

Fast times no surprise to Myers

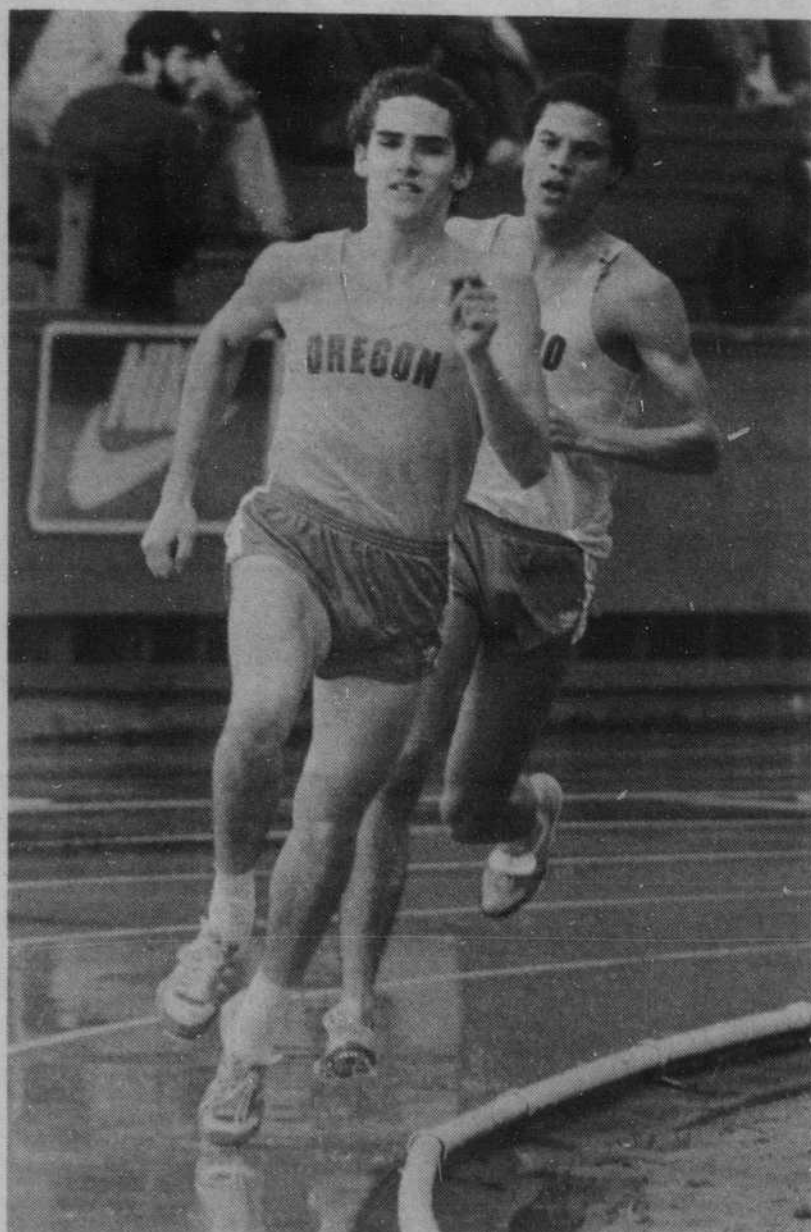


Photo by Bob Baker
Dub Myers zips past Brad Simpson with his early kick on his way to winning the 1,500 against Washington last weekend.

By Steve Turcotte
Of the Emerald

Dub Myers is surprising quite a few people in his first year at Oregon.

By running a 1:50.2 in the 800 meters week and a half ago in a dual meet at Irvine, Calif., Myers raised a few eyebrows around the Pac-10 and on the Oregon track team.

"I'm surprised he did it this early," says Duck assistant track coach John Gillespie. "We knew he could do it, but running a time like that this early in the season is pretty good."

But for Myers, the freshman from Parkrose High School in Portland, the 1:50.2 was not that extraordinary.

"I was feeling really good before the race and I thought I might be able to do something," Myers says. "I was not really surprised that I did it, I was expecting to run well because I was feeling really strong."

Myers also indicated that the weather was right for a good race and a good time.

"I was just hoping to go out and stay with everybody," says Myers. "I just wanted to be able to kick by them at the end. I took off a little early and I was really unsure whether I should have or not. But when I got out I just held it."

Myers is one athlete on this year's Duck track team who falls into an interesting mold. He can run either the 800 or 1,500 meters and score points for Oregon in both.

"We were figuring him for the 1,500 meters but then he comes out and runs a 1:50 and has proved that he can run the 800," Gillespie says. "He can do either event really well. I'm suspecting he'll get a chance to run both sometime this year during a dual meet."

Myers also has run a good 1,500 race this season last Saturday against Washington in a dual meet at Hayward Field. Myers finished first in a time of 3:51.70. On the season, Myers has clocked a 1:50 in the half and a 3:51 in the

1,500 — impressive times for a freshman.

But Myers wants more. He has lofty goals for the season, but he claims that they are achievable.

"I'd like to get done in the 1,500 in the 3:43-3:42 range," Myers says. "In the 800 I'd like to get into the mid 1:48's. I really want to get into the NCAA meet in Houston. I think I can qualify in both races. But I'll just have to wait and see."

Myers is no stranger to doubling during a track meet. Almost every meet in high school, Myers doubled in the 800 and 1,500.

During his junior year at Parkrose he began to make a name for himself on the Oregon high school running scene by capturing the 800 and 1,500 at the Class AAA state track and field meet. At state, he clocked a 1:53.6 in the 800 and a 3:51.74 in the 1,500.

His senior track season went almost the exact same as his junior year. He won both the 800 in 1:53.9 and 1,500 in 3:51.93 at the state meet.

"I wasn't really expecting to double and win both at state my junior year," Myers says. "I had never been in anything like that before and didn't really know what to expect."

"During my senior season there was pressure on me to win both. I really wanted to win the 1,500 and then just kind of wanted to go for it in the 800. Things just happened to turn out real well in both races."

Myers' running style is unique. Most runners will wait until the last 200-300 meters before unleashing a kick. But Myers will sometimes begin his sprint for the finish at the bell lap — some 400 meters from the finish line.

"He has a lot of poise down the stretch of a race," Gillespie says. "He is really in control of himself the entire way. He just knows where the finish line is. I have only seen him lose twice in three years."

"He just knows how to win."

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