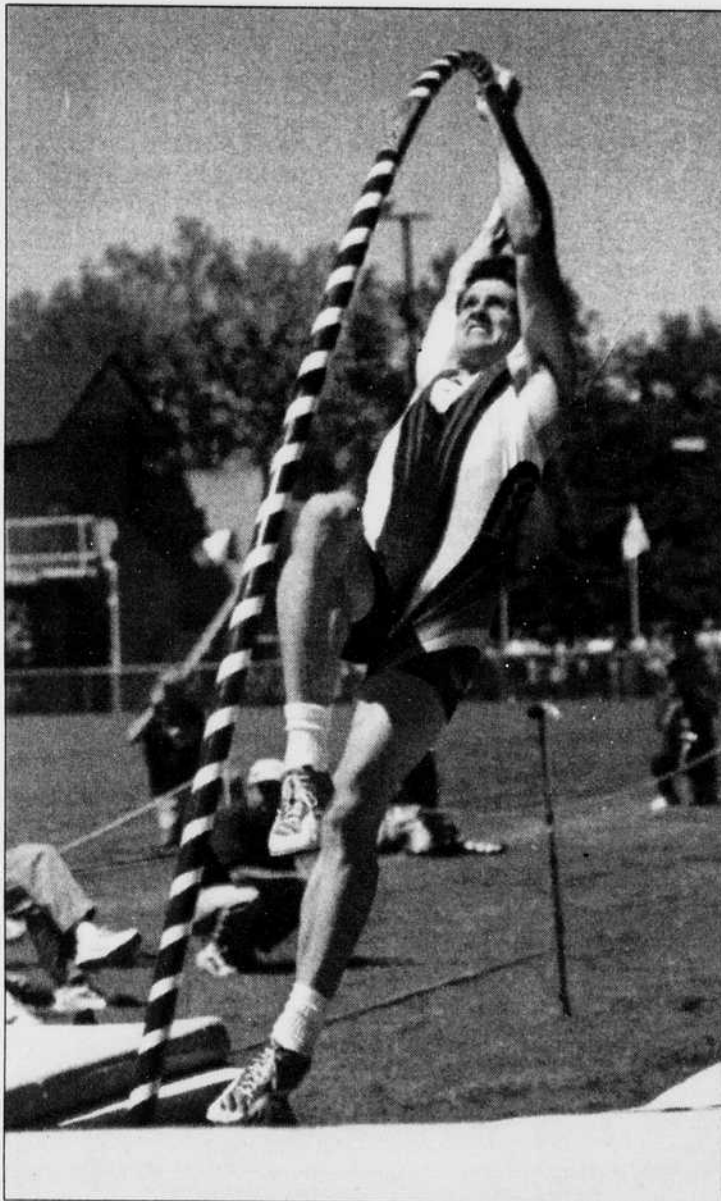


# Pre: Komen fails to run fastest mile on American soil



NICK MEDLEY/Emerald

Jeff Hartwig cleared 19-5 in the pole vault, which was a lifetime best.

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Boldon crossed the finish line in 9.89 seconds and Drummond in 10.05.

As the capacity crowd roared, Greene and Boldon were ecstatic as the two close friends shared embraces and high fives.

After getting a glimpse of what they could do, both Greene and Boldon were looking down the road.

"We can go a lot faster," Boldon said. "You've got to remember, this is a one-race setting and we don't have the advantage of rounds to get ready and get the body warm."

Greene, Boldon and Drummond train under John Smith, and the coach said he was pleased with what he saw.

"It shows that American sprinting is here, it's alive. The main thing is that you have to have a product to sell. Our product is very good. I know when we get a legal wind reading we're going to be fine. I'm not disappointed at all."

Later on, Greene capped a fantastic day with a win in the 200 meters, where he beat a field that included world record holder Michael Johnson.

Greene finished in a wind-aided time of 19.88 seconds, with Thompson second (20.17) and Johnson third (20.28).

"Whenever you can beat one of the best men in the world, it gives you great confidence," Greene said about beating Johnson. "MJ is a great athlete, and I love competing against the best. It makes me run the best."

While the two shortest races of the day provided much enter-

tainment, one of the more exciting races came in the meet's finale, the men's mile.

In what was one of the fastest mile races ever, top to bottom, Kenya's Daniel Komen failed in his bid to be the first man to ever run under 3:50 on American soil, but he sure came close.

Komen finished in 3:50.95, which was the second-fastest mile ever run in the United States. Needless to say, it was a Pre Classic and Hayward Field record.

The top 11 finishers in the mile all ran under 3:57.12, which was run by Jason Pyrah, the 11th-place finisher.

Several other meet and Hayward Field records were broken Sunday as well, the first by Kenya's Luke Kipkoski, who held off fellow countryman Julius Gatahi down the stretch to win the 5,000 meters in a time of 13 minutes, 07.83 seconds.

That broke the old meet and Hayward Field record of 13:08.29 set by Paul Bitok in 1996.

Allen Johnson, who holds a share of the American record of 12.92 seconds in the 110-meter hurdles, broke both the meet and Field records in that event with the fastest time in the world this year, 13.12 seconds.

"I'm real happy with the time," Johnson said. "I just didn't go through the first hurdles like I wanted to, like I'd been working on in practice."

"For today's purposes I would have been happier if I would have run technically better and ran a slower time. I think the fact I ran the way I did and still ran 13.12 — I'm happy. I think it's going to be a big year for me."

The other meet record that fell was in the 400-meter hurdles, where Bryan Bronson won in a time of 48.45 seconds.

In the field, Jeff Hartwig recorded the second-highest vault in the world this year as he won the pole vault with a mark of 19 feet, 0 1/2 inches, his lifetime best.

Hartwig then set the bar at 19-8 1/4 in an attempt to break Lawrence Johnson's American record of 19-7 1/2. However, he failed in three attempts.

Lance Deal gave his hometown fans a performance to remember, winning the hammer with a toss of 265-4, his best showing of the year.

"It felt great," Deal said. "I'd been struggling all spring, going back and forth, competing bad and competing OK, then competing bad."

Deal said the fact he was pushed by Russia's Ilya Konovova helped him get a big mark.

"He's a real good thrower; he's real steady," Deal said. "It was good to have somebody like that to sort of key against, and as it turned out, that's exactly what happened and he definitely raised the level of my throw today."

*"For today's purposes I would have been happier if I would have run technically better and ran a slower time."*

Allen Johnson  
Hurdler

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*Alpha of Oregon chapter congratulates the 159 students elected to membership in the Phi Beta Kappa Society at a meeting held May 26, 1998.*

*Members-elect who accept the invitation will be initiated Saturday, June 13, in the Gerlinger Hall Alumni Lounge. Phi Beta Kappa is the nation's oldest, most prestigious academic honorary society.*

*For more information, call Membership Committee Chair John McCole (346-5906) or Chapter Secretary Nan Coppock-Bland (346-2221).*

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