

Top efforts overshadow Pre's record attempt

Steve Prefontaine narrowly missed updating his American 5000-meter record but Gary Barger became the 15th Oregon miler to crack four-minutes and four Ducks earned plane tickets to the NCAA meet in Provo, Utah in Thursday's NCAA Preparation Meet at Hayward Field.

Pre's 13:23.8 clocking was 1.6 seconds off the American mark he set last year in Helsinki. Shorter was far behind in 13:32.2.

"I felt really sluggish," said Prefontaine after he'd exploded past Shorter with a half-mile to go and gradually lengthened his lead for the win. "I was just running to win. It'll still be a couple of weeks before I'm really ready."

But the real story of the meet was elsewhere. While fans filed out immediately after the 5000, a hot discus competition was just winding up.

Oregon's Dave Voorhees tossed a PR of 191-8 to place third behind former-Duck Mac Wilkins, who went 212-3 for a new field record, and Finland's Pentti Kahma (211-4).

If fans missed some of the discus competition, they didn't miss what Bill Dellinger called "a great mile." Gary Barger, the Pac-8 steeplechase champ, kicked to a stirring 3:58.5 win. Mark Feig cracked a year-long slump, finishing second in 4:00.4 and Lars Kaupang finished a strong third in 4:01.4.

Willett drafted

Former University of Oregon center Gerald Willett was drafted by the Portland Trailblazers in the sixth round of Thursday's NBA college draft.

The blazers also took OSU's Charlie Neal in the eighth round. Portland's top choice was Arizona State's Lionel Hollins, a 6-3 guard.

Dellinger said that Voorhees, Feig, Dave Taylor, Dave Hagmeier and possibly Rich Perkins all would join the Ducks on the trip to Provo.

Taylor, overlooked in the fast 5000-three mile race, ran a PR of 13:30.6 for the latter. Hagmeier looked strong in turning in a PR of 51.8 in the intermediate hurdles and Perkins hit a lifetime best of 189-3 in the hammer.

The meet was sparked with other top performances. Jorma Jaakola of Finland won the javelin at 269-0, another Finn, Antti Kailomake pole vaulted 17-6 for a win in that event, Oregon State's Tom Woods won the high jump at 7-2 and OTC's Steve De Autremont took the hammer with a 216-6 toss.

In women's events, Karen Marshall of the Oregon Track Club turned in a fine double, placing second in the discus with a PR of 146-3 and breaking her won school record in the shot put at 46-3.

OTC's Lynne Winbigler won the discus with a lifetime best of 151-2½ while sister Leslie was third with a PR of 137-5.

Meanwhile Paul Geis, Terry Williams and Scott Daggatt got a workout in the two-mile in preparation for next week's NCAA meet, Geis winning in 8:49.2.

Stan Whigham won the high hurdles in a windy 13.8 with John Woodman and Mike Chriss following in 14.4.

Al Dukowski won his heat of the 220 in 21.0 and ran a legitimate 9.5 100. Freshman Robert Curry won his heat of the 100 in a windy 9.6 and his 220 heat in a legal 21.4.

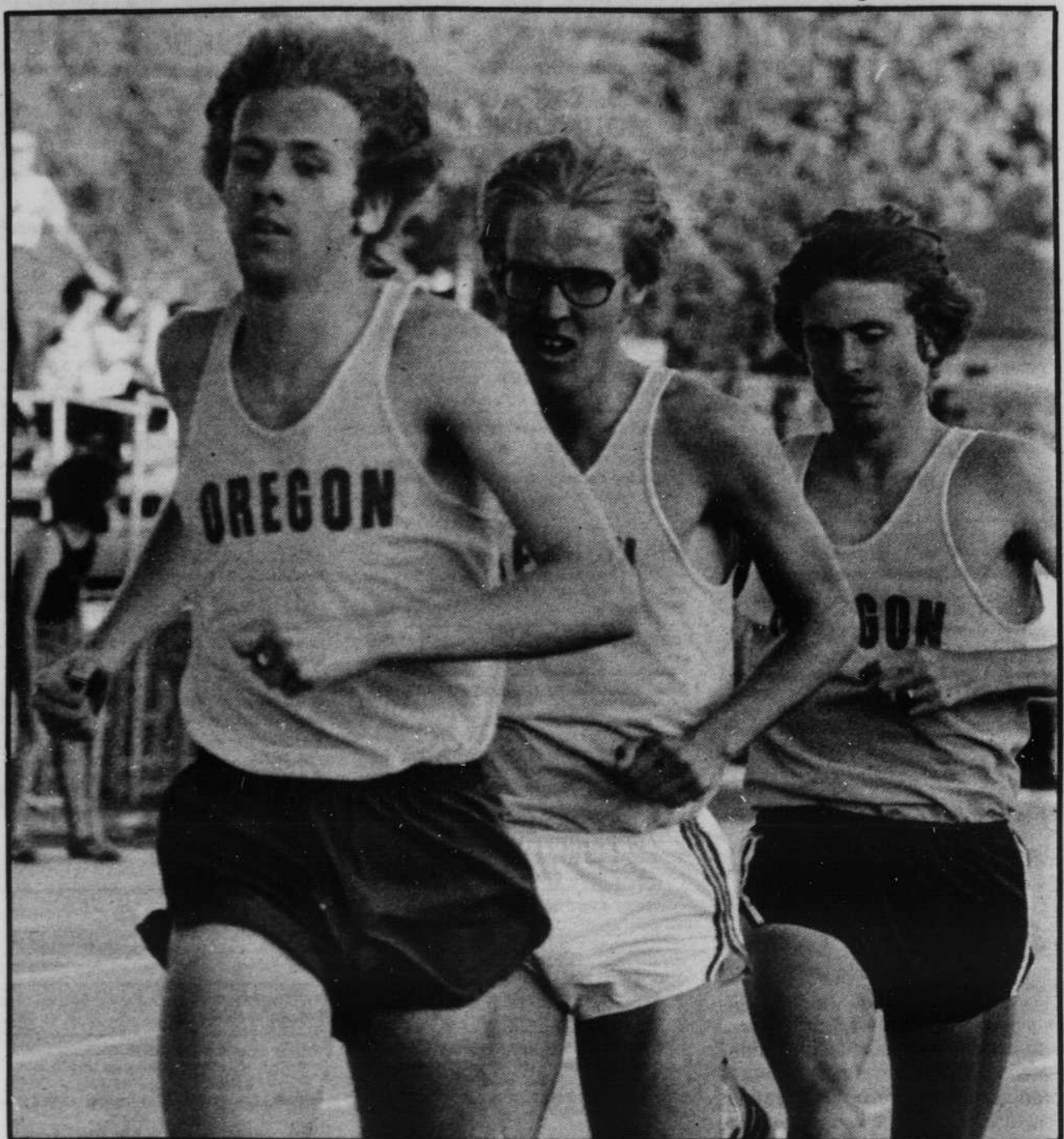


Photo by Beth Van Deusen

Gary Barger pulled away from teammates Lars Kaupang and Mark Feig as he finished the mile with a personal best of 3:58.8

Feig finished second in 4:00.4 while Kaupang finished third in 4:01.4.

Barger used the Twilight meet

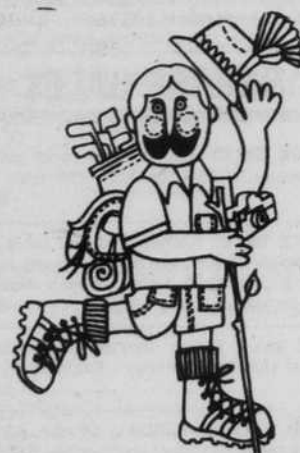
last night to prepare himself for the steeplechase in next week's NCAA championships at Provo, Utah.

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