

Tuesday
June 1, 1999

Oregon Emerald SPORTS

Best Bet
NBA Playoffs
New York vs. Indiana
5:30 p.m., TNT



PREFONTAINE CLASSIC



Luke Kipkosgei of Kenya wins the 5,000 at the 25th Prefontaine Classic Sunday after taking the lead from No. 1-ranked Bob Kennedy in the last lap. Kennedy finished third.

Nick Medley/Emerald

Silver anniversary a breeze for runners

Maurice Greene leads the men's field in a speedy meet that was again affected by the wind

By Allison Ross
Oregon Daily Emerald

One thing is for certain.

The Prefontaine Classic, spurred by the runners and an action-packed sequence of events, was nothing like the last seconds of an NBA Playoffs game.

Rather, it was fast.

The Pre's silver anniversary was a made for television event, and despite the early morning wake-up call and chilly wind, the athletes did not disappoint the 12,247 rarely silent fans.

Maurice Greene stole the show — at least part of it — with his second straight record-breaking performance. Greene did not one, but two victory laps. The first after he ran the 100 meters in a wind-aided time of 9.84 seconds. Although the wind corrupted his victory, it was the seventh-fastest time this year in any conditions.

"My plan was to run a nice, easy 100 and set myself up for

the 200," Greene said. "I wasn't pressing myself. I was confident."

Less than 45 minutes after he finished his victory lap, Greene lived up to his words. With the wind whipping at 3.1 meters per second, Greene got his second victory of the day in 20.06

And there were others who broke records. After two false starts stalled the 110 hurdles, Larry Wade made sure the third start would be his charm. Wade edged Reggie Torian on his way to a meet- and field-record time of 13.12.

Again the wind was more than the legal limit, but Wade still claimed a Pre record.

"I'm happy to tie the record," Wade said. "I didn't pay attention to the wind. I train hard, and I have confidence in what I do."

There were some events that managed to escape the wind factor, including the mile. It is an event that has be-

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By Scott Pesznecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

Regina Jacobs wasted no time in setting the tone for the Prefontaine Classic on Sunday morning.

The athlete competing for Mizuno TC defeated a pack of 16 to win the 1,500 meters with a time of 4 minutes, 7.90 seconds. Her time was the fastest in the world this year.

"It was nice," Jacobs said. "When I came through with a lap to go, and I saw my time, I realized, 'Yeah, I can run really, really fast today.'"

Jacobs remained fairly humble after her victory. She did a quick television interview on the field for the live national audience and then took a traditional victory lap before surrendering herself to a cluster of hopeful fans.

Her time did not come easy. Jacobs had to battle a steady wind throughout the race, and she is not accustomed to racing so early in the morning.

"One of the hardest things

about today was running at 10:12 a.m.," she said, continuing to sign autographs. "It's the crack of dawn for me."

In the past, Jacobs has encountered hardships in Eugene. She lost the 5,000 the last time she raced at Hayward Field when the pace sped up to "a kicker's race."

Jacobs believes that her win Sunday will help her in the U.S. Track and Field Championships, which will also be held at Hayward Field on June 24-27.

"This win is going to make it a lot easier to come back," she said. "I've been snake bitten in past years here."

Oregon women's track and field fans may have noticed a familiar face leading the first two laps of the 1,500. Senior Katie Crabb set the pace, dropping out of the race 100 meters into the third lap as the pack sped by her.

As Jacobs helped to set the tone, sprinter Marion Jones —

The women in the Prefontaine Classic set records and establish a rapid pace for the meet

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