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SPORTS

Mile has classic finish in Pre meet

By Ashley Conklin

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

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

"It didn't bother me," Ham ilton 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 hap-

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

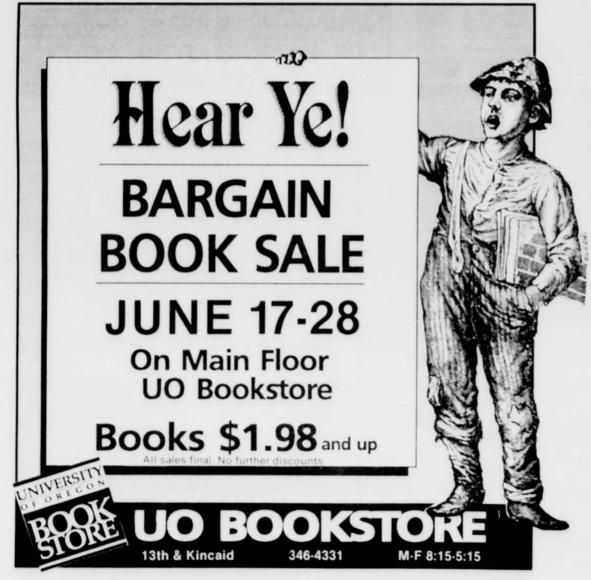


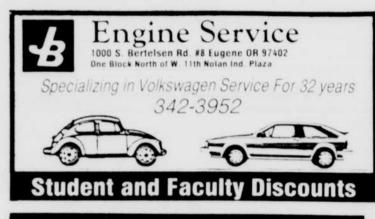
Lance Deal won the hammer throw with a meet and Hayward Field record

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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