

Prefontaine

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sign autographs for a mob of fans pressed against the interview area fence.

After she satisfied all the autograph seekers, Jacobs spoke warmly about Hayward Field.

"Once I got out there, the crowd was awesome," she said. "The crowd is so good. This is something I've wanted to do for so long — to win and take a victory lap in front of this crowd."

Twenty minutes later, the starting gun's blast sent Maurice Greene into motion in the 100. It took him 9.84 seconds to finish.

Had it not been for the steady wind that kept up all morning, Greene's time would have equaled the world record set by Donovan Bailey in 1996.

Still, Greene celebrated his win as if he broke the record. He ran an extra 50 meters, raising his arms and calling to the crowd.

The race that most closely mir-

rors the legacy of Steve Prefontaine, an Oregon runner who was killed in a car accident in 1975, was perhaps the most exciting. In the

SILVER ANNIVERSARY



PREFONTAINE CLASSIC

5,000, American Bob Kennedy and Luke Kipkosgei of Kenya battled for the lead. Kennedy made a final attempt when he regained the lead in the final lap, but Kipkosgei prevailed to have his name inscribed on the Prefontaine trophy, a tradition started Sunday to honor the 5,000 winner.

Kennedy's effort was not all lost. He took a victory lap to celebrate his time, the fastest American 5,000 on U.S. soil this year. Fans greeted the distance runner with requests for his number,

shoes and jersey.

Michael Johnson again proved his track and field excellence with a victory in the 400, and the Pre Classic mile lived up to its reputation as the world's fastest. Ten runners finished in less than 4 minutes.

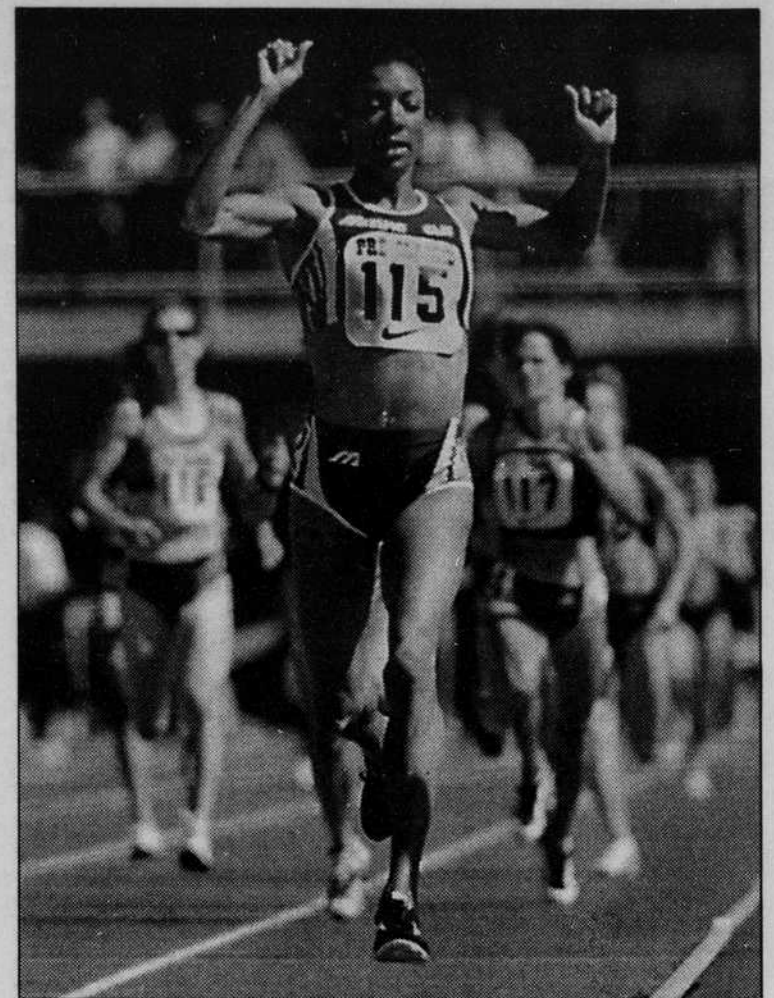
Marion Jones closed the day by winning the 200 in 21.81. Her time set a meet and field record, putting the finishing touches on a day filled with greatness.

Most of all, the Pre Classic was a celebration as athletes shared their victories with the crowd. David Warren, a 14-year-old fan, collected a jersey and 22 race numbers before the meet was over.

"They're nice. They're really nice," Warren said. "I look forward to next year."

In short, it was another Pre Classic for the books.

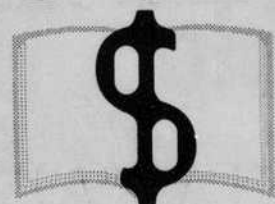
The weather was good. Records were broken. And the crowd was into it.



Regina Jacobs sets a new world record for the year in the 1,500 meters.

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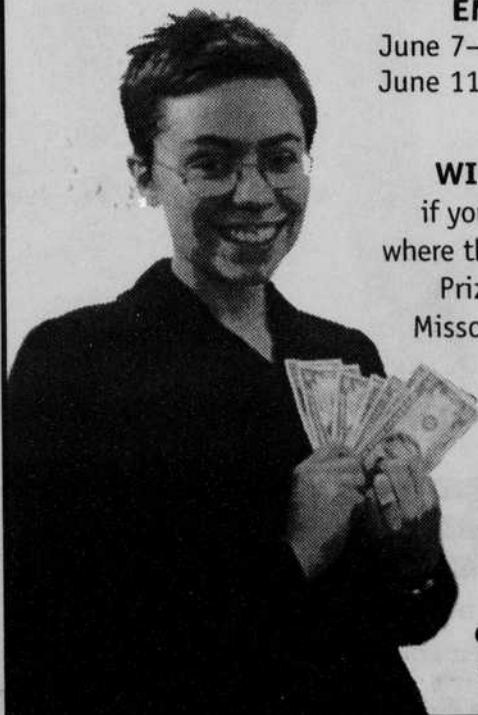
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THE FRENCH HORN

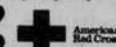
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