

sports

Pre's memory lives on through his trails

By NEIL GRUENFELDER
Of the Emerald

His obituary indicates he died May 30, 1975. Some say, however, Steve Prefontaine lives on and on, running on his trails.

Certainly his charisma and untainted integrity does. Tempted once with a \$200,000 contract to turn professional, he responded, "What would I do with all that money?"

Bill Bowerman, his former college coach adds, "He was the

best liked and most respected runner in this country. Everyone who really knew him loved him."

Pre, who won four NCAA 3-mile championships and three cross country titles, as well as setting a bundle of American records, desired a course similar to trails he had run on in Europe. Weeks before his sports car overturned and crushed him he had talked with landscape architects Ewald Nielsen and Mike Dooley about his wishes. His death spurred the Lane County Parks and Recrea-

tion Department to act quickly, and by September, the task was complete.

The effort was community-wide. The trail cost only \$8,000, but it's now appraised at over \$100,000.

The trails, with one starting

point a stone's throw south of Autzen Stadium, also are complimented with 6.8 kilometers (3.8 miles) of bicycle paths.

To the left, the runner can jog 1.7 km (1.1 mile) around a man-made waterway, through poplar trees and by a waterslide. To the right, the jogger can catch a

breather with the six exercise stations on a .6 km (1 mile) loop trail.

In all, the trails are 6.3 km (3.9 miles) long. With the addition of 92 lights for late evening and early morning jogging, the burgeoning wonders are complete.

The trails are proof Steve Prefontaine truly does live on.

Women find the going rough at nationals — score no points

Oregon's women's track team found out where the competition is in this country — outside the Pacific Northwest.

The women ventured to Knoxville Tenn., last weekend for the AIAW national track and field meet. None of the ten Oregon entrants placed in the meet.

Oregon coach Tom Heinonen was disappointed his team didn't score any points but he realized why they didn't.

"It's just that the level of compet-

ition was far better than anyone could believe" he said. "We didn't even get anyone in the finals."

An example of the performance his athletes had was the mile relay team, which set a school record by five seconds, yet didn't qualify for the finals.

Some of the best of a lot of good Oregon performances came from the freshmen.

Melanie Batiste had the best non-qualifying time in the 200 meters, while distance runners Heather Tolford and Debbie Richie both set personal records in the 5,000 meter run. Tolford recorded a 17:03.4, while Richie

had a 17:11.2.

Georgene Rose ran a 1:02.3 for a non-scoring seventh in the 400-meter hurdles, while Kathy Picknell was 13th in the discus.

Heinonen can now start preparing for next year. Of the 10 women on the trip, only Georgene Rose will graduate. Add to that a group of prize recruits, and the picture looks good.

Three of Oregon's five recruits are national prep record holders in their events. One other has the best mark in her event this year, while the fifth is second in the nation in her event.

"We may do some catching up next year," said Heinonen.

—sportfolio—

Caddies needed for NCAA

Caddies are needed for the NCAA golf tournament to be held at Eugene Country Club, June 7-10. Anyone interested in working should contact Jim Ferguson, Oregon golf coach, at 686-5436.

Prep wrestler signs here

Oregon has signed a prep wrestler to compete in the 118 pound weight classification next year. Mike Erb, from Monta Vista High in Cupertino, Calif., is a two-time state placer.

Dodd wins MVP award

Tom Dodd won the Slug Palmer Award as Oregon's Most Valuable Player in baseball this year. Dodd led the Ducks in nearly every offensive category. He is a sophomore.

Pete Wilkinson, a senior reserve catcher, won the Don Kirsch Memorial Award.

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