

1998 PREFONTAINE CLASSIC

Men: Karl Keska to run in 5,000

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The current American record for the mile is Jim Ryun's then-world record of 3:51.1, which he set in Bakersfield, Calif., in 1967. The Pre Classic and Hayward Field record is 3:52.28, by David Kibet of Kenya in 1996.

Three-time U.S. 5,000-meter champion Bob Kennedy is the favorite to win the event Sunday. Kennedy won the 3,000 meters at last year's Prefontaine Classic, setting a meet record of 7:31.78. He is a member of four World Championship teams and is one of the United States' most decorated distance runners. He holds the American record in the 5,000 meters with a time of 12:58.21 and also the American record in the 3,000 with a time of 7:31.78 ran last year.

Former Oregon track and cross country standout Karl Keska headlines the local runners entered in this year's 5,000. A two-time Pacific-10 Conference 10,000-meter champion, Keska won the Mt. SAC 5,000-meter

race earlier this season.

Although it's a non-Grand Prix event, the 110-meter hurdles, featuring two-time World Champion Allen Johnson, could shape up to be one of the more exciting events of the day. A 1996 Olympic gold medalist, Johnson has been ranked No. 1 in the world the past two years and shares the American record of 12.92 seconds with Roger Kingdom. He holds the Hayward Field and Prefontaine Classic record for his 13.13-second effort in 1996.

The field portion of the meet will be brief, with just three events scheduled: the hammer, the shot put and the pole vault.

Eugene resident and 1996 Olympic Silver Medalist Lance Deal highlights the hammer, which looks to shape up as the premier competition among the field events.

Deal, who holds the American hammer record of 270 feet, 9 inches, will be the favorite in a strong field that includes former Duck Scott McGee, who won an NCAA

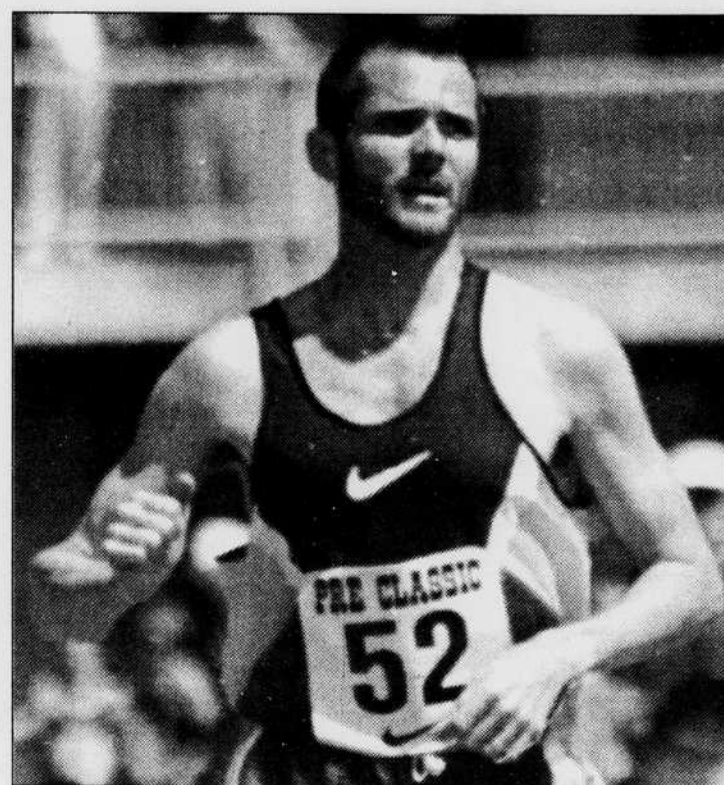
championship while at Oregon, former American record holder Jud Logan and 1997 U.S. national champion Kevin McMahon, among others.

"It's a pretty good field," Deal said. "Three of the best Americans are competing, besides myself. It's not a shabby field at all. I think it will be exciting."

John Godina, who placed first at the World Championships in 1995 and 1997 and earned a silver medal at the 1996 Olympic Games, highlights the shot put field. He still holds the collegiate record for his put of 72-2 1/4 while at UCLA.

The pole vault should be up for grabs, with Dean Starkey, Scott Huffman, Jeff Hartwig and Pat Manson expected to battle for first place.

Current Duck Piotr Buciarski, who ranks third on the Oregon all-time list with a mark of 18-2 1/2, will likely be a crowd favorite as he tunes up for the NCAA Championships June 3-6 in Buffalo, N.Y.



EMERALD

Bob Kennedy on his way to winning the 3,000 meters at last year's Prefontaine Classic. He will run the 5,000 on Sunday.

Sprinters: Boldon and Greene's friendship is unique to the sport

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icons in the sport," Greene and Boldon's coach John Smith says. "I think that both men have an opportunity to become just that."

It's no coincidence that Greene and Boldon's friendship began on the very same track that showcased their two greatest professional performances.

Five days before Boldon would capture the 200-meter World Championship title in a time of

20.04 seconds, he lied writhing in pain on the cold Athens' track. His legs were severely cramping just minutes before he was scheduled to compete, along with Greene, in the 100-meter final. When he saw Boldon collapse to the ground, Greene quickly broke away from his pre-race workout to help his teammate stretch out his legs. When that didn't work, the two men bent to their knees and prayed.

"That's something that just doesn't happen very often in this sport," Boldon says, "even among teammates. That's something you don't soon forget."

Greene didn't think what he did was that special, even though Boldon recovered in time to finish fifth overall in a time of 10.02, just .16 seconds behind champion Greene.

"I was just doing what I could to help him out," Greene says. "He is

my brother as well as my training partner. He would have done the same for me."

And such is the nature of their relationship. They are intense competitors who greatly respect one another, and who do what they can to lend a hand. Even in a sport where the athletes tend to isolate themselves from their competitors, Greene and Boldon have found that success and friendship can run side-by-side.

"I'd like to see them become icons in the sport. I think that both men have an opportunity to become just that."

John Smith
Boldon and Greene's coach

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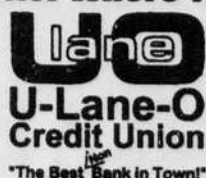
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