Weather only real winner at Twilight

It was the kind of meet that made you want to nestie up to your favorite shot-putter, order up a round of hot-buttered rum, and sit and watch sprinters pull up lame despite an overpowering coat of linament on their legs.

One could envision the distance runners trying to build a bonfire out of Tinker Hatfield's Catapoles, or a pile of once-used Nikes.

> By CARL STEWARD Of the Emerald

It was so cold even Steve Prefontaine failed to provide enough spark to ignite any heartwarming reconciliation for attending Saturday's Twilight Meet at Hayward Field.

Oh, there was Hatfield's I6-3 effort in the pole vault, and Bruce Hill's 59-2 mark in the shot. There was Peter Spir running an impressive 3,000-meter steeplechase and Gary Barger's 4:02.7 mile.

But even a Kodiak bear would be hard-pushed to want to fork any money to see icicles form on the edge of the Stevenson Grandstand, starters warm their hands with the smoke from a pistol, or a Lane Community College athlete win the high jump.

Nanook of the North has seen better evenings. Most of those who braved the weather for the annual knee-knocking contest probably were there in hopes Pre would set his long-lost world record, or that Ronnie Lee would stick his javelin in the steeplechase water jump.

Ronnie, however, as Hal Cowan so timely announced, had walked 20 miles in the Walkathon with two kids on his back. A javelin toss over 200 feet was a little too much to ask, but the crowd was grateful, anyhow. Jeff Carter, who won the event with a mark of 247-8, passed his last attempt, and nobody could blame him.

Similarly. Pre graced the crowd with a sterling effort despite the conditions. Pre admitted afterwards, however, that he had no plan going into the race (?) due to the cold.

The elements have to be just right when you're running 10,000 meters," said Pre. "That's a long way to be fighting Mother Nature."

Pre's time for the 10,000 meters was 28:09.4, about 20 seconds off his American record pace. His six-mile time was comparably off-27:18.6, which was close to 30 seconds slower than the record he set at the 1974 Twilight Meet.

"I felt good for the first three miles, but the fourth and fifth miles, where it's toughest, it just wasn't there," he said. "There was nobody in front of me, and nobody behind me, and my shoulders and stomach were tightening up."

"I was amazed I ran as fast as I did."

Luckily, the meet was not the stage for Pre's match-up against Finland's Lasse Viren, which will be in the NCAA preparation meet May 29. That race will wrap up a series of meets Pre himself is promoting for the visiting Finnish troupe, who will be seeing the likes of Madras, Coos Bay, Vancouver, Wash., and Seattle before the Eugene meet.

Then again, Lasse may have enjoyed Saturday night. It might have made him think about the old country, back in Helsinki.

"If the weather conditions would have been better, I probably could have run as fast or faster than last year," said Pre. "I am very happy with my conditioning. This was a good, hard work-out.'

So there was some minute consolation for Pre, who will take a light work-out this week, plotting his next race while avoicing AP reporters.

And for Coach Bill Dellinger—he got a few more

qualifiers-it was a mild success.

Finally, for the track team it was good preparation for the return trip to Pullman for the Pacific-8

But while milers and high jumpers and discus twirlers have shone in Twilight Meets past, there was only one real winner in Saturday's event-the

Everybody else who attended came in last.



The cold cut into Pre's plans

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