

■ 1995 PREFONTAINE CLASSIC

PRE

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wasn't quick enough to run the half-mile, as his real strengths came in the longer distances. In fact, his first collegiate loss was in the mile race, a rare defeat that came almost at the end of his first collegiate year.

"He told me he didn't run the 5,000-meters," Bowerman recalled. "He was quick on the trigger. He was not temperamental, but he was fiesty. When I asked him 'would you like to run the 5,000-meters?' he said 'I run the mile.'"

"But he was also quick to get over it. He said 'I will run it, but I won't like it.'"

And Pre not only ran the 5,000, but he came to dominate it. Actually, he dominated it from the start.

"The first time he ran the 5,000-meters he was still mad, and then he broke the American record," Bowerman said.

Pre went on to capture seven individual NCAA titles, including four 3-mile crowns. He set eight American and eight collegiate records while at Oregon,

He has grown into a legend. By definition a legend is somebody that is larger than life.

— TOM JORDAN
Eugene promoter

and holds the records in the three-mile (12:53.4) and six-mile (27:09.4) races to this day. His 3:54.6 mile still ranks second on the Oregon list, and his 3:38.1 1,500 and 13:22.4 5,000 are both good for fourth in the Oregon books.

And Pre's success didn't stop after college. After leaving Oregon, he set five more American records in every race ranging from the 2,000 to the 10,000.

While he never won an Olympic medal, he provided for a memorable and dramatic 5,000 in the 1972 Munich Olympic Games, but ended up finishing fourth.

On May 29, 1975, Pre beat Frank Shorter in a hotly contested 5,000 meter race at Hayward Field. Sadly, that victory would be Pre's last.

The Tragedy

Returning from a party near Hendricks Park in the early hours of May 30, 1975, Steve Prefontaine lost control of his car and slid into a rock embankment. His car

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MEET

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Monica Track Club, will go toe-to-toe with Johnson of Nike International at 2:49 p.m. in what stands to be a heated 200-meter dash. Johnson is ranked No. 1 in the world in both the 200 and 400 meters and Lewis might possibly be the greatest sprinter to lace up the spikes.

In a tune up for the heptathlon at the U.S. Track & Field Championships in Sacramento next month, Joyner-Kersey and former Duck Kelly Blair are slated to test their legs in the high jump at 1:30 p.m. and the 100 hurdles at 2:31 p.m.

Joyner-Kersey is generally thought to be the greatest all-around female athlete in track and field history, but in the latter event she will face the top-ranked hurdler from 1993 in Devers.

O'Brien, ranked No. 1 in the world in the decathlon, will take part in a miniature version of his specialty at 11:00 a.m. The mini-decathlon will include the discus, high jump and high hurdles.

Annette Peters will highlight the 3,000 meters at 1:04 p.m. while Suzy Hamilton will step up from her 400 meters specialty and compete in the 1,000 meters at 1:23 p.m. Hamilton will do battle with Maria Mutola, the top distance runner from Mozambique.

Former Duck Danny Lopez, heads a list of 14 in the steeplechase at 12:50 p.m. while another former Duck, Lance Deal, will compete in the hammer event at 12:45 p.m.

Quincy Watts, Butch Reynolds and Danny Everett form a tantalizing trio in the 400 meters and top distance contender Steve Holman has special plans for the mile event at the Pre Classic.

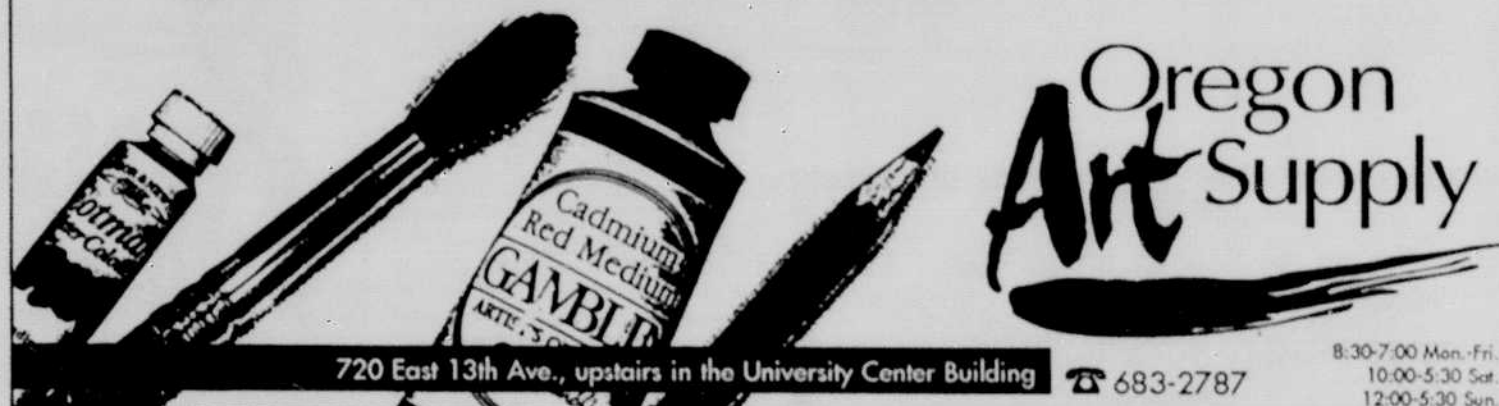
Holman, who ranks seventh overall among U.S. milers, will be attempting to break 3 minutes, 50 seconds and become the first to go under that time on U.S. soil. In what he considers the best shape of his life, Hayward Field fans may just see a glimpse of history on Sunday if he crosses the line prior to 1:50 p.m.

The two-mile run at 2:18 p.m. is another event loaded with top-caliber talent, including Todd Williams and Bob Kennedy. Kennedy holds the No. 1 American ranking in the 3,000 and 5,000 and is the same age that Prefontaine was when he died on May 30, 1975.

Williams should help him boost the event to a blistering pace since both have indicated they would like to make a run at the U.S. record of 8:12.74 in the event.

Two-time Olympic gold medalist Roger Kingdom will look to continue his comeback at 2:04 p.m. when he takes on last year's second-ranked American, Robert Reading, in the 110 high hurdles.

Congratulations, Graduates!



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