

Mile race to once again headline Twilight track meet

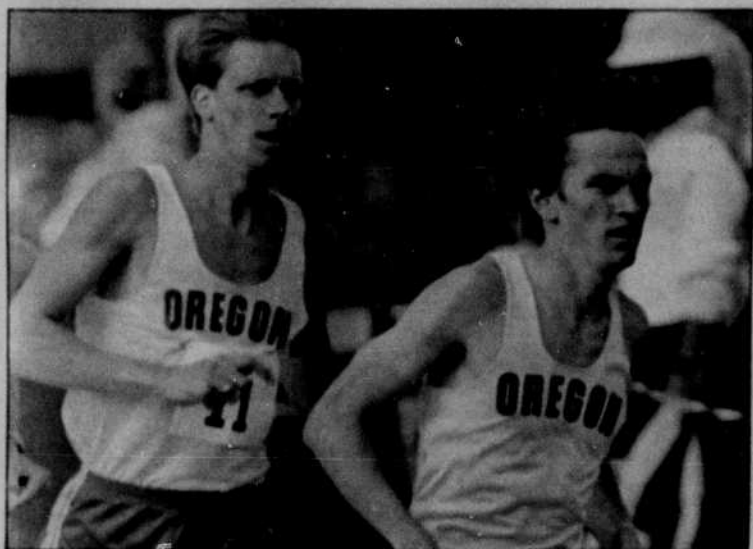


Photo by Derrel Hewitt
Dan Nelson and Rick Bergesen will be two of four Ducks competing in a rare mile race Saturday at the Oregon Twilight track meet.

By Aaron Knox
Of the Emerald

An old mile race and a race of old milers will be the focal events of the Oregon Twilight track meet at Hayward Field on Saturday.

The Twilight is also the last home meet of the season for the undefeated Oregon men's track team. It opens with the hammer throw at 5 p.m., and the first running event is scheduled to begin at 5:30.

The Twilight Mile (8 p.m.) is the last event of the competition and is the traditional showcase event of the meet. It is being challenged by the inaugural Bud Light Legends Mile, which will pit some of the greats of yesteryear in an over-40 age-group race.

Thirteen of the previous 17 Twilight Miles have broken the elusive four-minute barrier, with 24 different runners eclipsing the mark a total of 34 different times.

Entry into the event is limited

to past or present Ducks, and this year's team will be represented by fifth-year seniors Rick Bergesen, Harold Kuphaldt, Matt McGuirk and Dan Nelson. "There are very few chances to run a mile in college anymore, and it's their turn since they haven't had the opportunity," said coach Bill Dellinger.

In an age of metric distances the mile is a rare breed, so Dellinger expects more cooperation on the track than usual. "It should be fun to watch, because they'll be helping each other try to go under (four minutes)," he said.

The current Webfoots will challenge a list of alumni which includes last season's winner, Dub Myers, and 1985 champion Mike Blackmore. Myers and Blackmore have both run under four minutes three times in the race, equaling the record established by the late Steve Prefontaine.

The Bud Light Legends Mile (7:30) is the brainchild of

Oregon assistant coach Jim Healey, and has quickly blossomed into a three-day event of its own. The participants will be the guests of honor tonight at a dinner at the Eugene Hilton and a "fun run" Sunday morning, in addition to the race. All proceeds from the dinner and the fun run, which are both open to the public, will go towards the Hayward Field renovation project.

Headlining the Legends program is former world-record holder and "schoolboy sensation" Jim Ryun. Ryun was the dominant miler in the world during the late '60s and early '70s, but has not run competitively since 1973.

The return of Gerry Lindgren is also the cause of some curiosity among the track and field community. Lindgren disappeared without a trace from his Washington state home over 10 years ago, but was

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Oregon women look at Twilight as tuneup for next week's Pac-10s

By David Scott
Of the Emerald

For the second time in three weeks, the Duck women will compete without team scoring at Saturday's Oregon Twilight meet, which marks the end of the Hayward Field home schedule.

However, Oregon coach Tom Heinonen made clear the evening occasion is not the twilight to a fine season — rather, it's the beginning. The Pacific-10 Conference meet is only one week away. Thus far, 23 Ducks have qualified.

"(The Oregon Twilight) is one last tuneup," said Heinonen, whose squad waltzed past Oregon State University 76-51 last week. "This will help us to place our distance runners, and we hope it'll sort out our mile relay."

In the last Hayward Field appearance for the Ducks, the Oregon Invitational, 13 Ducks turned in new personal bests, so Oregon is hoping for history to repeat itself.

Most of Oregon's top athletes

are expected to compete, including NCAA qualifiers Penny Graves and Annette Hand, who both surpassed the 3,000- and 5,000-meter standards handily.

Others, such as horizontal jumper Janell Thorsland and sprinter Stefanie Hunter, are holding hopes of making the NCAA's.

"It's a matter of getting people to think in terms of the conference meet," said Oregon assistant coach Mark Stream. "I'd like to see some people make a competitive step up so they can enter the Pac-10 meet confidently."

Junior Yvette Brown is one Duck who should already have confidence. Last week at the S & W Modesto Invitational in California, she threw the discus 172-2, becoming the fourth Oregon athlete to qualify for the NCAA championships in Baton Rouge, La., June 3-6. Brown also was named the Pac-10 women's field athlete of the week. Heinonen said Brown may be held out of the Oregon Twilight to give her some rest.

Undefeated Oregon could definitely use the services of freshman thrower Jill Smith at the conference meet. The team's best javelin thrower, she is one foot away from qualifying for the Pac-10 championships. Smith missed three weeks of the season because of a stress fracture in her left leg.

Miller impresses vets at mini-camp

SUWANEE, Ga. (AP) — Former Oregon quarterback Chris Miller is getting plenty of praise from future National Football League teammates at a summer camp preview staged by the Atlanta Falcons.

The Falcons are getting their first on-field look at Miller this week, and the early reviews, especially from the receivers, are favorable.

"I think he's doing real well," said wide receiver Joey Jones. "He's got a very good arm. He seems to throw the long ball exceptionally well."

Veteran receiver Charlie Brown said, "This new kid, he looks real good. He definitely can throw the deep ball. He's pretty impressive for a rookie."

Coach Marion Campbell said the former Oregon star will not walk into the Falcons' starting job, however.

Campbell refused to speculate on the quarterback derby.

"I'm not getting into that," Campbell said. "David Archer's the starter and everybody else has to beat him out. I'm not going to make any prediction on a young guy."

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