor records, 8:49.9 in the two mile and 13:37.0 in the three mile, both set in 1959.

Dellinger won the 1954 NCAA mile title, was second to teammate Jim Bailey in 1955 and won the NCAA 5,000 meter crown in 1956. He also won three conference titles.

As Oregon's cross country coach, the Ducks have placed first (1971), second (1970) and third twice (1969 and '72) in the last four years. Dellinger said, "It is a tremendous challenge to carry on the same program that Bowerman has built at Oregon. The people who like track and the athletes who have competed at Oregon and the people who have associated with the program are indebted to what Bill Bowerman has meant to Oregon."

"Obviously I will be calling upon him whenever I can to help with his vast knowledge of track and I also know Bill Bowerman well enough to know he will be helping us as much as he can. I am honored to have Bill Bowerman's support and to be part of the program at Oregon. Present track men and future track men at Oregon will be for ever indebted to Bill Bowerman's efforts in raising funds for the new stadium."

Santa Clara among baseball victims

Shoup's career mark now 10-0

Mel Krause took the Ducks to the Bay area over spring break to take advantage of California weather. That idea bombed when rain washed out the team three straight days. Oregon did manage to get in seven games and won four of those.

The biggest highlight came when Mike Shoup took on 11th-ranked Santa Clara and notched a 4-3 victory on a seven hitter.

Shoup is probably the least-publicized unbeaten

pitcher in Oregon history. His win over the Broncos pushed his Duck career record to 10-0 and he's established himself as the ace of the staff heading into today's game at Portland with Portland State.

The Ducks proved to have an abundance of offensive talent on the trip. As a team, they batted .294, ripping out 63 base hits. Bruce Fox got a pair of home runs in Redding, while Chuck Flynn, Bob Neal, and Mike Long got one each.

Outfielder Fred Kay was the leading Duck hitter with seven hits in 18 at bats for a .389 average. Freshman Jim Willis performed well while playing both first and third base as Krause shuffled his lineup card to take a look at his whole team.

Beavers nab golf wins

Rounds one and two of what has to be one of the Pacific Northwest's best golfing rivalries went to Oregon State over spring break.

The Beavers won the Oregon Invitational in Eugene by seven strokes over the Ducks — who are coached by former OSU head coach Jim Ferguson.

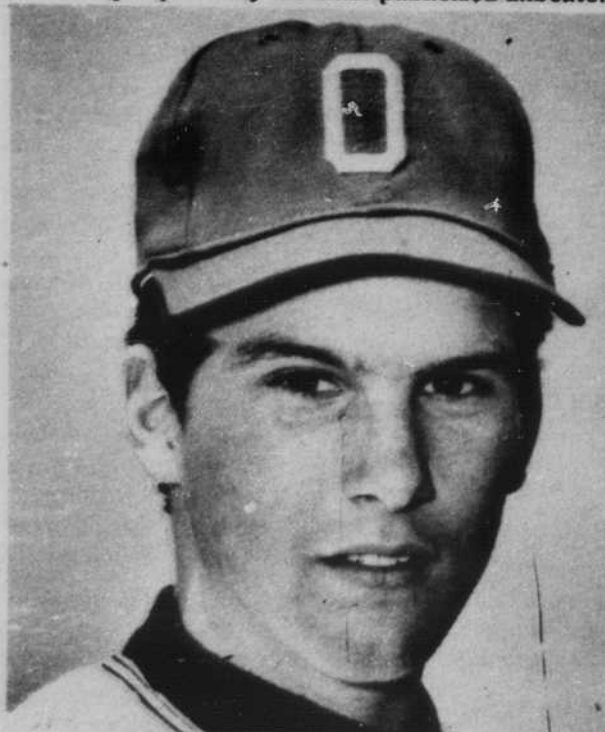
A week later Oregon finished third in the Banana Belt meet at Clarkston, Wash., behind the Beavers and Washington State. This time OSU was the better team by four strokes.

Five of the six men who helped beat the Ducks in the Invitational were recruited by Ferguson, including Dave Molitar, who tied Oregon's Dick Shafer for the individual title.

Shafer, a freshman from Corvallis, was the top Duck performer in both meets. He finished tied for second individually in the Banana Belt meet.

Shafer's dad is the head coach at Oregon State.

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MIKE SHOUP