Guevara runs world-leading time in 400

Mexico's Ana Guevara wins Saturday's 400 meter run, edging her nearest competitor by more than a full second

Mindi Rice

Shortly after winning the women's 400 meter run in Saturday's Prefontaine Classic, Mexico's Ana Guevara draped the flag of her home country over her shoulders for her victory lap.

Guevara returned to the southwest fence after her victory lap. In front of a gathering of fans waving Mexican flags, she threw her victory bouquet into the stands.

Guevara had just run the first sub-50-second 400 by a woman at Hayward Field and in the Prefontaine Classic. She also set a new world-leading mark for the year.

"I came to run maybe 50.60 or something like that," Guevara said. "It really surprised me when I

looked at the time. It was very fast."

Guevara's time of 49.34 was more than a second faster than Tonique Williams of the Bahamas, who finished second in 50.39. It also broke Australian Cathy Freeman's 1998 meet and field record

Freeman finished fifth in the seven-woman field. It was her first international race since winning the gold medal in the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

"It was a little disappointing," Freeman said. "It's one of those days where I wasn't quite on it. Guevara had a tremendous time."

Freeman took a year out of competing to rest in 2001. She also took off 2002 with a thigh injury and to care for her husband, who was diagnosed with throat cancer.

"I'm very happy for her," Guevara said. "She's come back and I hope she can run very well. I think for the next year in the Olympies, it will be a very close race.

Guevara has gone undefeated in the 400 meters during the past two vears. Competitors acknowledge a fierce kick in the last 100 to 200 me-

"I broke the 49 seconds, and I want to break the 48. First race in the season, 49 is fantastic. I hope with the next month, it's going to be possible to break the 48."

> Ana Guevara Prefontaine Classic runner

ters as part of Guevara's strength. "I chose to pace myself beside her and, in fact, I should have gone out faster," Freeman said in London's Daily Telegraph. "Her strength is her final 120 meters and that isn't mine at the moment."

Guevara has trained specifically for that kick and worked on it to give her a push.

"The last 200 meters is a little hard, but I worked for it on the week," Guevara said. "I felt very good in the race."

Immediately after crossing the finish line, Guevara — wearing an earwarmer and sunglasses paused for a strongman pose. She then hugged Freeman before she jogged to her fans in the bleachers.

After the victory lap and victory flowers, Guevara's fans swarmed the fence underneath the Hayward scoreboard while she was interviewed by the media. Between questions and answers in English and Spanish, the fans chanted her name and waved their miniature Mexican flags above their heads.

Guevara was as happy about her country as she was for her time.

"The population is very enthusiastic with me," Guevara said. "They hope that I will be a better source of competition this year. For me it's motivation. From here on in, it's for my country.'

Guevara, with the help of Mexico, has set her sights on the Athens Olympics in 2004. Mexico has never won a medal - gold, silver or bronze - in a running event. Guevara wants to be the first.

"I broke the 49 seconds, and I want to break the 48," she said. "First race in the season, 49 is fantastic. I hope with the next month, it's going to be possible to break the 48.

The current world record in the 400 is 47.60, set by East Germany's Marita Koch in 1985. Guevara's 49.34 is within 1.1 seconds of the top times since 1985.

"My coach told me just run to win - don't worry about time,' Guevara said. "I'm surprised with the time, but it is nice to have my name in the records."

Contact the sports reporter at mindirice@dailyemerald.com.

Women's

continued from page 9

Dragila's mark of 15 feet, 1 3/4 inches was far from her other records but was good enough for a victory over Russia's Svetlana

Feofanova, the world indoor record holder who broke Dragila's indoor record.

"Any time you win you are excited, especially with the company I was holding today, that was a boost to my confidence," Dragila said. "Having Svetlana here made me say, 'OK Stacy, you need to step up to the plate and do this."

The high jump provided the biggest upset of the afternoon.

Tisha Waller won the event at 6-6 over Sweden's Kajsa Bergqvist (6-04 3/4), who was ranked No. 1 in the world entering the event.

The 11,097 in attendance at Hayward on Saturday afternoon got what they came for: several world-leading performances that could only come at the home of Steve Prefontaine.

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.

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ARIES (March 21-April 19) _ Today is an 8 _ You're cute and you're quick, but you're not made of money. Don't waste it trying to impress your friends. That's

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) _ Today is a 6 _ If you want something special, ask well in advance. Otherwise, wait until Friday. Tonight and tomorrow, you'll be busy holding onto what you already have

have.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) _ Today is a
7 _ This isn't a good day to travel, and
neither are tomorrow and the next day.
You might make it, but why bother?
Have a pizza delivered.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) _ Today isa 6 _ Finish up your negotiations and/or
the job you've been doing. Soon you'll
be more concerned about stashing
your loot than making it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) _ Today is an 8
_ Just because somebody you admire

_ Just because somebody you admire has been turned back, don't quit. You might get through where others have failed _ even someone you thought was smarter than you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) _ Today is a

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LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) _ Today is a 7
_ This could be one of those miserable days when you want something you can't afford. Stop obsessing about money and get back to work on your book.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) _ Today is

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today is a 6 _ Just when you think you're about to be squashed by the burdens you bear, along comes relief. Someone who loves you will be a big help, though the help may not come till tomorrow.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) _ Today is a 9 _ Consult with your supporters, and come up with a plan _ or two, or three. And expect to keep on figuring for the next couple of days.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) _ Today is a 7 _ Wrap up a difficult situation.

Get everything under control. Then,

Get everything under control. Then, take a little time for yourself and some

take a little time for yourself and some-body you love.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) _ Today is an 8 _ A dilemma you've been facing at home is coming to a head. In the next few days you'll get to choose what to toss and what to keep.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) _ Today is a 7 _ Gather up as much as you can, while the gettin's good. Tomorrow the pace will be slower, which should be a welcome relief.

Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 27). Travel now, and settle down to work later this year. Get to a place where you want to stay, because moving becomes more theck out a fixer-upper.

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