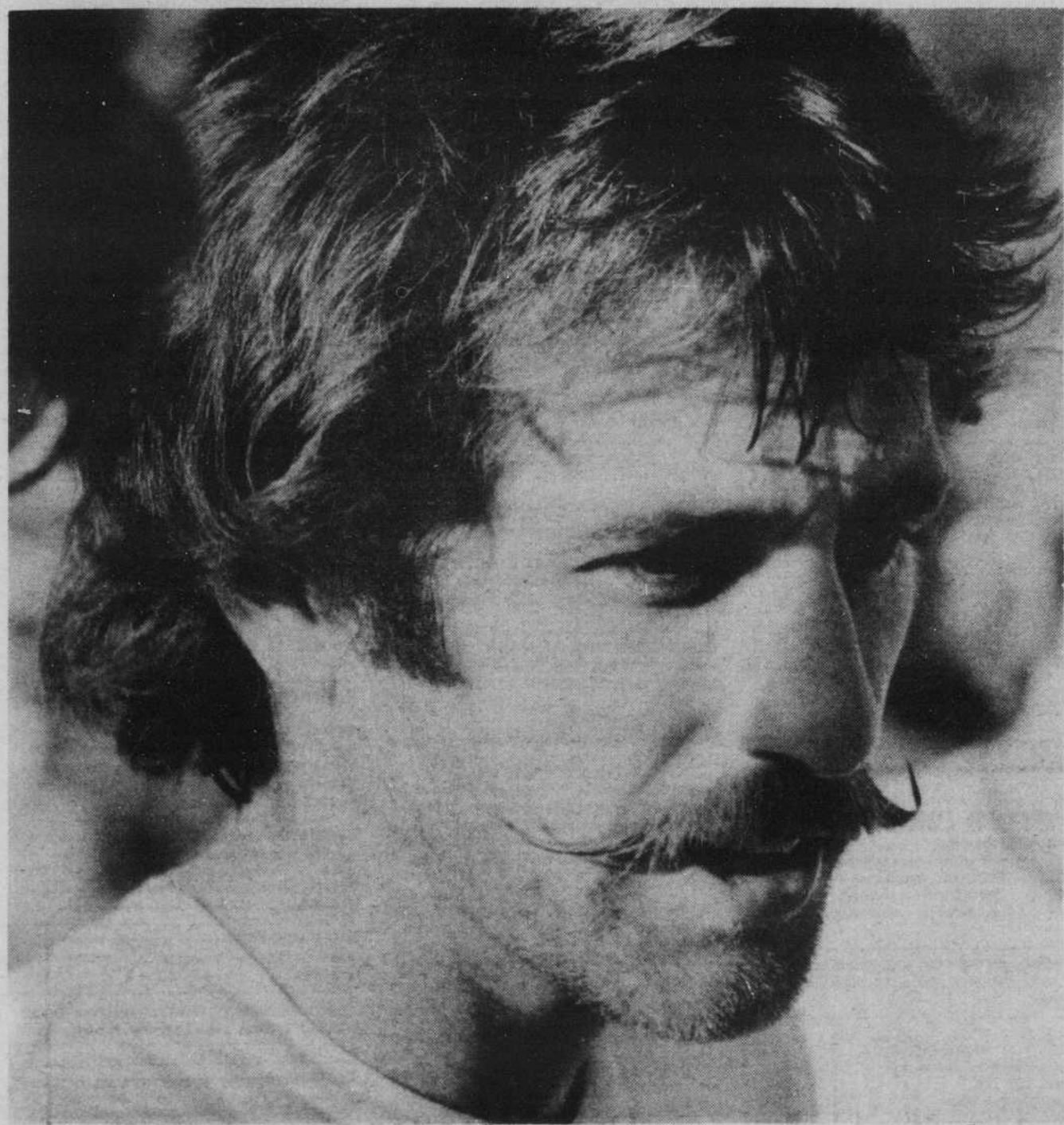


Stars coming in droves for Pre Classic today



By MARK STEWART
Of the Emerald

The third annual Prefontaine Classic gets underway this afternoon featuring some of the nation's best amateur track and field athletes, including pole vaulter Earl Bell, discus world record holder Mac Wilkins and distance runner Marty Liquori.

The Classic, which was called the Bowerman Classic until 1976, is held in the memory of the late Steve Prefontaine, one of the nation's best ever distance runners and former Oregon track star.

Meet director Al Tarpenning, track coach at Lane Community College, says this year's entrants compare to the best the Classic has seen, and like other years, will have some very strong events.

"The pole vault is as good as we've had in the past, the 5,000 is outstanding with three good runners in Liquori, (Craig) Virgin and (Jeff) Wells entered, and the high jump is also good," Tarpenning said. "This compares to the best we've had before. It's bound to put life back into Hayward Field."

The Classic will be the first meet run at Hayward since the Twilight on May 6 due to the resurfacing and renovation of Stevenson Track and the installation of the \$80,000 scoreboard donated to the University by Osaga. The scoreboard will be dedicated to the memory of Prefontaine tonight.

"Putting together a good meet is not an easy task," Tarpenning said. "We put on one of the best meets for premier athletes in the country. In the past the Classic has drawn respectively and although down the past few years, is still one of the highest attended meets in the country."

"We try to bring in the athletes, not buy the athletes in," Tarpenning said about the meet's budget, which is in the neighborhood of \$10-12,000. "We give no under the table money, just per diem expenses and flights. We want to keep the meet in the memory of

Pre and not as a money maker."

The top events of the Classic are likely to be the men's pole vault, 5,000, 800 and steeplechase and the women's high jump and 3,000. Tarpenning has also arranged a high school all-star sprint medley between the state's eight AAA leagues, with a team from each league.

The best event is likely to be the 5,000 with Liquori, Wells and Virgin competing for the top spot. Tarpenning said Liquori is the nation's best 5,000 runner now, but Virgin, one of the best at 10,000 and this year's runner-up in the Boston Marathon, Wells, will give Liquori stiff competition.

The pole vault features the top post-collegiate vaulters in the country today. Pacific Coast Club's Earl Bell has gone 18-6 and his teammate Dan Ripley has vaulted 18-0 indoors. Larry Jesse from Philadelphia has gone over 18-0 (18-5) as has Jeff Taylor from Seattle.

The steeplechase includes three entrants from the Eugene-based Athletics West club. Athletics West's George Malley was the country's best steeplechaser last year and will compete against teammates Doug Brown, a metric miler and Don Beckwith.

The high jump looks to be very good with Dwight Stones and Tom Woods entered. Both have cleared 7-5 indoors along with Kyle Arney, another entrant. The fourth competitor is 7-2½ (indoors) jumper Rory Kotenik.

World record-holder Mac Wilkins, competing for Athletics West, will put the shot in addition to throwing the discus. New York Track Club's Al Oerter, the 40-year-old three-time Olympian who's trying to make a comeback for the Moscow Olympics, was expected to compete but is not ready and has withdrawn.

The women's high jump field features Joni Huntley, from Sheridan, Oregon competing for the Pacific Coast club, who has jumped 6-4 indoors. Others in the event includes Debbie Brill, a 6-2 jumper and Pam Spencer, who has gone 6-1.

Marty Liquori, one of the country's finest distance runners ever, will be one of the starters competing in the Prefontaine Classic tonight at Hayward field. Others include Mac Wilkins, Edwin Moses, Dwight Stones and Al Feuerbach.

Emerald Photo

Bullets tie series in overtime

SEATTLE (AP) — Guards Charles Johnson and Tom Henderson scored six points each in overtime before a record crowd of 39,457 at the Kingdome Tuesday night, giving the Washington Bullets a 120-116 victory over the Seattle SuperSonics and a 2-2 tie in the National Basketball Association championship playoff series.

The Bullets erased a 15-point, third-quarter deficit, tied the score midway through the fourth period, and led 106-104 after Bobby Dandridge hit a three-point play with 20 seconds to go.

But Seattle's Fred Brown sent the game into overtime by sinking a jump shot from the right corner with 14 seconds on the clock.

Then Johnson, who had just

eight points in regulation time, took command. He scored the first basket of the overtime on a fast-break layup, then beat Seattle's defense downcourt for a short jump shot that made it 110-106 with 3:35 to go.

The Bullets led the rest of the way.

Henderson clinched the victory by sinking four free throws in the final 13 seconds of overtime.

The loss snapped a 21-game homecourt winning streak for the Sonics, who will host Washington Friday night in the fifth game of this best-of-seven series.

The crowd was the largest ever to watch a single professional basketball game, surpassing the

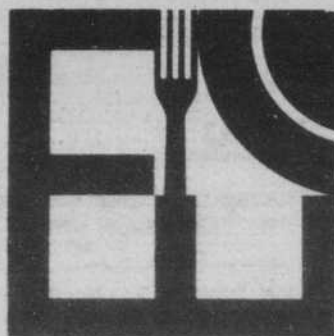
record of 35,077 set at the Louisiana Superdome on Nov. 30, 1977. It was the first basketball game ever played in the Kingdome, which normally is used for baseball, football and soccer.



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• Guest speakers every night, June 1-3, in the student union. Program starts 8:30 p.m., June 1-2, and 7:00 p.m. on June 3.

• Movies every morning from 10-12 in The Atrium.

• Morning fun runs along Pre's Trail.

• Merchandise and books available for purchase at The Athletic Department in The Atrium, and from booths on both sides of Hayward Field.

For more information on the fun runs and other details of the program, stop by The Athletic Department in The Atrium, corner of 10th and Olive in downtown Eugene.

