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Emerald Sports Supplement

PREFONTAINE CLASSIC

Classic's 10th anniversary is a befitting tribute to Pre

By Robert Collias
Of the Emerald

It was a cold, early morning, May 30, 1975. Steve Prefontaine, one of America's greatest distance runners, was dead.

"Pre," as he was known to track fans around the world, was driving his 1973 gold MG home from his friend and Olympic teammate Kenry Moore's house in Hendricks Park. As he proceeded along Skyline Drive, in the park something terrible happened.

His car overturned and crushed him beneath the rubble at 12:40 a.m.

No one really knows how it happened exactly, and controversy over the accident's circumstances is still being debated. But Prefontaine's death was a fact, and it set the track-and-field world into permanent mourning.

Many believe his sheer energy on the track and his personal charisma with the fans who loved him so much will never be replaced.

With him died one of America's brightest hopes for the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games. Prefontaine had held at the time of his death every American record from 2,000-meters to 10,000-meters. He finished fourth in the 1972 Munich Olympic 5,000-meter final as a junior from the University.

He came home from the Olympics that year to finish a feat that had never before been accomplished as he won the three mile championship for the fourth straight year at the NCAA track-and-field meet.

At the time of his death he was a mere 24 years old, just reaching his prime competitive years. He had already been offered the largest contract in the history of the International Track Association, a professional track and field association that has since disbanded. By his own description, Prefontaine felt he had his best races ahead of him.

Prefontaine was more than a runner however. His dreams carried him to the edge of greatness. His ambitions led to the construction of Pre's

Trail, four miles of running trails along the Willamette River, and helped to establish Eugene as the unofficial "track capital" of the world.

On May 29, 1975, he ran his last race in an NCAA preparation meet at Hayward Field. He ran the second fastest time in the 5,000-meters in American history on that day. The only time faster was his own.

That meet became the legacy of the Prefontaine Classic track-and-field meet held annually on the week of May 29 at Hayward Field in the spirit of the great champion it is designed to honor.

This year's Prefontaine Classic will be the 10th annual memorial to this legend of track and field. Over the past decade, the meet has grown into one of the premier annual meets held in the United States. This year's field is no different.

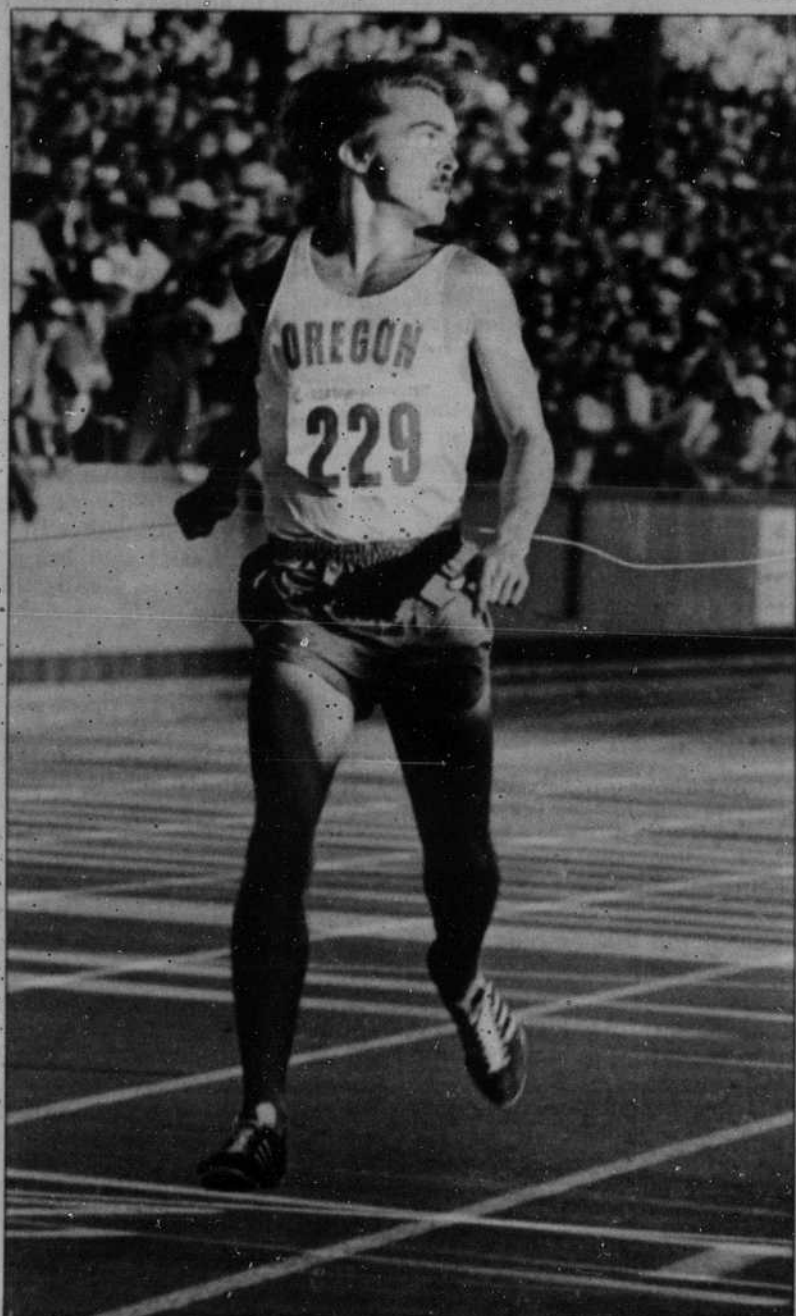
The list of Olympic champions is impressive: it includes Roger Kingdom, 110-meter high hurdles champion from the United States and Joaquim Cruz, former University runner and Olympic 800-meter champion from Brazil. Al Joyner, the triple jump gold medalist from the United States will also be at Hayward Field to pay tribute to Prefontaine. Pole vault gold medalist Pierre Quinon will also be competing. In all, there will be 16 medalists from the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

Mary Decker Slaney will make her 1985 outdoor debut in the women's 5000-meter race, and double world recordholder Jarmila Kratochvilova will battle against silver medalist Kim Gallagher in the women's 800-meter.

Meet director Tom Jordan is very excited about this year's meet. "This will undoubtedly be the best Pre Classic field ever," Jordan says.

It couldn't for a more fitting tribute to Steve Prefontaine.

Tickets are still available for the Prefontaine Classic at the University ticket office at McArthur Court. For more information call 686-4461.



Emerald file photo.

This Saturday's 10th annual Prefontaine Classic, held in honor of Steve Prefontaine (above), one of America's greatest distance runners, will be one of the biggest and best meets yet, according to director Tom Jordan.

Golf with a twist comes of age

By Michael Duncan
Of the Emerald

When Fred Morrison invented the first Frisbee in 1948, he speculated that the discs would soon be seen flying in backyards, parks or just about anywhere across the nation and possibly the world. But he didn't guess that the discs would make their way to encroaching on one of the most popular leisure pastimes: golf.

Since the '70s, disc golf has grown into an international sport with serious participants numbering in the thousands. The popularity and seriousness of the sport is impressive when one considers that Wham-O, owner of the Frisbee trademark, annually sponsors the U.S. Open Frisbee Disc Championships that is offering a total of \$35,000 in prize money this year.

As interest in disc golf competition grew, so did the need for regulation. After the Professional Disc Golf Association was established, official guidelines

for disc specifications and tournament regulations were established. Under the new regulations contestant identification numbers, issued by the association, became a requirement for tournament play.

Golf discs are designed with distance and stability in mind. A variety of disc sizes and weights are available, but it is the rim design and weight loading that determines the particular use of the disc, whether it be for driving, pitching or putting.

Until recently the most commonly used design was the Aero series, a disc with a wedge shaped rim and an even thickness from center to edge. The Aero is designed with distance as a primary objective. A half-round groove on the underside of the rim creates a slight turbulence that increases the disc's maximum time aloft at the cost of some stability.

A newcomer to the market by the same

designer is the Aviar, a slight variation of the Aero. The Aviar's rim has been trimmed back and the underside groove lessened. The result is a more predictable flight due to its less turbulent design.

Most discs are marketed as a series with weight ranging from light, 95 grams, to heavy, 170 grams and up, and diameter ranging from mini, 18 centimeters, to large, 25 centimeters.

Rim designs are unregulated but the PDGA has size and weight limits for golf discs in tournament play.

The Recreation and Intramural Activities office, Room 103 Gerlinger Hall, organizes disc golf leagues and also distributes free maps of campus courses for people interested in participating.

To join the PDGA, send name, address and \$15 lifetime membership fee to: PDGA membership, P.O. Box 9256, St. Paul, MN. 55109.



Emerald file photo

University sophomore Mark Smith displays his form as he chips to the "hole" in a recent disc golf contest on campus.