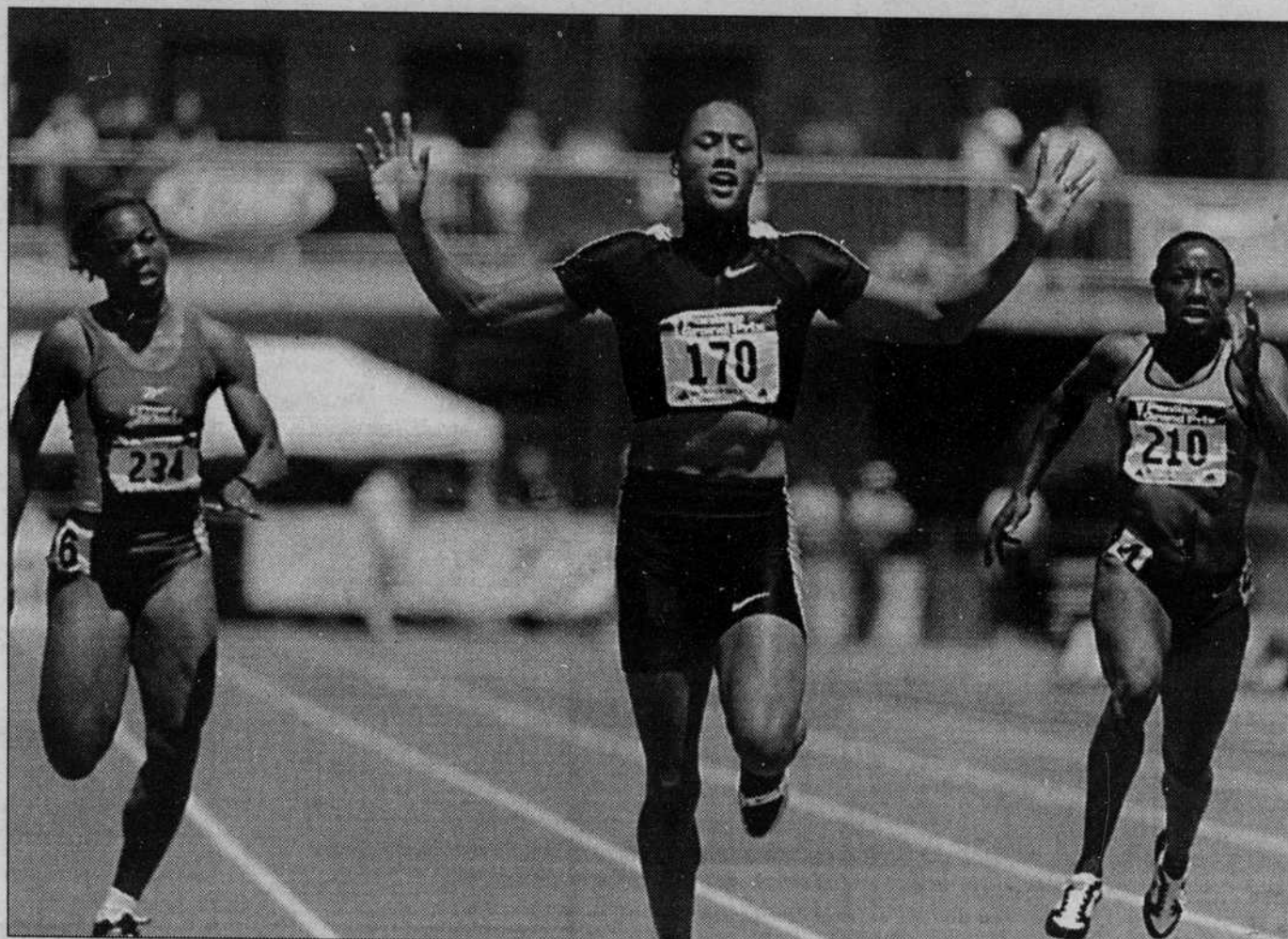




USTAF CHAMPIONSHIPS



In her only victory of the meet, Marion Jones crosses the finish line in the 200-meter dash, more than a second ahead of second-place finisher Latasha Jenkins (234). Scott Barnett for the Emerald

U.S. stars shine in Eugene

By claiming the 1,500 and 5,000 titles, Regina Jacobs is the only athlete to win two events

By Mirjam Swanson
Oregon Daily Emerald

For the second time in a month, Regina Jacobs highlighted a big-time track meet at Hayward Field.

The 35-year-old Jacobs was the only athlete to successfully double at the U.S.A. Outdoor Track and Field Championships, the qualifying meet for the national team that was held at Hayward Field during the weekend.

Jacobs won the 1,500 meters impressively Saturday with a time of 4 minutes, 24.1 seconds—six seconds ahead of the rest of the field and almost five seconds faster than her mark at the Prefontaine Classic on May 30, which was at the time the fastest in the world this year.

Then Sunday, less than 24 hours later, she won the 5,000 in 15:24.80.

"The double in the 1,500 and 5,000 hasn't been done before, so everyone saw a little bit of history today," Jacobs said. "[The 5,000] was a nice, comfortable pace for me."

Jacobs' double wasn't shocking, but the fact that it was the only double of the meet was a surprise.

Marion Jones, Track and Field News' athlete of the year in 1998, failed to complete the expected double in the long jump and 200.

Jones easily topped the field in the 200 with a time of 22.10, beating second-place finisher Latasha Jenkins of Ball State by more than a second Sunday. But she wasn't her untouchable self Friday in the long jump.

A recent knee injury caused Jones to pass on two attempts after she'd taken the lead early in the competition. And that helped Dawn Burrell claim the national championship, with a leap of 22 feet, 10 inches to Jones' 22-3.

Jones said she was disappointed but not devastated by her second loss in more than 1 1/2 years.

"Anytime you have women who can

The absences of Michael Johnson in the 200 and Maurice Greene in the 100 steal some of the luster from sprint wins

By Mirjam Swanson
Oregon Daily Emerald

Maurice Greene, winner of the 200-meter dash at the U.S.A. Outdoor Track and Field Championships at Hayward Field, found himself having to answer question after question about the absence of Michael Johnson—who holds the 200 world record—in Sunday's race.

"I'm not worried about Michael Johnson," Greene said more than once. "I'm coming out here to run my race."

Dennis Mitchell, winner of the 100, had to answer similar queries about the absence of world-record holder Greene on Friday.

"I don't run my races with or without people," Mitchell said. "Maurice not being in the race was a choice he made."

Who wasn't running garnered as much attention as who was at the meet that decided the members of America's national team. Still, American distance-king Bob Kennedy and newcomer Adam Goucher did race—and race hard in a thrilling 5,000.

Goucher was able to out-kick Kennedy down the stretch for the national championship on a blustery Friday evening in 13 minutes, 25.59 seconds.

"It gives me a lot of confidence," Goucher said. "I know I still have a long way to go, of course, but I feel like I'm on the right track."

Kennedy agreed that Goucher is indeed headed in the right direction and bringing American distance running with him.

"It's good to have Americans running well again, and hopefully minimize that talk of 'What's wrong with American distance running?'" Kennedy said. "As long as we keep progressing and getting better as a group, we'll be fine."

The anticipated Greene-Johnson matchup didn't happen because Johnson withdrew due to a right quadriceps in-

Eugene continues hot streak

A 6-1 home victory over Yakima on Monday night gives the Ems their fourth win in five games

By Mirjam Swanson
Oregon Daily Emerald

After a disappointing 0-6 start, the Eugene Emeralds (4-7) are beginning to look like a decent ballclub.

With their relatively easy 6-1 win against Yakima (6-4) on Monday evening in front of a sparse but supportive crowd of 1,602, the Ems won their second straight game and fourth out of their last five.

But Eugene isn't satisfied with its play just yet.

"You're happy every time you win," Ems manager Danny Sheaffer said. "But this is a humbling game—you can't get too high, you can't get too low. We still have a losing record, but we're gonna be all right."

Eugene looked quite all right Monday, thanks in large part to a stellar pitching performance by starter Jeramy Gomer.

The left-hander from Florida pitched 8 2/3 solid innings, giving up only two hits while striking out two.

"He did a hell of a job," second baseman Mike Dzurilla said. "You can't ask for anything better than that. That's great for a starter, and we got good relieving. And, well, that wins the ballgame."

Gomer was replaced in the eighth inning by Jamie Eppendeder, who retired the four batters he faced in order.

Offensively, the Ems didn't go as quietly.

Dzurilla's line-drive double down the third-base line in the fifth inning cleared the loaded bases and broke the game open.

"I was looking middle-in," Dzurilla said. "He was throwing in all day, and I just got the barrel on the ball, and it went down the line."

Dzurilla's hit put Eugene up 4-1, giving it a lead that it would not relinquish.

The Ems put some insurance runs on the board, too—a relief after they'd rallied only to lose by narrow margins in all but one of their first six defeats.

Kevin Bass provided some more offense, hitting a two-run double in the sixth on a drive that also found the left-field corner. Ed Marquez continued his recent hot streak with a run-scoring single in the fifth inning.

"The past few days we've been playing good ball," Dzurilla said. "It's easy when it's going good, and you can get a couple wins under your belt."

"All we've gotta do is keep hitting the ball, pitching and playing good defense."

The Ems, who've characteristically struggled with their defense through their 1 1/2 weeks of the season, only committed one error Monday. It was charged to shortstop Jim Deschaine, who now has nine through 11 games.

But Eugene did benefit from some defensive gems as well, including a running, shoe-string catch by right fielder Jeff Ryan in the seventh inning.

Together, plays like Ryan's and Deschaine's signal the Ems' early-season improvement and the significant amount of work that remains to be done, Sheaffer said.

"We're gonna be fine," he said. "This team plays hard. It's just a matter of getting these guys to play together right now."



Qualifiers
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