

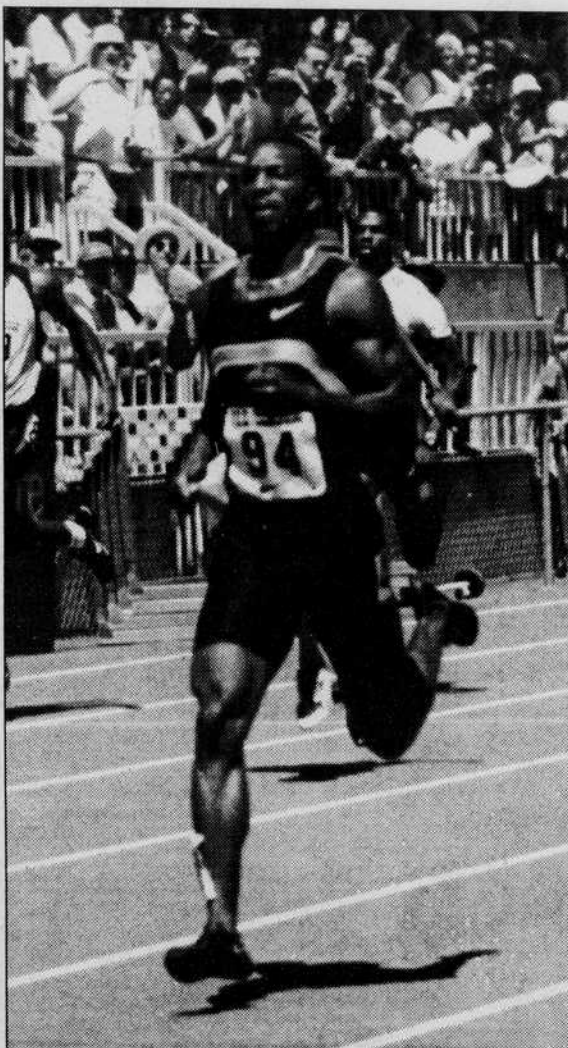


Best Bet
Tennis: Wimbledon,
Early Rounds
Noon, TNT

Sports

Oregon Daily
Emerald

Stars shine at the Prefontaine Classic



Azle Malinao-Alvarez Emerald

It was tough to tell which athlete with the initials M.J. was more impressive on Saturday. Marion Jones pulled off the double in the 100 meters and long jump, while Michael Johnson set a meet record with his 400 meter time of 43.92.

A taste of track life at the Pre

Hayward Field fans are not disappointed with spectacular marks and sunny skies at the 26th Prefontaine Classic Grand Prix

By Robbie McCallum
for the Emerald

Future and former Olympians left their mark on Hayward Field Saturday at the 26th annual Prefontaine Classic Grand Prix.

Overall, seven meet and field records fell, with four of those belonging to women.

Although the meet was just a stepping stone to the Olympics for some athletes, their performances were enough to dazzle the 12,508 fans on hand at the Classic.

Highly touted as one of the best head-to-head matchups of the meet, the 1,500 meter run did not disappoint. Romania's Gabriela Szabo edged former Eugenean Suzy Favor Hamilton by six-hundredths of a second to obliterate the previous meet record by six seconds.

Szabo's time of 4 minutes, 0.73 seconds is the fastest in the world this year. Favor Hamilton led for the entire race until the last few meters, stumbling at the finish line. Szabo drafted off of Favor Hamilton, who cut the strong breeze on the backstretch of the track.

"Coming within an inch of the world best is not too bad," Favor Hamilton said. "I'm real-

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Olympic hopefuls flood Hayward Field in hopes of establishing themselves as the best of the best at the Prefontaine Classic

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

There Michael Johnson sat. On a bench, beneath a tent with a herd of media circling around him in every direction.

It was only moments after Johnson had captured the men's 400 meters with a time of 43.92 seconds, but the voice was calm. The breathing easy. The sweat barely visible.

His cheeks had hardly moved during his race as his calm nature made it tough to realize how fast he was actually going.

His time was fast enough to establish a new Prefontaine Classic meet record, but Johnson insisted that meet records don't mean much to him.

"I'm not really concerned about the records," Johnson said. "At this point, it's all about the Olympics."

Indeed, that was the theme of the 26th annual Prefontaine Classic Grand Prix at Hayward Field on Saturday.

"The Olympic Trials is something totally different from anything you'll ever experience," said Allen Johnson, who won the 110 meter hurdles with a wind-aided time of 13.28 seconds. "There is so much pressure and so many people put so

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Emeralds just short of a win against Yakima

■ Despite losing a tough one-run game on Monday, the Ems look much improved from a season ago and treated their fans to a home-opening 9-3 win on Sunday

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

The young Eugene Emeralds are learning an important lesson one week into the 2000 season.

Baseball is a day-to-day game.

One day you can totally dominate a team — as the Emeralds (3-4) did to the Yakima Bears on Sunday evening, winning 9-3 in its home opener.

And then the next, you can commit six errors and fall to the same team by a count of 5-4, as the Ems did on Monday night.

The loss prevented Eugene from going over the .500 mark this late in the season for the first time since 1996, and improved Yakima to 4-3.

"The hard part about this is that these kids think we expect them to be perfect," manager Danny Sheaffer said. "And we don't."

Sheaffer has been around the game long enough to know that one loss will not ruin a season, and said he sees this as an important part of their maturity as players.

"Hey, guys are going to make mistakes," Sheaffer said. "We've got to bounce back from that. It's all a part of the learning and part of the development of these players."

But even with having more errors than runs, the Ems still gave themselves a chance to win in the ninth, trailing 5-3.

Ems reliever Scott Tranchina came on in the ninth and continued his stellar pitching thus far in the season by shutting down the Bears one-two-three — all strikeouts.

Things didn't start off well in the bottom of the ninth as Ems right fielder Nic Jackson went down on strikes. But catcher Yoon-Min Kweon woke up the faithful 2,105 fans on hand by fouling off two pitches and then earning a base on balls. The speedy Sam Cooper immediately pinch ran for Kweon.

Blair Barbier, who had pinch hit for Jeff Felker earlier in the game, proceeded to hit a lazy fly ball that appeared to be the inning's second out. But Yakima's Candido Martinez lost it in the Civic Stadium lights, putting Cooper at second and Barbier at first.

Then the crowd was given even more hope of a comeback when Yakima pitcher Gregory Bauer's wild pitch put runners at first and third with only one out. Brandon Sing lined one to center, but this time Martinez

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Eugene notables

Centerfielder Michael Mallory:
2-for-5 on Sunday with an RBI and 1-for-4 on Monday
Leftfielder Peter Graham:
2-for-3 on Monday
Third basemen Blake Barbier:
a combined 2-for-3 on Sunday and Monday
Pitcher Wilton Chavez (2-0):
6 innings pitched on Sunday, three hits, one run, one walk, six strikeouts
Catcher Yoon-Min Kweon:
2-for-5 on Sunday with an RBI
Third basemen Brandon Sing:
2-for-2 on Sunday with 2 RBI
First basemen Jeff Felker:
2-for-5 on Sunday with an RBI