

Pre 5,000 filled with stars

■ The traditionally tough Pre Classic 5,000 meters looks to be even tougher with several big-name entries

By Robbie McCallum
Oregon Daily Emerald

While most of the events at this year's Prefontaine Classic will be highlighted by one or two stars, the men's 5,000 meters will be filled with nothing but stars.

The 2001 Pre Classic 5,000 field was released Monday, and it looks to be the most competitive race on the oval. Ten all-stars lead the 16-man field.

Two-time defending 5,000 champion Luke Kipkosgei will aim for a new meet and field record this year. The Kenyan owns a personal best of 12 minutes, 56.5 seconds in the 12 1/2-lap event. Kipkosgei set the meet

record at 13:07.3 in 1998.

American record-holder Bob Kennedy, who finished close to Kipkosgei in the two previous 5,000s, will also compete. Kennedy, who owns the U.S. record of 12:58.2, is recovering from a car accident that kept him out of the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia. The Westerville, Ohio, native has run 16 of the fastest 20 times by an American.

KENNEDY

Two Oregon alumni who competed in Sydney last September will return to Hayward Field. All-American Karl Keska and No. 4-ranked U.S. 5,000-meter runner

Nick Rogers will both chase the leaders at the Classic.

Former Pac-10 competitors Mebrahtom Keflezighi, Abdi Abdirahman and Brad Hauser will make return trips to Eugene for the Pre 5,000. Hauser won the NCAA 5,000 title for Stanford last spring. Keflezighi was a Pac-10 Champion at UCLA and now owns the U.S. record in the 10,000 meters with a time of 27:13. Abdirahman, an Arizona graduate, ranked second last year in the 10,000 meters.

Rounding out the elite entrants is a trio of Kenyans, led by Kipkosgei's running mate, fellow Kenyan Albert Chepkurui, Abraham Chebii and Ban Maiyo.

The Prefontaine Classic will take place Sunday, May 27, at Hayward Field. Tickets are on sale for \$11.50 at the Duck Ticket office at 346-4461.

Sports brief

Huskies coach reacts to Pharms, Stevens cases

SEATTLE—Washington football coach Rick Neuheisel said Monday that he will try to do a better job of teaching his players about the pitfalls of making the wrong decisions.

He reiterated that he was disappointed with the Jeremiah Pharms and Jerramy Stevens cases.

Neuheisel scheduled a closed-door meeting with Huskies' players on the campus Monday afternoon.

Stevens was cited Friday for reckless driving and hit-and-run by Seattle police. Police said the junior-to-be tight end's truck ran into a Seattle retirement home.

Pharms, a starting linebacker on Washington's 2001 Rose Bowl team that went 11-1, was arrested last week in his hometown of Sacramento, Calif., on a charge of first-degree robbery. He was accused of shooting and pistol-whipping a man for

\$1,500 worth of marijuana near the Washington campus last year.

Pharms will be arraigned Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. at the King County Courthouse, said Dan Donohoe, spokesman for the county prosecutor's office.

"I have long said we're in the business of education," Neuheisel said. "We're going to meet today, and we're going to talk again to our players about how to make good decisions."

Pharms was released Wednesday on \$250,000 bail. He was picked in the fifth round of the NFL draft by the Cleveland Browns.

If Stevens is convicted, charges of reckless driving and leaving the scene of an accident could bring a maximum year in jail and \$1,000 fine. He was a second-time all-Pac-10 selection as a sophomore.

"Recruiting players with character is absolutely vital," Neuheisel said. "I tell my assistant coaches to bring me players with character, not characters."

The Associated Press

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