

# Flop: Fosbury is third at the Masters Games

Continued from Page 1

jumpers Dick Fosbury and John Thomas. Fosbury revolutionized the event with his unique approach that earned him a gold medal in the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City, clearing 7 feet 4 and one-quarter inches. Thomas was one of the first people to jump over seven feet, earning the bronze in Rome in 1960 and the silver in Tokyo in 1964.

"While there's the norm for elite athletes, here it's very individualistic."

Fosbury, 51, competed Wednesday in the 50 to 54 age group, finishing third at 5 feet 3 inches. Franc Vivod of Slovenia won the competition with a height of 5-7.

Thomas and Fosbury each held clinics at the Games, and both are members of the USA Track and Field Hall of Fame.

Fosbury, a native Oregonian, was competing Wednesday for the first time in more than 10 years.

"I'm happy that I don't have to compete against the young guys," he said.

Thomas, who was presenting awards, stresses the individuality of the sport.

Not since Knute Rockne brought the forward pass to football has a sport been turned on its head the way Fosbury's flop did. Nor has a change held like Fosbury's revolution.

"The best way is the way that's most comfortable for you," Thomas said.

At the northern pit, the 55-and-over age groups primarily used the straddle approach. Keith Carr, 66, a retired Bend High School teacher from Elkton took second

in the 65 to 70 group using the straddle to clear 4-7.

"There's an advantage in the flop," he said. "I'm gonna work on it a little and see what I can do."

Long before the epiphany of the flop, Carr was clearing 6-4 at Brigham Young University.

"It's disgusting," continued Carr, who taught at Bend until 10 years ago, "you stand there and look at the bar and it's a height that you didn't used to start at. Then you go up and knock it off."

Despite his disappointment, Carr epitomized the old age-defying droves of the Masters Games, bobbing up and down on his toes, impatiently waiting for his silver medal.

Fosbury, who currently does civil engineering in Ketchum, Idaho, downplayed the fact that the Masters Games is the one place where people aren't flopping.

"I've never forced my style on anyone," he said. "I grew up trying to learn the straddle."

The two approaches, the multitude of styles, the spread of ages and competitors from Lithuania to India — they all typified the Games' focus on individuality.

The sparse afternoon crowd showed its support by clapping in unison when Jaroslav Hanus, a straddler from The Czech Republic, tried for the 55 to 59 world record of 5-10 and one-quarter.

Out of the same crowd, supporters responded to missed heights with shouts of encouragement.

While roaring cheers for cleared heights are usually offset by the dead silence of a miss, a common response for Wednesday's miscues was, "It's okay, Dad!"

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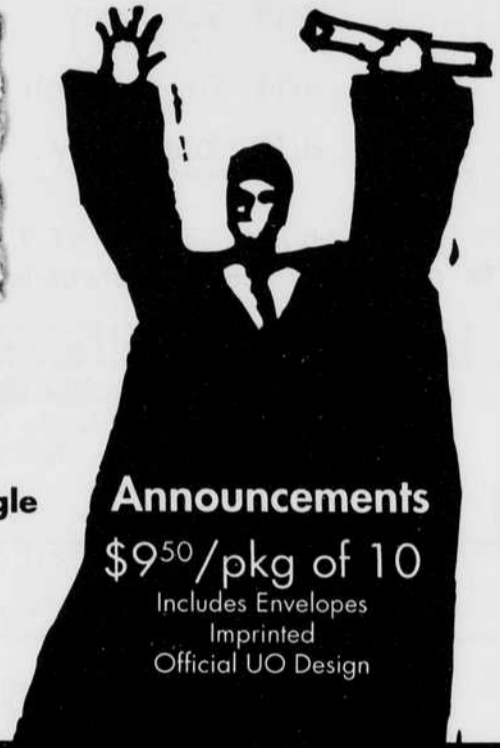
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## Games: Past Olympians Biondi, Salazar to compete

Continued from Page 1

time the Games have come to the United States.

The Games, which include 25 sports, are based in Portland and run from August 9 to 22. The track and field segment is taking place in Eugene.

Celebrity athletes at the games will include: triathlete Mark Allen, Olympic swimmer Matt Biondi, high jump revolutionary Dick Fosbury, former NFL receiver James Lofton, distance runner Alberto Salazar, and seven-time NBA All-Star Jo Jo White.

"It's such fun, such fun to do," said Anne Berger, a volunteer area marshal from Kalamazoo, Mich.

Some of the individuals, the "weekend warriors" of the participants, have participated for years, she added.

The event still lacks the mass

appeal of professional sports, though, said former Olympian John Thomas.

"Because there's no money involved, it's just another event," he said.

The Games will conclude in Eugene fashion with the twilight running of the 1,500 meters at Hayward Field at 6 p.m. on August 22.

The Games were first held in 1985 in Toronto, Canada. They have since been held in Denmark in 1989 and Brisbane, Australia, in 1994. Nike was named title partner for the 1998 games, which would not have been possible without corporate support.

For more information on the Nike World Masters Games, visit the official headquarters of the Eugene games in the Bowerman Building, which is next to Hayward Field on 15th Avenue.

## Lightning kills OSU professor

CORVALLIS — An Oregon State University teacher died last week when she was struck by lightning while visiting her parents in Arizona.

Violet Jonas, 56, had gone for a walk in the woods behind her parents' home in Dewey, Ariz., on Thursday evening.

When she didn't return, her parents called the police, said Christine Pastorek, one of Jonas' colleagues in the OSU chemistry department.

Searchers discovered her body in the woods nearby.

Jonas, who had taught at OSU for the past 20 years, went for a walk every evening, Pastorek said.

Jonas obtained her doctorate in organic chemistry from the University of California at Riverside in 1970. She taught in Germany, at California State College in Bakersfield and at California State University in Long Beach before coming to Oregon State.

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