

EUGENE, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 1972

In Retrospect



No medal this time

By **BLAINE NEWNHAM**
Register-Guard Sports Editor

IN THIS MOST glorious of track weeks in Eugene, nobody noticed Dick Fosbury quietly sipping a beer in the dark sanctuary of Duffy's Tavern.

It was cool inside, Duffy's a congenial shelter from the harsh afternoon sun and the pressures of a striving society.

Dick liked it that way.

It was only slightly more than four years ago that Fosbury was just back from Mexico City with a gold medal in his blue jeans. The boyish-looking flopper from Medford was the hero of the Olympics.

He was on Johnny Carson's show one night, the Mike Douglas Show the next. And in between the world clamored for an explanation of his unorthodox style.

Tomorrow drive by the Churchill Village housing development in West Eugene. You'll see Dick pushing gravel around, laying forms for cement foundations.



DICK FOSBURY

DICK WANTED TO compete in the Olympic Trials. He tried all year to meet the qualifying standard of 7-5/8 and failed as late as last weekend in Portland. The best he could do was 6-10, or more than a half-foot below his Olympic record of 7-4 1/2.

Something has been missing for Dick Fosbury since that day in Mexico City when the world adopted a skinny kid who defied the axioms of high jumping by going over the bar on his back.

That night, following his victory, Dick stood up the press. He wanted to have dinner with his mother and he didn't want to talk to strangers. The strangers were shocked.

The next season he tried to jump but he was emotionally drained. The adrenalin which had pumped him up to such great heights at Mexico City had not been refilled.

Then Dick understood the obligation of being an Olympic champion.

While wondering about veteran Young

Confident Pre eyes 5,000 berth

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the last in a series examining the events to be contested in the U.S. Olympic Trials for track and field which begin Thursday at Hayward Field.

By **BLAINE NEWNHAM**
Register-Guard Sports Editor

Because of its infinite number of joggers, its mild climate and picturesque terrain to appease the appetite of the long distance runner, and because of names like Bill Dellinger,

Jim Bailey, Jim Grelle and Dyrrol Bursleson, Eugene is a distance town.

If there is sophistication and expertise from those fanatics at Hayward Field who call this the epicenter of track and field, then it is in their knowledge of pace, of fatigue, of strategy and of that explosion called kick.

These are the elements of a long distance race.

NO RACE is more eagerly awaited during the Olympic Track and

Field Trials than the last one — the 5,000-meter run.

Time was when the 5,000-meter run had the glamour and attendant stature of the 50-kilometer walk and the women's shot put. It was a break in the action, time to sneak down to the snack bar for a coke and hot dog.

A sellout for the final day of the Trials (July 9) is assured, and at 7:40 p.m. Steve Prefontaine will begin what he hopes is the last lap to Munich.

Eugene, no doubt, will give him an appropriate sendoff.

"I FEEL REAL confident," Pre said Tuesday, leaning over the small wire fence which surrounds the north curve of the Stevenson track.

"Frankly, I'm ready for more competition . . . I sure hope George Young is in the race."

Because of his own excellence, Prefontaine has known the lonely life of the long distance runner this season. He sets a hard pace with the clock his only competition.

Pre has not been content to just win races this season (he has not lost a race over one mile since entering Oregon in 1969); he says that is too easy.

"It is easy to follow," he says. "You don't have to be concerned about pace . . . you just run along in the pack. But what does that prove? I could have run nine minutes for the first two miles of a three-mile and then run four minutes flat for the last mile, but what does that prove?"

"NOW I HAVE confidence that I can do both . . . lead and follow. If it is a hard pace, that's just fine with



me. And if it is slow I still have confidence that I can outkick anybody with a half-mile to go. I think I've shown that."

Pre is a little edgy, but only because he doesn't as yet know who his competition will be.

Young, who will be 35 in July, has been called by Pre "America's greatest distance runner."

He was a bronze medalist in the 1968 Olympic Games in the steeplechase, and that year he also ran the marathon for the United States. He is smart, tough, and has a last-lap kick known and feared internationally.

YOUNG, HOWEVER, has not indicated as yet where he will deploy his talents. He is entered in the 1,500, 5,000 and 10,000, although he will undoubtedly scratch at least one of

cluding Eugene native Steve Stageberg, the former Georgetown star who ran the third fastest three-mile in the world last year (13:00.4), 1968 Olympian Tracy Smith and American three-mile record-holder Gerry Lindgren.

Smith, a former Oregon State star who quit running to pursue a career in law enforcement, has returned this year and off a 13:40.0 for 5,000 has shown he can be a factor.

LEONARD HILTON, the inconsistent sub-four-minute mile and ran 13:04.4 sub four-minute mile and ran 13:04.4 for three miles last year.

Lindgren is the biggest question mark of the Trials. He ran an outstanding 27:30.8 earlier in the year for six miles but two weeks ago jammed his left knee on the tailgate of a station wagon during a workout.

"My right leg is definitely an Olympic leg," said Lindgren, "but the left one, well, that's another story."

Prior to the tailgate confrontation, Gerry strained an ankle two days before the 1964 Olympic Games, and tore an Achilles tendon in his left leg before the 1968 trials.

GERRY HAS rested since the accident. He remains optimistic.

"I think my wind and stamina are holding up. I think my legs will hold up, but if I need the speed at the end, I don't know."

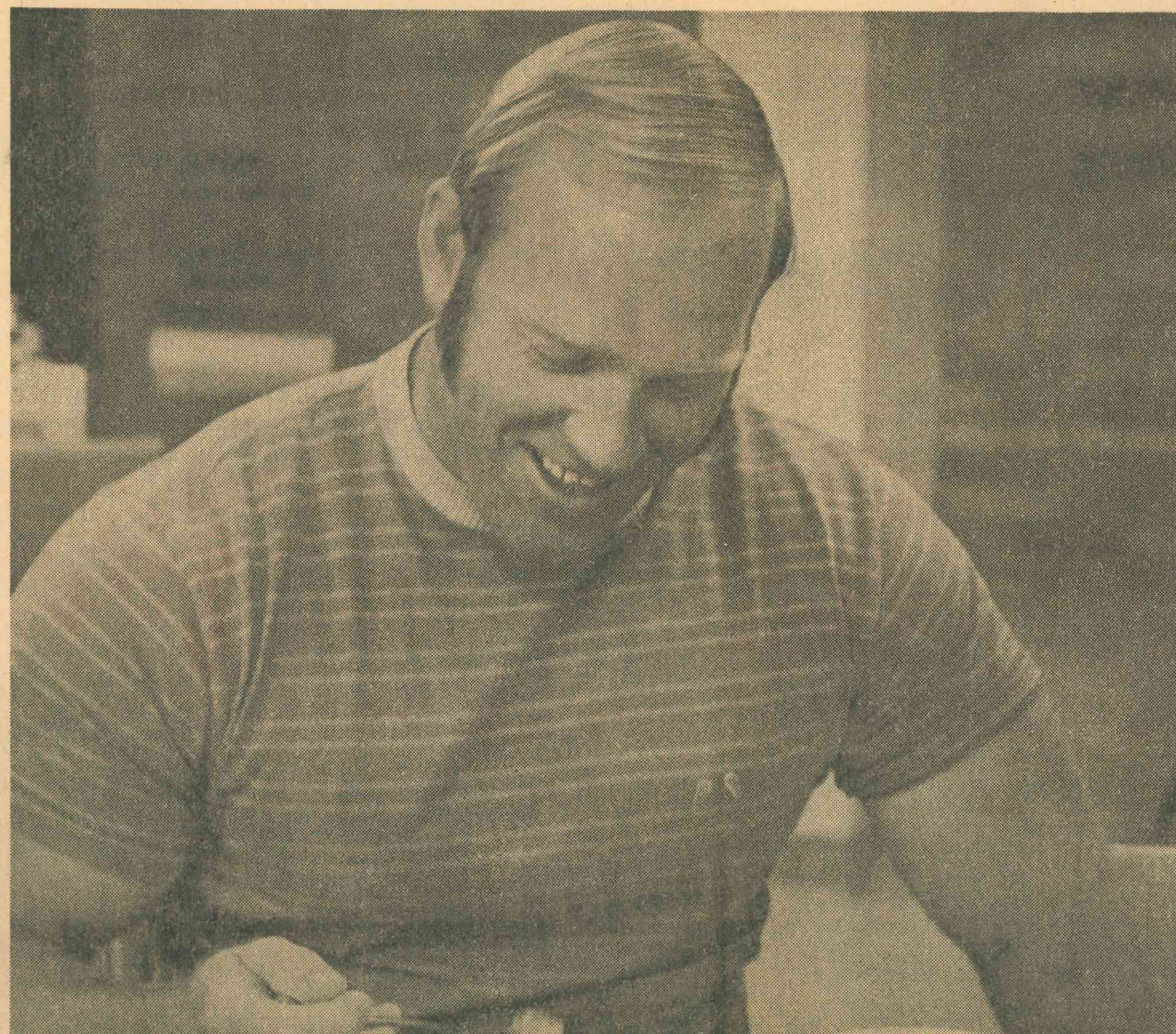
He plans to run both the 5,000 and 10,000 beginning with the trials in the longer race Thursday.

In that 10,000, the key runners figure to be Shorter, Bachelor, Lindgren, Laris, and Fredericks, if he goes there.

"If Fredericks is in the race," said Prefontaine, "don't bet that Shorter will run a slow pace like they did in Seattle. He'll take the thing with a mile to go and really push it."

THE STEEPLECHASE, which also has trials Thursday, could be another Eugene affair with Mike Manley and Steve Savage among the favorites.

"Manley is the guy to beat," said James Dare, the Navy officer who surprised the world by winning the



"I'M JUST VERY sensitive about what people think of me," continued Fosbury. "Perhaps that is why I competed so well in Mexico. There was a flow of feeling there between me and the crowd. I was concerned about what they thought. My main motivation for jumping was public approval."

After Mexico City, Fosbury found that people expect a lot of an Olympic champion and Dick wasn't about to eat Wheaties for breakfast, lunch and dinner just to appease a nation.

"I guess I wasn't prepared to win the Olympics. I didn't realize how people would change toward me. People made assumptions about me and couldn't understand that I didn't want to dedicate my whole life to being an Olympic competitor.

"You have already given a part of your life to exceeding your own capabilities by the work you put in the sport. You need something for yourself."

The next year was a difficult one for Fosbury, who returned to Oregon State to become involved in advocating a black athlete boycott. He also let his hair grow.

"It got ridiculous," said Berny Wagner, Dick's coach at Oregon State. "Every PTA on the West Coast felt Dick owed them a guest speaking shot. I tired to encourage Dick to do what he wanted to do. He had a right to lead his own life."

Dick did. He rebelled against those who were pushing him. In Corvallis, shoulder-length curly hair worn by an Olympic champion is the ultimate rebellion.

"I WAS GROWING up," said Fosbury, who still has the long hair. "I had to rebel. I was still me, but people didn't seem to understand that. Now I wear my hair long because I think it makes me look better."

Dick Fosbury is now 25 years old. He holds a degree from OSU in civil engineering.

"I'd like to become a surveyor soon," he said, his hands blistered and back sore from "pushing gravel around" on the construction job.

And he'd still like to high jump well enough to make American teams which travel abroad.

"I'm stronger than I ever was, and I think I can go higher than I ever did. But so far the emotion is not there. I just don't have the same feeling about it. I'm not the competitor I was."

No matter what his accomplishments in the future, Fosbury has left a rare legacy for his sport: The Fosbury Flop.

IN THE RECENT NCAA championships, the first four jumpers used Dick's style. The top Russian jumper, Kestutis Sapka, has duplicated the flop Dick first used as a high school sophomore against Grants Pass when he upped his personal record from 5-4 to 5-10.

"You know," said Dick, "a guy from the London Times called me the other day and asked me how it felt to be immortalized in track and field history.

"I can't relate to that. It's just a style, it's not me. Somebody else will start jumping a new way and everybody will copy him. I don't really have any feeling for the flop."

Again, Dick Fosbury would just like to be Dick Fosbury.



(Register-Guard photo by Paul Petersen)

A meal fit for an Olympian

Discus thrower Gary Ordway enjoys a meal as he awaits start of Olympic Trials

'So I just stayed around,' says Olympic champion

Seagren had no reason to give up vaulting

By BUD WITHERS
Of the Register-Guard

Even with one gold medal on your mantle, the pressure doesn't slacken much. So says Bob Seagren, winner of the pole vault in the 1968 Olympic Games at Mexico City.

"I think there's a lot of pressure on me right now," he said Tuesday afternoon as athletes worked out at Hayward Field.

"My wife and her folks are all planning to go to Munich and travel around Europe. So if I don't make the team, I'll be a dirty rat."

SEAGREN, FORMER USC stand-out, is pointing to Saturday and Sunday, when the qualifying and final

rounds of the pole vault are scheduled.

"If I was to win another gold medal," he mused, "this time it would be for my professional career. The last one was for myself."

The career Seagren speaks of is acting. After his gold medal victory in 1968, "I had so many people call and ask if I wanted to, so I said, 'Why not?'"

Seagren has made four television commercials, done a documentary, and is now pointing for a feature film to be produced in September, a comedy based on revolution in which he has the lead role.

Ems roll on as margin grows to 10½

TACOMA — If somebody doesn't stop the Eugene Emeralds soon, the Pacific Coast League's Western Division baseball race could be over by July 1.

Following a 4-2 Emerald triumph Tuesday night over the Twins and Hawaii's accompanying 5-4 loss to Portland, Eugene boasts a 10½-game margin at the top of division standings.

SINCE THE Ems finished a short homestand Saturday night, they have added three games to their first-place lead, having tripped Tacoma three times while second-place Hawaii was losing thrice to Portland.

Tuesday night, the Emeralds used a familiar weapon — the long ball — plus some strong starting pitching by Mike Fremuth to down the Twins.

Mike Rogodzinski and Craig Robinson ratted home runs for the

Emeralds to account for three runs, while Fremuth allowed the Twins no runs in the 6½ innings he pitched before his arm stiffened.

FREMUTH DID a great job," manager Andy Seminick praised. "He was tired and his arm stiffened up a little bit. He got the ball up a little too much there instead of down."

"It's happened a lot lately," Fremuth added. "If you're not careful, you have a hard time staying loose."

"The same thing happened against Portland (last week). You don't want to leave the ball game, but we've got enough good men in the bullpen."

Actually, it was the bullpen that got the Ems in trouble. With Eugene holding a 3-0 lead, Manny Muniz relieved Fremuth in the seventh inning, then surrendered two Tacoma

runs in the eighth to make the outcome close.

JIM HOLT opened the Twin eighth with a single to right, but stayed at first while Glen Borgmann and Mike Derrick flied out. Bucky Guth then doubled in the first run, and he scored on Mike Brooks' single. But the rally ended when Brooks was thrown out trying to reach second on the hit.

Craig Robinson then furnished Muniz some insurance in the ninth with a 370-foot homer to right-center.

Eugene had forged ahead with a pair of runs in the third inning when Fremuth got aboard on a bad-hop single and came around on Rogodzinski's homer, like Robinson's, a shot to right-center.

The Ems made it 3-0 in the seventh when Mike Anderson drew a walk from Twin starter Ron Herbel

"I LIKE TRACK and field. It's glamorous and all that. When you hear the cheers and the noise of the crowd, it makes all the training and working out worthwhile. In acting, I'll still be in the limelight, I guess."

Following his Olympic triumph, 1972 seemed a long way off for Seagren.

"After Mexico City," he admits, "I didn't think I'd be competing at the time of Munich. But I had no reason to stop competing, so I just stayed around."

After the 1971 AAU meet in Eugene, Seagren says, "I started plan-

ning right then for this meet." Little did he know how his plans would be muddled a few months later.

RIDING HORSEBACK with his wife in the mountains, he was thrown off, requiring an operation to repair torn cartilage in his right knee. That happened last September, and Seagren wasn't able to resume training until January.

His first competition of the year was March 4 in Los Angeles, when he jumped 15-6.

"Then I just kept progressing," Seagren shrugged.

on a 3-2 pitch with the bases loaded.

ALTHOUGH ANDERSON had the one RBI, he failed for the first time in 23 games to hit safely, going 0-for-4. Twenty-two straight thus stands as the Emerald PCL club record.

The two homers did extend Eugene's string of games with at least one home run to 15.

Tonight, Rick Fusari (3-7), bothered recently by a case of poison oak, will go after the Ems' fourth straight victory in the five-game series against the Twins.

EM GEMS — Fremuth arrived in Tacoma Monday night after spending several days in Detroit, Mich., at his brother's wedding. The two players Eugene acquired from Philadelphia, Ron Stone and Byron Browne, are scheduled to be on hand shortly. Stone is expected to be in the lineup tonight for the Ems, while Browne is ticketed for duty at Civic Stadium Friday night when Eugene opens a five-game set against Hawaii.

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The favorites must come from Joe Lucas, the NCAA champion (8:30.2), Dare, Savage (8:34.4), Sid Sink (8:36.9), Manley and Washington's Jom Johnson (8:32.4).

Sink, of course, is the American record-holder at 8:26.4, set in last year's AAU at Hayward Field. He has improved each week and ran a strong 5,000 meters last weekend in Portland.

"I feel sort of ambivalent about the trials," said Lucas, who passed the AAU meet. "Some of the best runners in the country haven't recorded impressive times this year. I can't be too confident, because they are capable of running much faster than they have."

Indeed, he progressed upward until he had reached 18-4¼ along with Kjell Isaksson of Sweden in a meet at El Paso this spring.

Even as Seagren spoke, entries continued to filter in for the Trials, while there were a few minor scratches.

AMONG THOSE declaring they would be on hand were sprinters Marshall Dill and Herb Washington of Michigan State; steeplechaser Jim Johnson and javelin artists Cary Feldmann and Gary Quitsland of Washington; California's Rick Brown, a half-miler, and Jim Penrose, discus thrower; and a flock of Pacific Coast Club stars, including people like hammer thrower George Frenn and shot-putter Fred DeBernardi.

Henry Hines, who appears a likely bet for Munich, wasn't on the list originally sent north by the Striders Track Club of Los Angeles.

So Ken Matsuda, USC assistant coach, cleared the oversight by telephoning the registration desk on the UO campus, assuring Hines entry.

SCRATCHES TUESDAY included Leonard Hill of Oregon State in the steeplechase. Others were lesser types with miniscule chances of qualifying for the U.S. team.

Deadline for declaration of intent to enter the meet was to have been 11 a.m. today.

Meanwhile, a change in the 800-meter scheduling was announced for Thursday's opening day. The first round, originally slated to open the Trials at noon, has been moved back to 6 p.m. A ceremonial opening is set for 5:30 p.m.

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