

# Olympic Trials: America's best athletes vie for chance to compete at Montreal

## Eugene big winner in gained revenue

By JOHN HENDERSON  
Of the Emerald

All right trivia fans, here's one to fight over: When was the first time the track and field Olympic Trials made money?

If you're stumped or can't remember any further than Lake Tahoe in 1968, the answer is Eugene in 1972. It wasn't hard for the 45-man site selection committee to decide last summer where to hold this week's trials.

Eugene outbid Los Angeles and Seattle for the right to hold this prestigious event, which started Saturday at Hayward Field and which goes through June 27.

And more than just track nuts will benefit from the competition of the Trials.

"In 1972, Prof. James Reinmuth estimated the generated income brought into the community to be between \$600,000 and \$800,000," said meet director Bob Newland.

Reinmuth, who teaches quantitative methods and has been at the University for 10 years, enjoys playing with the figures the Trials generate. He foresees sixteen to seventeen thousand people coming into the city, and spending between three-quarters and a million dollars.

"This meet attracts people to the many fine things Eugene has to offer," said Newland. "They see the University, the recreational advantages, the hospitality and the people. It's a real showcase for the University and the state of Oregon. After the '72 Trials, I received a number of letters telling me how much they appreciated everything."

People are returning to Eugene for these reasons, and they're coming in droves. All incoming flights to Eugene were booked solid for the 10 days of the trials. Many fans turned to the buses instead. They were flying to Eugene and busing south, or flying to San Francisco and busing north.

"The rush started right when school let out last week and it hasn't let up," said Bob Rooper,

manager of the Greyhound terminal downtown. "I can't have any figures until everybody's in, but it's a lot busier than it should be."

"I talked to a couple athletes today. One was from Queens College, so the athletes are using buses also."

Because of this mad last-minute rush, Newland and his many committees have been preparing for the Trials for a whole year. They've met once a week for the last three months and organized such committees as transportation, housing, hospitality, tickets, and facilities.

Newland's job is a little tougher than it was when he was director in 1972.

"One of the biggest problems this time is there's so many more entries," said Newland. "Naturally, if the United States Olympic Committee is going to foot the bill, anybody who hits the standard wants to come. It doesn't matter if they think they can make the team."

The field won't have the big features like Jim Ryun's comeback or the late Steve Prefontaine's 5,000 meter race, but it will have plenty of others to make up for the loss.

"Overall, it will be excellent," said Newland. "It's true Pre is gone but there's a number of events that will be great like the javelin with Dave Luke, the discus with Mac Wilkins, distance man Frank Shorter, and the shot put will be a heck of a duel."

"Someone commented that it'll be the best Olympic group to ever come out of the Trials. That's really important with the rest of the world improving so much."

Every seat in 16,000 seat Hayward Field has been sold for this spectacle and should surpass the 1972 attendance mark of 144,000. That mark was the third largest viewing audience ever to watch a track meet in the United States. The first two were the 1932 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, and the U.S.S.R.-U.S. meet in 1962 at Stanford.

Only the limited seating at Hayward Field will keep this week's Trials from the top of all-time track and field attractions.

## Fierce competition abounds for final three positions

By JEFF NIELSON  
Of the Emerald

When the gun finally went off for the first heats of the men's 400 meter hurdles Saturday morning at Hayward Field, the long process of the 1976 United States track and field Olympic Trials began to select America's best athletes for the trip north to the XXI Montreal Olympiad that unfolds starting July 17.

For most of these athletes, just getting to the Trials is a goal set firmly in many hours of practice and competition. Here in Eugene they will have a chance to test skills against others of equal ability, and hopefully finish among the top three.

And there are others, familiar names such as Rick Wohluter, Ralph Mann, Frank Shorter, Willie Davenport, Dwight Stones — who are among the twenty performers from the 1972 Munich Games trying for yet another spot on America's Olympic team.

But veteran or newcomer, the competition promises to be stiff in all events. Some especially tight battles are shaping up in the following events: (1976 bests)

•The discus, where world record holder and former Oregon star Mac Wilkins (232-6), now of the Pacific Coast Club, will face rival John Powell (220-4) and 1972 winner Jay Silvester (211-2), both who are competing unattached. Other top marks include Ken Stadel (215-7) of the San Jose Stars and Art Swarts (211-0).

•The 100 meters, as a host of speedsters like Florida Track Club's Steve Williams (9.9), Auburn's Harvey Glance (9.9), Clancy Edwards (10.0), of the Maccabi Track Club and Tennessee's Reggie Jones (10.0), run for the top three spots. San Jose State's Ron Whitaker also has a clocking of 10.0 in this event.

•The 1,500 meters, where over six runners have better times than Jim Ryun's 1972 winning 3:41.5. Top men include Oregon's Matt Centrowitz (3:37.29), former Duck and Oregon Track Club member Mark Feig (3:38.1), Wisconsin's Steve Lacy (3:38.52) and Chicago Track Club's Rick Wohluter (3:38.7), who has also qualified for the 800 meters, an event Wohluter finished second in at the 1972 Trials.

•The high jump. In 1972, Dwight Stones won with a mark of 7-3. This year, Stones has a best of 7-7, and Central Michigan's Mike Winsor (7-5), Pacific Coast Club's Rory Kotinek (7-5) and Georgia's James Barrineau (7-4½) all have marks higher than that winning standard. Pacific Coast Club member Tom Woods also has a '76 best of 7-4½.

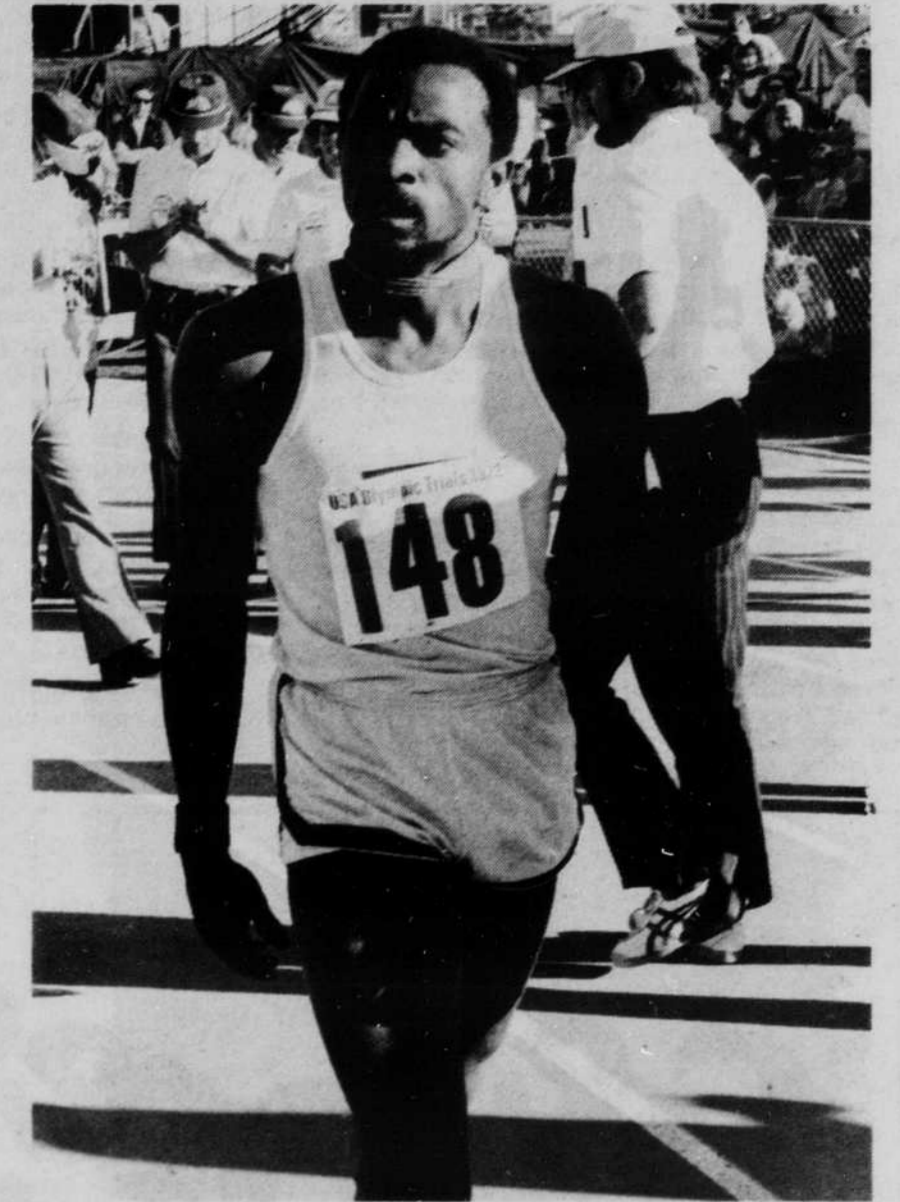
•The 400 meters, as USC's Ken Randle (44.99) leads the formidable pack of runners like Mississippi State's Evis Jennings (45.0), Baton Rouge Track Club's Fred Newhouse (45.1) and Maxie Parks of the Maccabi Track Club (45.17).

Top marks in other events include a 228-O hammer throw by Army's Bill Diehl; a javelin mark of 284-3, set by Anthony Hall of the Bruce TC; the 8,250 decathlon score by Bruce Jenner, who finished third in 1972 with 7,846 points; and Earl Bell's vault of 18-7¼ in the pole vault.

Unfortunately, if you haven't got tickets already, the best place to watch the action might be at home in front of the tube — all tickets to all sessions are sold out.

But if you're one of the lucky ones inside the gates, stopwatch in hand, hoping for a world record — enjoy it.

It might be four years before you get another chance.



Robert Taylor finished third in the 100 meters in 1972 — and is now looking to at least repeat that finish to make the Olympic Team once again.



A champion in Eugene four years ago, steeplechaser Mike Manley faces rough competition if it is to capture first place this time.

## Starting Times

**SATURDAY, JUNE 19** — Men's intermediate hurdles trials, 11 a.m. Women's long jump trials, 11 a.m. Men's shot put trials, 11 a.m. Women's javelin trials, 12 p.m. Men's 100 trials, 12 p.m. Men's 20 kilo walk finals, 1 p.m. Men's 800 trials, 4 p.m. Women's long jump finals, 4:30 p.m. Men's 100 quarter-finals, 5:10 p.m. Women's 800 trials, 5:35 p.m. Men's 10,000 meter trials, 6:05 p.m.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 20** — Men's pole vault trials, 11 a.m. Men's discus trials, 11 a.m. Women's 100 quarter-finals, 12 p.m. Men's shot put trials, 3:30 p.m. Men's intermediate hurdles semi-finals, 4 p.m. Women's javelin trials, 4:30 p.m. Men's 100 semi-finals, 4:30 p.m. Women's 800 semi-finals, 4:50 p.m. Women's 100 quarter-finals, 5:10 p.m. Men's 800 semi-finals, 5:35 p.m. Men's 100 final, 5:55 p.m.

**MONDAY, JUNE 21** — Women's pentathlon hurdles, 10:30 a.m. Men's 200 trials, 11 a.m. Women's pentathlon shot put, 11:30 a.m. Women's 400 trials, 4 p.m. Men's discus final, 4 p.m. Women's 100 semi-finals, 4:45 p.m. Women's pentathlon high jump, 5 p.m. Men's 800 final, 6:15 p.m. Men's intermediate hur-

dles final, 6:30 p.m. Women's 100 final, 6:50 p.m.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 22** — Men's high hurdles trials, 11 a.m. Men's hammer trials, 11 a.m. Women's high jump trials, 11 a.m. Women's pentathlon long jump, 11:30 a.m. Men's 400 trials, 12 p.m. Women's 200 trials, 12:45 p.m. Men's pole vault final, 1:30 p.m. Men's high hurdles quarter-finals, 3:00 p.m. Men's 200 semi-finals, 3:45 p.m. Men's 400 quarter-finals, 4:45 p.m. Women's 400 quarter-finals, 5:20 p.m. Men's 200 final, 5:50 p.m. Men's 10,000 meters final, 6:05 p.m. Women's pentathlon 200, 6:50 p.m. Women's 800 final, 7:20 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23** — Rest.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 24** — Men's long jump trials, 11 a.m. Women's discus trials, 11:20 a.m. Men's hammer final, 3 p.m. Women's high jump final, 3 p.m. Men's high hurdles semi-finals, 3:30 p.m. Women's 200 semi-finals, 4 p.m. Men's steeplechase trials, 5:00 p.m. Men's high hurdles final, 6:20 p.m. Women's 200 final, 6:40 p.m. Women's 400 semi-final, 7:15 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 25** — Men's decathlon 100, 11 a.m. Men's tri-

ple jump trials, 11 a.m. Men's decathlon long jump, 12 p.m. Men's decathlon shot put, 2 p.m. Men's decathlon high jump, 3:30 p.m. Men's long jump final, 4 p.m. Women's discus final, 4 p.m. Men's 5,000 trials, 4:40 p.m. Men's 400 final, 5 p.m. Women's 400 final, 5:20 p.m. Men's 1,500 trials, 5:45 p.m. Men's decathlon 400, 6:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 26** — Men's decathlon high hurdles, 10 a.m. Women's shot put trials, 10 a.m. Men's high jump qualifying, 10 a.m. Women's hurdles trials, 11 a.m. Men's decathlon discus 11 a.m. Men's decathlon pole vault, 1 p.m. Men's javelin trials, 3 p.m. Women's hurdles semi-finals, 3 p.m. Men's triple jump final, 4 p.m. Women's 1,500 semi-finals, 4:30 p.m. Men's decathlon javelin, 4:30 p.m. Men's 1,500 semi-finals, 5:20 p.m. Men's decathlon 1,500, 7:20 p.m.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 27** — Men's high jump final, 3:30 p.m. Women's hurdles final, 4 p.m. Women's shot put final, 4:30 p.m. Men's javelin final, 5:45 p.m. Men's 1,500 final, 6 p.m. Women's 1,500 final, 6:20 p.m. Men's steeplechase final, 6:40 p.m. Men's 5,000 final, 7 p.m.

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