

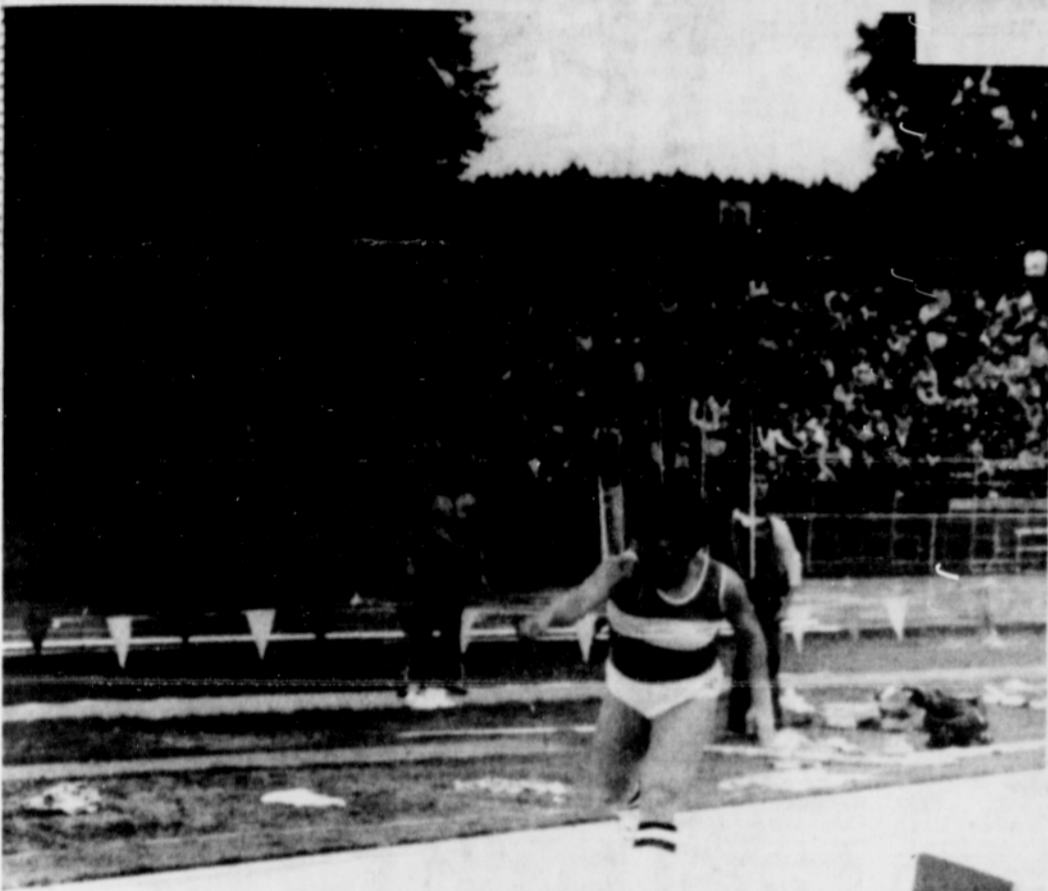
World marks fail to fall at Oregon Invitational



Mac Wilkins, gold medalist in 1976 Olympics, was second in discus behind John Powell. Powell's best was 211-7.



Jeff Phillips, winner of the 100 and 200 meters.



Anna Verouli of Greece set a new Hayward Field mark with a javelin throw of 218-5.



Jim Ryun presents 1st place award in mile to Tom Byers. At left, Jose Abascal, 3rd, and center, Graham Williamson, 2nd.

The crowd was ready; the weather was right; but the records didn't crumble under the onslaught of some of the world's top contenders who participated in the Oregon Invitational Track and Field meet Saturday in Eugene.

An unsung hero of the Invitational was Maricica Puica of Romania who broke Mary Decker Tabb's world record in the mile last week with a time of 4:17.44 and hit a personal best of 1:57.8 in the 800. She left the field far behind in a race to the goal in 2:01.85.

The 800 meter (men's) field included the U.S.'s top rated James Robertson, who ranks 5th in the world with 1:44.64; Sammy Koskei of Kenya, ranked 7th at 1:44.93; and NCAA champion David Mack, with a high mark of 1:45.55. The race finished slow with Koskei taking first at 1:47.94, followed by Joel Ngetich of Kenya at 1:47.94 and Torstein Brox of the U.S. at 1:49.02.

The mile started with a bang when Charlie Taleaferro, Spain's Jose Abascal, West Germany's Thomas Wessinghage, and Tom Byers landed on the track. A restart was scheduled ten minutes later.

Abascal, running with a deep spike hole in his heel, pulled ahead to lead the pack in the third lap. Tom Byers, who nursed a badly scraped and bruised knee, turned on his speed passing the three runners in front of him. He crossed the line in 3:53.18, a new Hayward Field record, but failed to break Jim Ryun's U.S. record.

Graham Williamson of Scotland, 3:53.42; Abascal, 3:53.64; Thomas Wessinghage, W. Germany, 3:45.05; and Roy Flynn, Ireland, 3:54.38.

Jeff Phillips of the U.S. won the 100 and 200 yard dash. The tall blond,

who looks more like a basketball player than a sprinter, out-sprinted Mel Lattany of the U.S. and Chris Braithwaite and Halsey Crawford of Trinidad and Tabago to take the 100 in 10.29. Crawford is an Olympic gold medalist.

Phillips' spurt of speed left his competitors in the dust in the 200 meters, with a time of 21.04. Howard Hinley clocked in at 21.43 and Clancy at 21.64.

Bob Roggy failed in his effort to break the world record in javelin. Although he has made 6 throws over 300 feet in competition this season and felt "ready" for the Eugene meet, his best throw was 276-10.

Dave Lout also failed in his effort to set a new record. Lout's 72-3 earlier this year matched the U.S. record. Also competing was Dean Crouser of Oregon, who beat Lout by 1 1/2 inches earlier this year and won the NCAA title. Lout finished first with 276-10.

Anna Verouli of Greece set a new Hayward Field record in the javelin with a throw of 218-5.

Billy McChesney's 5,000 meter brought excitement to the otherwise lack-luster meet. Kenya's Peter Koech (ranked 3rd in the world) and England's Julian Goater fought for first position for the first 3,000 meters. Then Billy shot out from behind to take a substantial lead, breaking the tape at 13:31.98 in his effort to break Alberto Salazar's U.S. record of 13:31.93. McChesney said he took advantage of the two leaders as a wind break during the earlier laps, but his main reason for holding back was that "I just didn't feel good." He added, "I've been working on my luck and apparently it paid off." Kuech finished at 13:34.65 and Goater at 13:36.41.

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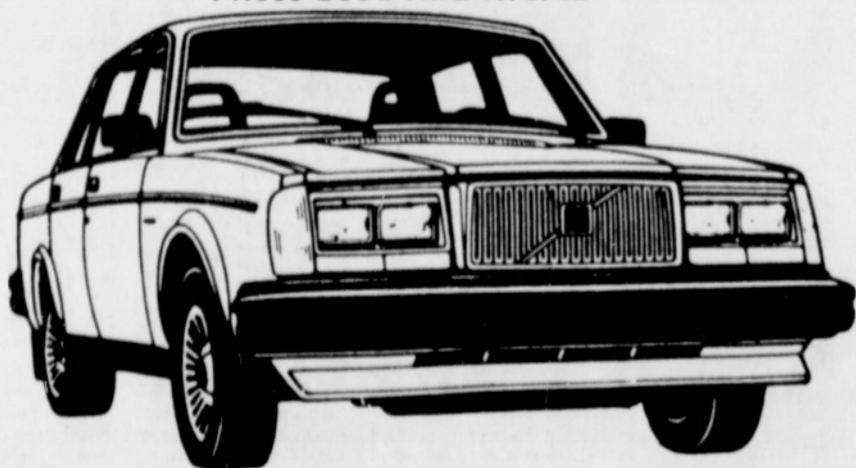
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