

*Emerald Archive*

## His Spirit *moves* them

■ Even 26 years after his death, Steve Prefontaine lives on through stories and meets such as the Pre Classic

By Peter Hockaday  
Oregon Daily Emerald

He touches the high school student who toes the line in a district championship 5,000-meters at Hayward Field and imagines himself with long hair and a killer stride.

He touches the Oregon women's track and field javelin thrower who looks up into the stands and feels a spiritual connection to a former track star.

And he touches the casual distance runner who stops to catch her breath at the corner of Birch Lane and Skyline Drive in Eugene and has a most tragic memorial staring her in the face.

"Pre 5-30-75 R.I.P."

Now, four days before the Prefontaine Classic and seven days before the 26th anniversary of his death, Steve Prefontaine's legend lives as brightly as the days he graced Hayward Field track as a Duck.

"It's kind of a phenomenon," said Tom Jordan, director of the Pre Classic and author of "Pre!," a lengthy biography of the star. "His legacy lives on through events like the Pre Classic and the Prefontaine Memorial Run in Coos Bay."

Prefontaine was certainly the most enigmatic, if not the best overall runner to ever come through Oregon. Those who knew him say he raced with a passion that was not commonly found in athletes of his time.

Jordan tells a story of an e-mail he received from a prep athlete who felt Pre's power within him as he raced in a district championship meet at Hayward two weeks ago. He said the boy felt like he could be Prefontaine, if he could only will it hard enough.

Pre won the 1970 NCAA 3-mile title with 12 stitches in his foot after a diving accident. He came from behind countless times, and he won countless thrilling races.

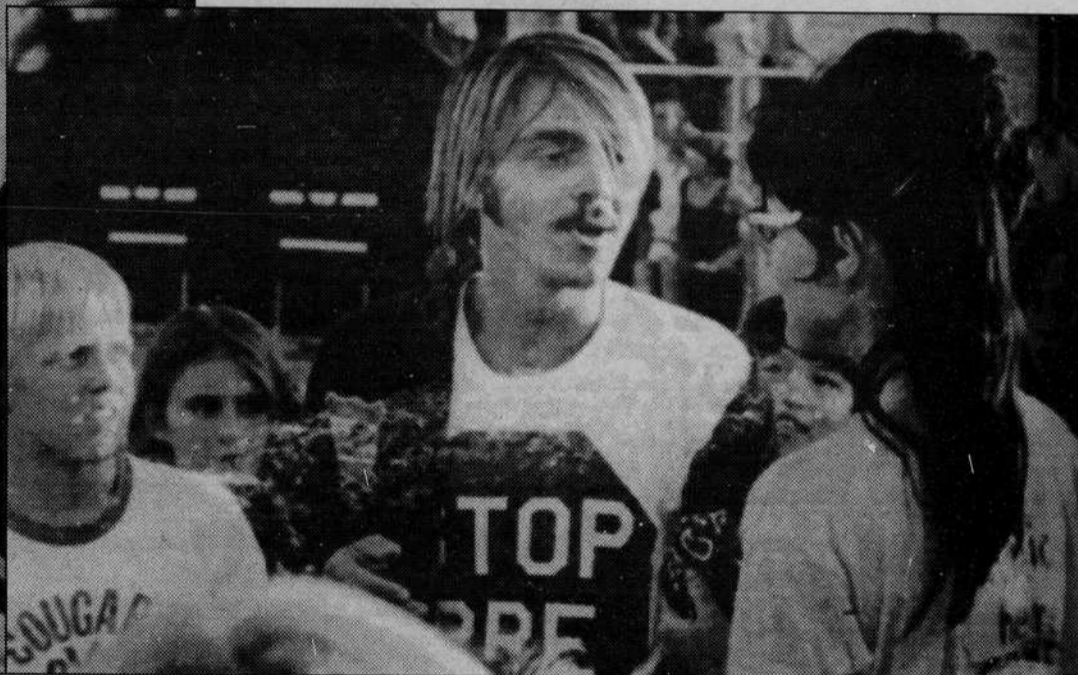
And he left a dent in the record books.

Pre raced at Hayward Field 38 times from 1970-75, losing only three races. During his career he held every American record — eight in total — between the distances of 2,000- and 10,000-meters and between two and six miles.

Pre won three individual NCAA titles for the Oregon cross country team and four more on the track in the three-mile race. He won four Pac-8 titles, set nine collegiate track records and never lost a race at Hayward that was longer than a mile.

At the same time, Pre had his limitations. He never won an Olympic medal and no longer

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### On Tap

**What:**

Prefontaine Classic

**When:**

Sunday from 11:45-2 p.m.

**Where:**

Hayward Field

Steve Prefontaine in his final race in 1975 (left) and surrounded by fans at the Olympic Qualifiers in 1972 (right).

## Freshman 'blown away' by success in Tae Kwon Do

■ First-year martial arts competitor Andy Wallace will be competing in the Tae Kwon Do national championships

By Adam Jude  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Physically, Andy Wallace is not such an intimidating figure.

The freshman's lanky 6-foot-4, 176-pound frame seems to be perfect for a sport like soccer — which he played for most of his life — but not for a kick 'em-in-the-head, punch-'em-in-the-mouth, bloody-nose type of sport.

But Wallace's natural athletic talents are proving first appearances wrong as he makes waves across the country. Wallace will be the lone representative from the Oregon Club Sports Tae Kwon Do team at the national championships this weekend in Cleveland.

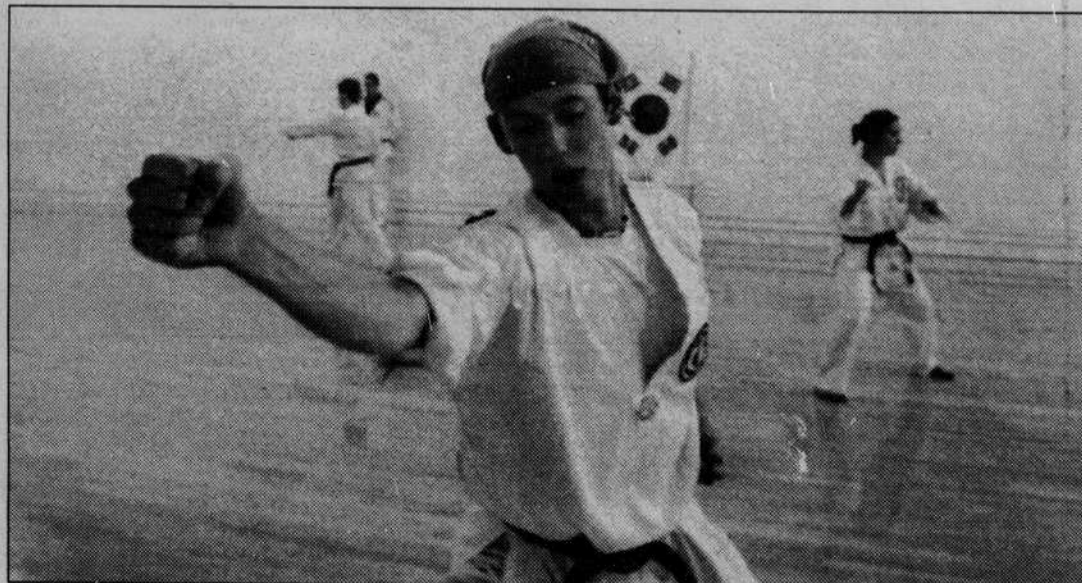
"I am just blown away that I get to go

to the national championships," the Portland native said Wednesday before preparing to test for a high green belt. "It's going to be a lot of fun."

Fun is the only thing Wallace and the team can talk about after having the most successful season in head coach Randy King's nine years at Oregon. Four members of the team qualified for the national championships, but because of budget constraints, Wallace was selected to represent the team as he was the only one to win his competition (the others finished in second or third).

"It's a very unusual experience," King said of Wallace's rapid improvement this year. "It should be interesting to see how that plays out in the next few years for him. He has a lot going for him. He's already progressed so much. ... It's just amazing."

Prior to coming to the University in the fall, Wallace had minimal martial



*Adam Amato Emerald*

Freshman Andy Wallace tests for his high green belt Wednesday evening in preparation for the Tae Kwon Do national championships this weekend in Cleveland. Wallace will be the only Oregon participant making the trip.

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