

Seven Hayward records set in drizzly Pre Classic

By KIM CONNER
Of the Emerald

Saturday's gray, overcast skies didn't exactly make it a perfect day for world records.

But you won't hear many complaints about the second-annual Prefontaine Classic. In the classiest meet this side of the Olympic Trials, there were more personal bests set than you can count on a handful of fingers, not to mention seven new Hayward Field records.

And that's the best way to characterize the meet commemorating America's greatest distance runner.

Probably the most memorable performance was Mark Feig's 1,500 win. Feig ran a 3:38.1, a personal best by almost two and a half seconds, in breaking away from a field that included 1975 NCAA mile champion Paul Cummings and ex-Duck Scott Daggatt.

emerald sports

Having already met the Olympic trials standard, Feig smiled, "This time I just let them take the pace, because all the pressure was off me. With a quarter to go I said to myself well, this was where Steve would have taken off had he been here...with 330 to go I told myself that nobody would beat me so I took off...I looked behind me but nobody was there."

Feig wasn't the only relieved ex-Duck, however. Paul Geis 'took the initiative' with a mile to go and won the 5,000 in 13:30.8, the fastest time in the nation this year. And the top six runners in that race finished under the Olympic qualifying standard of 13:40.0.

Mac Wilkins, former Duck and current world record holder in the discus at 232-6, threw 220-11 on his first attempt, setting a new Hayward Field record. But most surprising was his third place in the shot at 67-8 3/4.

"It's nice to get a good throw in the shot," he said. "I threw it today just for fun but it really surprised me...I didn't think I'd throw it so far. Last time I had a shot in my hand was April 10th." Wilkins, who says he "slid through" with his discus victory, will consider the possibility of throwing the shot in the trials, "now that I've qualified."

Pete Schmock, who won the shot put with a lifetime best of 69-9, was pleased with his win

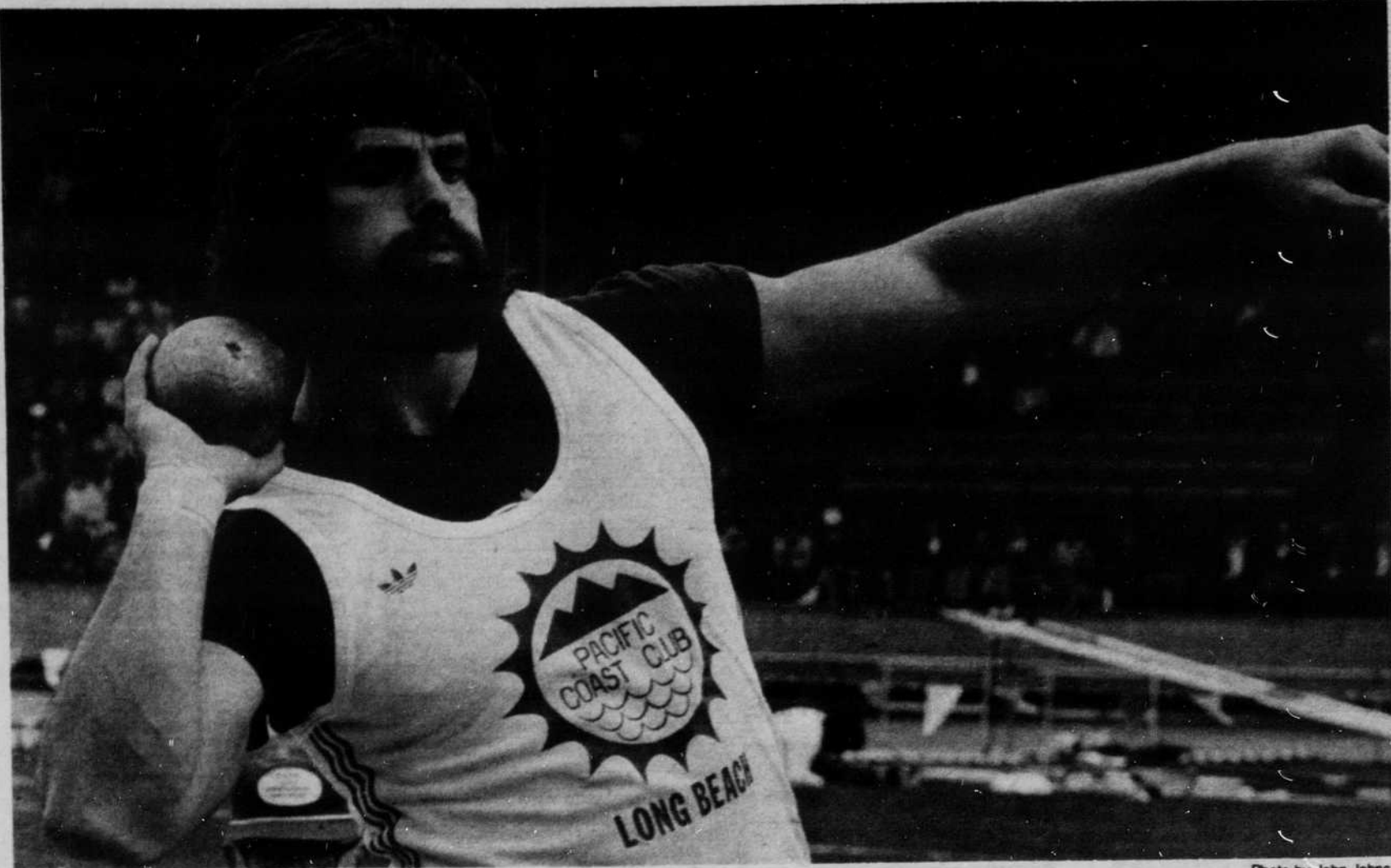


Photo by John Johns

Mac Wilkins' 220-11 discus toss was good enough for both a first place and a new Hayward Field record.

over former world record holder Al Feuerbach.

"This was just another meet, though," he commented. "My technique is new and I'm not really aware of myself, of my body in relation to the technique. Today my throw was the most correct...but I haven't quite tapped my potential."

Other performances made the Pre Classic an exciting afternoon. For openers, UBC's Laurie Kern, with four throws over 160 feet, shattered the Hayward Field record of 156-11 in the women's javelin at 171-11. OCE's Marsha Melvin, the former record holder, also bested the mark with a 162-6 toss.

Mike Roche of the New York Athletic Club met the Olympic standard with an 8:31.1 in winning the steeplechase.

Carolyn Digby, the Centennial high school freshman who set the state 440-record last week at 56.1, improved to a 54.9 in winning the 400.

Deanna Coleman, a 14-year-old from Seattle, blazed to a 2:08.6 victory in the women's 800 over a field featuring Debbie Roth, former Hayward record holder

in the 800, state AAA 880 champion Ellen Schmidt and national high school mile record holder Eryn Forbes.

Francie Larrieu Lutz, American record holder in the 1,500, won that event in 4:14.4, fending off a last lap kick by Canada's Peggy Werthener, who was second in 4:15.1.

Other memorable events included Robin Roeder's hammer win at 218-2, the third best performance by an American this year; Ralph Mann's (U.S. record holder in the 400-meter hurdles) slim victory over Jim Bolding in that event and Maxie Park's 45.1 400-meter run.

And Oregon's Dave Hagmeier finished fourth in the 400 in 46.4, qualifying him for the upcoming Olympic trials.

There were disappointments, too, as Dave Roberts failed to clear the world record height of 18-8 in the pole vault, settling instead for an 18-1/2 win.

Joni Huntley tried three times and failed to clear six feet in the high jump, winning that event in 5-10.

And Canada's Thelma Wright, third in the world last year in the 1,500, voiced her dissatisfaction with her fourth place finish. "This is my second race since February," she said. "I broke my toe in March, and it's been giving me a lot of pain ever since. I haven't done any training for six weeks as a result, and I feel really unfit."

But nothing could bring Mark Feig out of the clouds of victory. Grinning, he sat on a trainer's table only to get up again in excitement. "Aww," he laughed ecstatically, "I'm not even tired..."

And that would have made Pre pretty happy.

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Injured Ducks 12th at NCAA's



Matt Centrowitz
Oregon Daily Emerald

PHILADELPHIA — Southern California ran off with the team title and Oregon finished in a tie for twelfth in the NCAA Track & Field Championships at Franklin Field this weekend.

Junior Matt Centrowitz was the brightest spot for the Ducks as he set a school record by placing third in the 1,500. His 3:37.29 broke the late Steve Prefontaine's 1973 record of 3:38.1.

Centrowitz took the lead in the race with a lap to go but was nipped in the last stretch by winner Eamonn Coghlan of Villanova and runner-up Wilson Waigwa of Texas-El Paso.

Centrowitz also won his qualifying heat in 3:40.02.

Rich Perkins contributed six more points for Oregon with a third place finish in the hammer throw. The senior from Eugene threw the ball and chain 205-5, eight feet under his personal best.

Jeff Carter was the Ducks' other place finisher as he finished fifth in the javelin with a toss of 253-3, after standing fourth after the qualifying round.

Oregon Coach Bill Dellinger, however, came to Philadelphia with a squad that was less than full strength. Probable point getters for the Ducks who stayed home were decathlete and three-time champion Craig Brigham, who was out with monocucleosis, steeplechaser Gary Barger, out with a stress fracture and weightman Dave Voorhees who had knee problems and also didn't compete.

Oregon finished with 16 points and tied for twelfth with California, UCLA, Villanova and Penn State. USC racked up 64 points for its 26th national title, 21 more than any other team. Texas-El Paso was second to the Trojans with 44 points.