

The
AAU
meet:
for
some
it's
the
climax
and
for
others

it's
just
the
beginning



Ona Dobratz

The AAU Women's National Track and Field Championships are at the University of California Irvine. We leave on Thursday morning after the Hayward Field Restoration Meet, nervous, caught on that resonating wire between two excitements; between Wottle's kick and the anticipation of our own. In the seats next to us the UCLA guys are winding down, tasting the French wines, recounting stories of shootings in Cleveland, and planning for the AAU Tour to Europe.

The AAU Tour, not yet a fact for us.

LA. We approach a world of science fiction. A few scattered skyscrapers — there is no center here, no downtown — and the city spreads out forever, covered with a brown death dust. Scales of houses creep over the hot land like ridges on a monster's back and though it seems there should be a never ending flow of people (who uses all

By ONA DOBRATZ
Of the Emerald

these buildings?) there is a dearth of them. At Newport giant blocks of concrete rear up out of the fields, anemic trees stand in perfect regiments. Riding in the car I feel as though there are no people anywhere or that if I ventured into Newport Shopping Center, there, among all those walls would be silent masses, arms dangling at their sides and eyes sewn shut. I want desperately to get to the meet headquarters, to see people of different colors, people laughing and running and jumping, sweating and crying, wearing bright reds and blues and yellows, lithe young women who feel life so much they want to burst with it.

For many women, the national meet is the culmination of track season. For others, it is the beginning. This summer the AAU will send a women's team (14 and over) on the European Tour and a Junior National Team. They will be full and separate tours.

The Senior National Team will compete against West Germany and Switzerland in Munich on July 11 and 12; in Turin, Italy, on July 17 and 18; and at Minsk, Russia, on July 23 and 24. The Junior Team will compete against West Germany at Munich on July 14 and 15; in Warsaw against Poland on July 20 and 21; against Russia at Odessa on July 24 and 25 or July 27 and 28.

But those places are far away and now we are here and it is hot, hotter than any of us are accustomed to (105 degrees when we landed). The radio says it will stay hot for several days, the chauffeur tells us there is no shade at the track, that our rooms are not air-conditioned; that Julie Shea, the young distance protege from North Carolina, suffered heat exhaustion on Tuesday in the Girls' Division two-mile. Why do they plan races in hot places at such times (two-mile finals run at 4 p.m.)? I am ready to shout discrimination but then remember the men's NCAA and hear again the dull rumble of politics that bubbles beneath all the meets.

Oregon Track Club sent a team of six women: two in the Girls' Division and four in the Women's. Karen Marshall and Denise Briggs,

both of South Eugene, are field events women. Karen, who has a best put of 41'2", finished ninth. Denise, with a best discus throw of 125'5 1/2", finished 11th. Both went on to women's competition. Shirley Lagestee, high jumper, moved into women's finals and finished 17th of 35 entrants. Julie Angal, discus thrower, placed 12th in women's. The distance runners (both University students) had poor luck and poor times. Heat and a blundering official (who knocked her down in the third lap) caused Maryl Barker a ninth place in the mile and Dobratz ran 11th place in the two-mile for her worst race of the season.

There were other Oregonians besides members of the Oregon Track Club. Fran Sighting broke the American Record in the 220 in the prelims; Jo Rassmussen of Portland TC participated in the hurdles, Girls' division, and Joni Huntly from Sheridan H.S. held the Girls' high jump record at 5'9" until it was passed back in the next round to Cindy Gilbert. Huntly's jumps were all good: she will go on the Junior Team to Europe and Russia in July.

People add life to the fallow atmosphere of this Irvine campus. Over 1500 girls and women have come to this week's meet. The young ones — it's impossible to know them all — sometimes I think they are the only ones capable of keeping this game in the perspective in which it should be kept. They bound in with a fervor for the joy of competition, an irrefragable grin and an insatiable appetite. The older ones, the veterans. These are the dedicated, the consistent, the ones for whom track and field have become an integral part of their life style: Francie Larrieu, American Record Holder in the mile and two-mile; World Record Holder in 440, Kathy Hammond; WRH for 400 m., Marilyn Neufville and Munich 5th placer Mable Ferguson. Cheryl Toussaint of the Atoms in the 880; Mamie Rawlins and Patty Johnson in the 100 m. H; veteran Willie Whyte in the long jump and Kathy Schmidt in the javelin. Distance runners Vicki Foltz and Train Hosmer. This year for the first time in what six? or seven? or eight? years Doris Brown of the Falcon Club, out with foot operation, is not here. Her absence is felt.

Saturday evening. It's over. After dinner the awards ceremony, the formal announcement of the international teams. Screams of excitement pierce the heavy afternoon air. Girls, big and little in frenzy of relief gather stuff for the beach.

A faint tinge of disappointment mixes with the joys of success. But disappointment is quiet. Some girls, exhausted, lay on the beds and pretend to sleep.

(Dobratz is a distance runner on the University's women's track team.)

St. Vincent De Paul Stores

We've got what you need!

Clothing, Dishes, Pots & Pans, Books

770 Willamette St.

Furniture, Appliances & What-nots

1880 West 11th St.

"Everything Velly Cheep"

A MOVIE IN THE TRADITION OF THE MARX BROS.



EMILE de ANTONIO'S

MILLHOUSE

A White Comedy

A NEW YORKER FILMS RELEASE

Wed. June 27
7 & 9:15 pm

150 Science
\$1.00

NUC Films