

Olympic hopefuls test themselves at Classic

By Dave Charbonneau
Emerald Sports Reporter

The stars, sun and fans all came out to Hayward Field on Saturday to make the 18th annual Prefontaine Classic a memorable one.

Nearly 6,400 fans were in attendance to see some of the top athletes in the world, many of whom will compete in the Summer Olympics at Barcelona.

With the Olympic Trials coming up on June 19, this was the last opportunity for many athletes to see where they're at heading into the Trials.

The evening started with hammer thrower Lance Deal launching a 264-10 throw. Deal's throw was a meet record and just off his stadium record of 266-0, which he threw at the Oregon Twilight earlier this year.

A world-class field was featured in the steeplechase event. Matt Croghan won the race, which had five finishers under the Olympic qualifying time of 8:29.00.

Croghan finished at 8:21.55, and former Oregon star Danny Lopez took second in 8:23.57. Croghan said it was the second-fastest time he's ever run, but he said it didn't come easy.

"I really had to concentrate and work hard to win this race," Croghan said. "I wanted to run faster, under 20 or so."

Mozambique's Maria Mutola ran an impressive 800-meter race. She easily defeated Meredith Rainey, the top American in the event, by more than a second with a strong kick at the end.

"The pace was very fast — it was not a very tactical race," said the 19-year-old Mutola, who goes to Springfield High School. "I felt very strong at the end."

Rainey, who has only beaten Mutola once in five tries, said she wasn't worried about Mutola on Saturday.

"I just want to worry about making the American team and worry about runners from other countries later," Rainey said. "I do think Maria will be the one to beat at Barcelona."

Annette Peters, a former Oregon runner, slipped past Mary

'I tried to pass Mary with a lap to go, but I couldn't get by her. I tried again on the last lap, and, luckily, I crossed the line first.'

— Annette Peters,
on beating Mary Slaney in
the 2,000 meters

Slaney in the final 100 meters to take the 2,000-meter event. Peters, who was trying to talk over a mob of autograph-seeking children, said she may have got lucky.

"I tried to pass Mary with a lap to go but I couldn't get by her," she said. "I tried again on the last lap, and, luckily, I crossed the line first."

Slaney said sickness held her back from her usual training routine last week, which may have hindered her performance in the race.

"I feel like this was the first time I've really raced," Slaney said. "When Annette came up on me, I should have been able to change gears, and I was unable to do that."

Joe Falcon cruised to victory in the 1,500 and said he felt right at home at Hayward.

"I really appreciated the crowd support," he said. "I hate to leave Eugene. I should just stay here until the Olympic Trials."

In the long jump, Joe Greene had the third-longest jump in the world this year, behind Mike Powell and Carl Lewis. His leap of 27-6 crushed the meet and stadium records, as well as establishing a new personal outdoor record.

Jill Smith, a former Duck, won the javelin competition with a throw of 180-3. Paula Berry, the 1991 NCAA champion for Oregon, did not fare as well in the event, finishing sixth.

Angela Williams won the 100, Suzy Hamilton was victorious in the 1,500 and Russia's Yelena Pershina won the long jump.

Men's track grabs 4th in NCAA

Oregon's senior class made it a farewell to remember.

The Duck men's track and field team took fourth at the NCAA Championships Saturday in Austin, Texas, the fourth-straight year Oregon finished in the top five.

Arkansas completed its "triple crown" by winning the overall team title Saturday and taking the cross country and indoor track championships earlier this year.

The women's team, though, will return one of its scorers from the national meet. Senior Kim Hyatt and sophomore Camara Jones scored all of Oregon's 10 points at the meet, which was good enough for 22nd place.

The Louisiana State women walked off with the team championship for the sixth-consecutive year.

Art Skipper led a number of All-American finishes for the men with his championship in the javelin.

Also on Friday, Tye Van Schoiack and Rick Mestler repeated as scorers in the steeplechase. Van Schoiack took third, and Mestler made his

fourth All-American finish in sixth place.

Decathletes Pedro daSilva and Muhammad Oliver finished third and fourth Saturday with the top two decathlon finishes in Oregon history. daSilva broke his own school record with an 8,176, and Oliver had a PR of 8,087.

Pat Haller made his last run as a Duck a third-place finish in the 5,000-meter run.

Bob Gray, who failed to qualify for the 400-hurdle final, cruised to a sixth place in the 110 hurdles.

For the women, Hyatt settled for third in the javelin with a 170-10 throw. Hyatt became the first NCAA women's javelin thrower ever to become a four-time All-American.

Though only a sophomore, Jones took fifth in the 400 in 52.26. Jones broke her own school record in the event twice during the week, with her best mark a 52.07.

Senior Lucy Nusrala and junior Nicole Woodward also ran the 5,000 Saturday, but they did not score. Nusrala took ninth, and Woodward finished 10th.

Oscar the Freshman



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105 PERSONALS

ATQ Cooter Eph. 3:17-19
My dear friend, he loves you so much more than I do and I love you a whole lot!! I'll be praying for you this summer. Have a Happy Birthday, Wednesday.
Danielle

BIMBO-
Whatchadooin' this summer? I wasn't sure. The big move's almost here. Can't wait to do it again in the fall.
BEANBRAIN

105 PERSONALS

Steve,
Good luck with finals.
Love, Jennifer

To all of my ODE Pals: Nice job this year, and I'm happy to have had the opportunity to work with you. Good luck in the future!

C. Blair
Editor, 1991-92

Jeffrey- How many more? Zero more! Babe, you're the greatest. And, just remember, near or far, you will always be close to my heart (if you bring me Calzone, that is!)

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