

# Fans 'savor' Bonds' moment

Barry Bonds hit career home run No. 660 in San Francisco's 7-5 win over Milwaukee on Monday

By John Simerman  
Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

SAN FRANCISCO —The pitcher threw another squeamish one outside the slugger's reach, and the fans booed in unison.

"Why does he do that?" asked the wife with the baby on her lap.

"Because," the husband replied matter-of-factly, "they know he can hit it out of the park."

Seconds later, as if on cue, the pitcher seemed to need proof, and Barry Bonds supplied it, launching a bodacious smash over the right field crowd and into San Francisco Bay.

It was his 660th home run, tying his godfather, Willie Mays, for third on the all-time homer list. And it turned a sea of derision to frenzy among the crowd of 42,548 who

came out to SBC Park hoping to find history on Opening Day.

Fireworks cracked, Bonds took an Olympic torch from Mays, and in the stands, fans high-fived and reached for their cell phones, to gloat about a hooky day well spent.

"Magical," said Kim Welty, who quickly e-mailed back to the office and tried to reach a friend on the other side of the ballpark, but had trouble getting through.

"It was so unexpected at that moment. We were hoping."

Welty spent \$80 for a bleacher seat, where she sat bundled in a Giants sweatshirt and Giants blanket, to ward against a stiff wind that blew hard all day. The wind tugged the flags toward Oakland, pleading along with the fans for Bonds to unleash one with his signature left-handed uppercut.

As the ball dove into the Bay, the cloud of steroid suspicion that has hovered over Bonds all spring swept away in a sea of elation. A seafaring man wearing an Arnold

Schwarzenegger costume plucked it out from the water.

"Good for Arnold. That guy's out there all the time," said Tony Pollil of Petaluma, who wore a Willie Mays jersey and a hatful of pins, the badge of honor for longtime Giants fans.

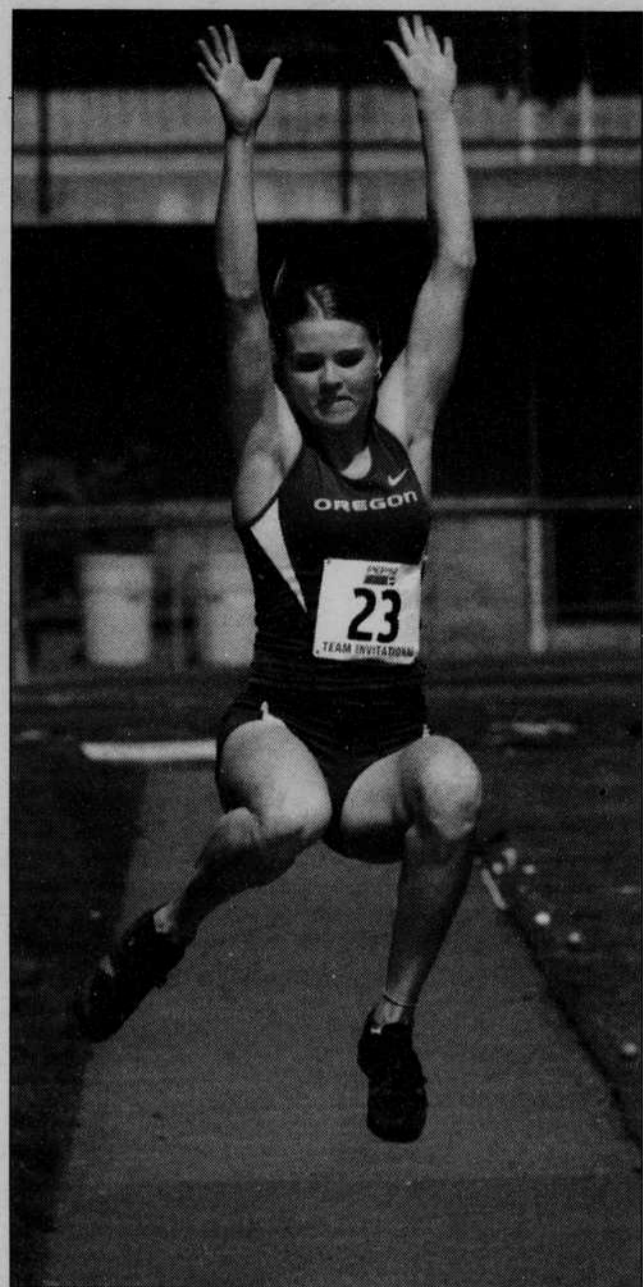
"I feel really privileged to be able to witness this," said Pollil, of Petaluma. "When I was a kid growing up, Willie Mays was my idol. But all records are made to be broken."

David Kirkland shot up and screamed. His curly haired daughter, Jasmine, shielded her ears from the fireworks blast. Like others, they raced to a concession stand where fans were snatching up \$25 commemorative T-shirts.

"I tried to explain to her what history means, but it's hard for a five-year-old," he said. "But she'll always have it to remember."

Tom Crum brought his ragged old Wilson A2000, scalped a ticket and snuck his way onto the right field promenade. He hoped to catch No.

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Oregon junior Maegan Traver achieved a personal best of 17 feet, 6 1/4 inches in the long jump at the Pepsi Team Invitational Saturday at Hayward Field.

Erik R. Bishoff  
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## DEBUT

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at the Pepsi Team Invitational overshadowed the disappointment of junior transfer Roderick Dotts.

Dotts made his Oregon outdoor debut in the 800 Saturday, finishing sixth with a time of 1:53.06, more than three seconds behind Minnesota's Trent Riter (first, 1:49.75).

Last year Dotts recorded the 17th-best time in the nation (1:48.41) among college athletes in the 800 while attending Barton Community College in Great Bend, Kan.

"I'm extremely disappointed," Dotts said. "It was a horrible race. During the last 100 meters I sort of ran out of gas."

Dotts struggled through knee and hamstring injuries during the indoor season but said he had since recovered. The only explanation he could give for his struggles on the track was the difficulty he's had adjusting to the added pressure of running at a Division I school.

"I thought I was back," Dotts said. "I don't know what's going on. Last year at this time I was running 1:48."

### Observant Skipper

Along with competing in three

different events for Oregon Saturday, freshman Tommy Skipper had time to make a couple of observations.

With the success that the Ducks experienced at the Pepsi Team Invitational — along with the rest of the season — the Sandy native said Oregon is on its way back to becoming an elite track school.

"I think that Oregon track and field is coming back," Skipper said. "With the guys we have, Leonidas (Watson), (high jumper) Jeff Lindsey, this is early in the season and we've had a lot of great performances. The training is tough right now and pretty intense. Once the training load gets a little lighter I think you're going to see even more great performances."

Skipper also spoke of the importance of giving back to the Oregon fans who come out to cheer for Duck athletes.

"You have to show a little enthusiasm while you compete," Skipper said. "There's a lot of young kids out here and one of these days they're going to be out here for Oregon track and field and that's what inspires them to do great things in their life. If I can be any type of inspiration to anyone I want to do that."

Contact the sports reporter at [jonroetman@dailyemerald.com](mailto:jonroetman@dailyemerald.com).

**"I'm extremely disappointed. It was a horrible race. During the last 100 meters I sort of ran out of gas."**

Roderick Dotts  
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## SYSTEM

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record of 191-04 set by Jordan Sauvage last year.

Her sister, Rachael Kriz, also set a new personal best with her high jump of 5-08. Kriz celebrated her jump immediately afterwards on the landing pad as the crowd of 3,514 at Hayward Field acknowledged the feat.

Kriz credits assistant coach Rock Light for working with her on her technique.

"(Coach Light) is just trying to get my basics nailed down before we try anything complicated, which is always nice," Kriz said.

But the most notable record broken so far has been redshirt junior Sarah Malone's own javelin record of 179-07 achieved two weeks ago. It eclipsed her personal best by five inches. The mark not only broke her own record, but it placed her first all-time in Oregon history.

"We're all healthy," Malone said. "We're all throwing farther than we ever have, so (the coaches) are obviously doing something right."

Back on the track, junior transfer Sofie Abildtrup has provided a spark for Oregon's sprint events. Abildtrup is expected to play a big role in the 200-meters and 400-meters, while also being the anchor of the 4x400-meter relays team.

Her time of 54.49 in the 400 at the Pepsi Invitational ranks her ninth all-time for the Ducks. She also moved to seventh place in Oregon history in the 200 with her time of 23.94.

Abildtrup said that the women were motivated to succeed in their respective events after holding a team meeting last Thursday to discuss their upcoming goals.

"We decided we wanted to get out of our comfort zone and just start breaking some (personal records)," Abildtrup said.

Contact the sports reporter at [alexam@dailyemerald.com](mailto:alexam@dailyemerald.com).

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