

# SPORTS

## Mile has classic finish in Pre meet

By Ashley Conklin  
Emerald Sports Editor

It used to be that if Mary Slaney pulled out of a distance race in a Hayward Field track meet, there wasn't much reason to watch the race.

Although Slaney had to pull out of the women's mile at Friday's Prefontaine Classic because of a sore calf muscle, few seemed to notice, including eventual winner Suzy Hamilton.

"It didn't bother me," Hamilton said.

Slaney wasn't really needed Friday night because Hamilton and PattiSue Plumer, now the top U.S. distance stars, provided another exciting race with elbows and everything else flying down the backstretch.

Just like a week before at The Athletics Congress national championships, Hamilton and Plumer were literally locked together at the end. This time they were joined by Mozambique's Maria Mutola, who seemed to take the worst of it when she tried to cut in on Plumer with about 100 yards to go.

That left Hamilton free but Plumer almost caught her before the tape. The two then locked arms right before the finish line allowing Hamilton to win and sending Plumer crashing to the track.

"We're friends," Hamilton said of her rivalry with Plumer, "but sometimes she gets in the way. Sometimes it gets to be a little too much."

Plumer, who badly bruised her left hip, acknowledged that because American women's distance running has become so competitive — even without Slaney — that contact will happen.

"When you have good athletes in competitive races, you're going to see a lot of con-



Photo by Jeff Paslay

Lance Deal won the hammer throw with a meet and Hayward Field record toss of 257-4.

tact," Plumer said. "Anyone who thinks I like contact just has to look at the results of my last three races."

Not only has Plumer been in

literal contact with Hamilton lately, she and Slaney had a similar battle at the Bruce Jenner

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