

## Embracing the Prefontaine Spirit



**A.M. SPORTS**

Andrew Millbrooke  
Sports Editor

Spring is the time of year when I'm reminded why track and field in Oregon is such a sweet thing. Many tremendous marks were performed at last weekend's Oregon Relays and Oregon men's dual meet with Arkansas at historic Hayward Field in Eugene, showcasing a wide range of prep, college and elite track and field talent.

The local enthusiasm for track and field was built by legendary Oregon coach Bill Bowerman in the 1960s and it was cemented when Steve Prefontaine, the young prodigy from Coos Bay, grew into a countercultural icon in the early 70s before prematurely dying at age 24 in a tragic auto accident. Eugene has become the mecca of track and field ever since.

The spirit of 'Pre' lives on every year with the running of the Prefontaine Classic, which has turned into one of the top meets in the world. This year's version runs June 5 at Hayward Field, but it is not the only track meet that Oregon athletes are shooting for. The NCAA Championships will be held from June 5-8 and all six Oregon high school divisions, from 6A to 1A, will compete together in one of the largest meets ever held in Oregon from May 23-25 at the OSAA State Championships.

Both meets are scheduled for Hayward Field, making it one of the best places to be for a die-hard track junkie at the beginning of every summer. The crowds that turn out for meets at Hayward are legendary not only for their size, but for their enthusiasm and knowledge.

It was hard to pick a highlight of the two meets, but you know that I'll try. Oregon prep record holders now running for the Ducks, sophomore Sam Crouser of Gresham and senior Elijah Greer of Lake Oswego, both won their signature events against Arkansas.

Greer won the 800 meters in 1:46.20, the fastest time in the nation this season. Crouser won the javelin and the discus, throwing the disc a season's best 174-2 and the javelin 240-7.

Two former Oregon City High School stars are performing well early in their Duck careers. Freshman Greg Skipper won the hammer with a toss of 206-0, while redshirt freshman Trevor Ferguson set a personal record in the long jump by leaping 24-10.5. Ferguson also placed third in the 110 high hurdles in 14.34.

Current Oregon preps were well represented at the Oregon Relays as numerous state bests were set. Grant's sensational freshman Ella Donaghy defeated St. Mary's Paige Rice in the 1,500, running 4:31.56 to Rice's 4:32.14. They are the fastest times in the state this year.

West Albany's Rachel Proteau cleared 5-10 in the high jump, becoming one of just six girls in state history to clear that bar. Molalla's Claire Thomas, an Oregon signee, placed second in the 100 hurdles in 14.71 and won the 300 hurdles in 44.40.

Jesuit's Max Dordevic ran one of the most impressive times of the day, winning the 300 hurdles in 37.89. The Oregon boys stepped up in the distance races as well as Westview's Alec Smith won the 800 in 1:52.80 and Beaverton's Dan Oekerman sped to 3:56.88 in the 1,500.

While all of those marks are state leading times now, all of these athletes know that a month from now they will probably need to run faster to win a state championship in their respective event. I'm just glad that I live in Oregon and will get a chance to watch it happen.

# Sports rock the spring season

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The Cougar softball team is back in the thick of the South Region championship race after Clackamas unleashed a barrage of offense in drubbing Clark, 16-4 and 16-0, in a double-header last week in Vancouver, Wash. The wins moved Clackamas (19-12, 7-3) within a half game of Mt. Hood for the South Region lead. The Cougars got production all throughout the lineup in the sweep of Clark.

Freshman Breann Morrison excelled on the mound and at the plate in game one, hitting her first home run of the season to go along with four runs batted in while pitching five innings to get the win. Sophomore Tasha Silvius added two more hits and four RBIs to continue her torrid hitting on the season. Silvius is hitting .465 after the doubleheader. Both Silvius and freshman Rashaun Sells (.481) are among the NWAACC leaders in batting average and Silvius is tied for third in home runs with eight.

Nine players got hits in the nightcap against Clark as freshman pitcher Alyson Boytz gave up four hits in five innings while not allowing a run to get the win. The Cougars took advantage of nine Clark errors, scoring nine runs in the first inning to jump all over the Penguins. Two sophomore middle infielders did the most damage, as shortstop Megan Malvick and second baseman Kara Hilton had two hits apiece to lead the Cougars.

The Cougars travelled to Yakima, Wash. this weekend for the NWAACC Crossover Tournament, playing four games against non-South Region opponents. The Cougars played well in the tournament going 2-2, with two one-run losses.

On Saturday, the Cougars beat Walla Walla 8-3 and lost to Wenatchee Valley 8-7. On Sunday, Clackamas lost 5-4 to Douglas College after rallying from a 4-0



Michael Kelly, freshman from Huntington Beach, Calif., targets a pitch against Linn-Benton earlier this season. Kelly stands 2-5 with a 4.77 ERA on the season.

Photos by Denee Shelton The Clackamas Print

hole to tie it in the sixth inning, only to see Douglas win it in the seventh. Clackamas drubbed Blue Mountain 14-3 in the final game Sunday. The Cougars jumped all over the Timberwolves, scoring four runs in the second and six in the third to break the game open.

**Upcoming Schedule:** The Cougars travel to Salem on Saturday for a doubleheader against Chemeketa at Noon. Clackamas returns home on Saturday, May 4 with a doubleheader against Lower Columbia College at Noon.

Check out full softball schedule and results here: <http://depts.clackamas.edu/athletics/Softball/schedule.asp>

### Baseball

Halfway through league season, the Cougar baseball team continues to struggle for consistency after getting swept by Linn-Benton on Saturday, 11-4 and 6-2. Clackamas (8-18, 4-10) has lost

four straight games after a four game winning streak had put them back in the mix in the conference race. The Roadrunners outthit the Cougars 25 to 8 during the sweep.

The Cougars didn't start the second half of South Region play on the right foot last week, losing a double header to Lane at home, 9-1 and 4-1. The Cougars had a chance to move in front of the Titans with a sweep of their own, but Lane handled Clackamas easily for the second time this season. Lane (13-13, 9-5) has swept all four games against the Cougars, outscoring Clackamas 29-7 in the process.

**Upcoming Schedule:** The Cougars travel to Gresham to face rival Mt. Hood in a doubleheader on Saturday, before returning home for games on Tuesday, April 30, starting at 1 p.m. against SWOCC. The Cougars played Chemeketa yesterday at home, but results were not available by press time.

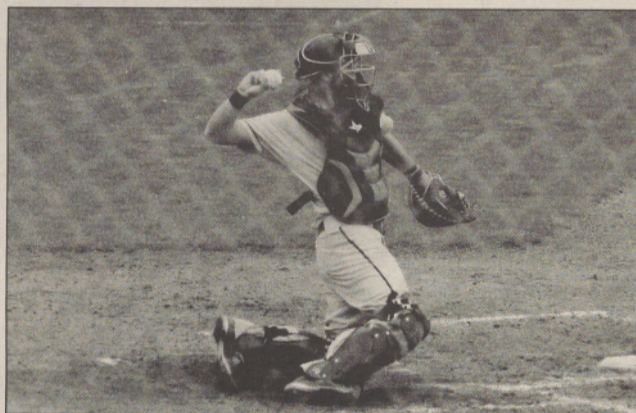
Check out full baseball sched-

ule and results here <http://depts.clackamas.edu/athletics/Baseball/schedule.asp>

### CCC Volleyball Alumni Tournament

The 2013 CCC Alumni Volleyball Tournament is scheduled for this Saturday in Randall gym with play beginning at 9 a.m. and ending about 6 p.m. Eight teams are signed up as Yakima Valley CC, Mt. Hood CC and the current Clackamas team will battle five CCC alumni teams with varying graduating years from 1985 to 2009. Admission is free so come on down to Randall Gym and support your Cougar volleyball team on Saturday. Donations are being taken to support "Diggin Pink," a fundraiser for Southgate Animal Clinic. Check out all of your Cougar Volleyball news here.

<http://depts.clackamas.edu/athletics/CougarNews/Volleyball.asp>



Thomas Kelly, a sophomore from Warrenton, makes the play against Linn-Benton. Kelly leads the Cougars with a .318 batting average for the season.

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