

EUGENE, OREGON, SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 1974

Pre sets sights on records in Twilight Meet

Can six crack four minutes?

By JOHN CONRAD
Of the Register-Guard

If Steve Prefontaine would like to wipe out an American record or two in tonight's Twilight Meet at Hayward Field, Bill Dellinger is all for him.

But when the Twilight Mile rolls around, the University of Oregon coach will view the proceedings with mixed emotions.

He wants to see good times, and if history is a yardstick he surely will. Mike Manley of Oregon Track Club won the first Twilight Mile in 1969 in 4:01.8. Since then, Roscoe Divine prevailed in 3:56.3, Arne Kvalheim won in 3:56.4, Prefontaine triumphed in 3:56.7 and then Pre came back last year to win in 3:55-flat.

BUT IT WILL be okay with Dellinger if this year's mile is just good and not spectacular.

"I'd like to see about six guys go under four minutes," he said, referring to Paul Geis, Mark Feig and Scott Daggatt, who already have, plus Todd

Lathers, Steve Bençe and Gary Barger. "We'll make it a team effort, Daggatt will go out in about 59, Feig will bring us through the half in 1:59 and then Geis will push the third lap and see if the others can hang on."

The thing that worries Dellinger is that sometimes the exuberance and emotion connected with the Twilight Mile can be too much.

"I THINK YOU could document cases in the past where everybody got so hyped up for this race they had let-downs afterward," he said. "Sometimes a guy will run his best race in this event and never reach that level again all year.

"I'm hoping we take this in stride and use it as a training session. If Pre and Geis were in it together, everybody would be all hyped up the way they were the year Jim Ryun was out here. I'm glad that Paul and Pre aren't meeting."

As it is, there is a slight question whether Geis will run. He had a slight

strain behind his knee Thursday, the leg was treated Friday and will be tested tonight before he runs. Dellinger expects him to compete, however.

IF HE DOES, he'll be favored to win with a best of 3:58.9, with Feig (4:00.0) the chief threat. The unknown is how much Geis' 12:55.8 three-mile against Washington State's John Ngeno last weekend will affect him this week. Dellinger, a crack three-miler in his day, feels it won't be a factor. Prefontaine, however, thinks it might.

As for Pre's race, he's set to go 10,000 meters but will also get a clocking at the six-mile mark. His objectives are his own six-mile American record of 27:09.4 and possibly Frank Shorter's U.S. mark of 27:51.4 for 10,000.

"It's awfully early in the year," Dellinger said. "But Pre ran the 27:09 in our first meet last year. Now he's got a year of maturity and strength and I wouldn't be surprised to see him go under 27 minutes."

THE KEYS will probably be the

weather and whether or not anybody can stay with Pre. Dellinger thinks that Knut Kvalheim can and that Olympians Jon Anderson and Mike Manley might.

"Knut is very strong," Dellinger said. "Pre needs somebody to stay with him through at least four miles, but Kvalheim could be there all the way. He's been very strong this year and when he's healthy he's tough."

Dellinger said that Prefontaine will be working at a 67-second lap pace under favorable conditions, which he said would be a 26:50 six-mile and a 27:48 for 10,000.

"That's the pace he'll be working at," Dellinger said.

THERE WILL be a number of strong competitors in other events. Former Duck Mac Wilkins (212-6) will throw the discus, ex-NCAA champ Les Tipton (263-10) will toss the javelin, and Olympian Chris Dunn (7-2) will high jump.

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The Twilight Meet lineup

LIFETIME BESTS IN PARENTHESIS
HAMMER (5:30) — Rich Perkins, UO, 177-3. Carl Eklund, UO, 171-2. Bruce Hill, UO, 123-9.

POLE VAULT (5:40) — Tinker Hatfield, UO, 15-6. Judd Eddy, UO, 15-6.

880 (5:50) — Eric Donaldson, UO, 1:53.5. Mike Rice, UO, 1:57.0. Gary Brougher, UO, nt. Gary Sievers, OTC, nt. Mike Gregory, OTC, nt. Jim Gorman, OTC, nt.

JAVELIN (5:55) — Jeff Carter, UO, 253-2. Bob Daniel, UO, 214-5. Tim Carmichael, UO, 206-3. Les Tipton, OTC, nm (263-10). Gary Reddaway, OTC, nm (246-1 1/2).

440 RELAY (6:00) — Oregon No. 1 (Roger Crawley, Brent Peterson, Ross Blackman, Al Dukowski). Oregon No. 2 (Andre Baugh, Bill Reynar, Wilbur Johnson, Dacre Bowen). Oregon No. 3 (Stan Whigham, Dave Hessemer, James Holloway, Craig Blackman). Oregon Track Club (Vincent Buford, Doug Chapman, Albert Hearvey, John Mays).

STEEPLECHASE (6:10) — Tom McChesney, UO, 9:09.8. Don Beckwith, UO, 9:58. Eric Ojala, UO, 9:17.2. Randy Monaghan, UO, nt.

220 (6:20) — Paul Wilkinson, UO, nt. Brent Peterson, UO, 21.4. Roger Crawley, UO, 21.7. Al Dukowski, UO, 21.3. Bill Reynar, UO, 22.3. Andre Baugh, UO, 22.3. James Holloway, UO, nt (21.7). Dacre Bowen, UO, nt (22.0). John Mays, OTC, nt (21.0). Vincent Buford, OTC, nt (21.5). Doug Chapman, OTC, nt (21.4).

DISCUS (6:25) — Dave Voorhees, UO, 180-4. Howard Banich, UO, 166-3. Dave Hickson, UO, 167-10. Rich Perkins, UO, nm. Mac Wilkins, OTC, nm (212-6).

HIGH HURDLES (6:30) — Stan Whigham, UO, 14.4. Randy Moore, UO, 14.9. Dave Hessemer, UO, 15.3. Ron Brown, OTC, nt (14.0). Joe Clingman, OTC, nt (14.7).

HIGH JUMP (6:35) — Greg Fries, UO, 6-10 1/4. Keith Nelson, UO, 6-6. Chris Dunn, OTC, 7-2. Kelly Graham, LCC, 6-9 3/4.

10,000 METERS (6:40) — Steve Prefontaine, 27:09.4 (six miles); Terry Williams, UO; 29:30.0 (six miles); Dave Taylor, UO, nt. Bob Grubbs, UO, nt. Bob Hensley, UO, 29:31.0 (six miles); Bob Smith, UO, nt. Ron Wayne, OTC, nt. Mike Manley, OTC, nt. Russ Pate, OTC, nt. Jim Ferris, OTC, nt. George Conefrey, OTC, nt. Knut Kvalheim, OTC, nt. Jon Anderson, OTC, nt (27:40.2, six miles). Jerry Tighe, OTC, nt (28:35.2, six miles). Damien Koch, OTC, nt. Mike Long, OTC, nt (28:11.0, six miles). Bruce Dewsberry, OTC, nt.

LONG JUMP (6:45) — Ross Blackman, UO, 24-5 3/4.

TRIPLE JUMP (6:45) — Howard Malcolm, UO, 49-9 1/4. Ed Bilusak, UO, 47-3.

MILE RELAY (7:20) — Oregon No. 1 (James Holloway, Craig Blackman, Al Dukowski, Paul Wilkinson). Oregon No. 2 (Andre Baugh, Eric Donaldson, Randy Moore, Dacre Bowen). Oregon Track Club (Vincent Buford, Doug Chapman, Al Hearvey, Gary Sievers).

MILE (7:30) — Paul Geis, UO, 3:58.9. Mark Feig, UO, 4:00.0. Scott Daggatt, UO, 4:03.8. Steve Bençe, 4:07.3. Gary Barger, UO, 4:15.4. Peter Spir, UO, 4:06.1. Lars Kaupang, UO, 4:05.6. Bob Rust, UO, 4:12.8. Todd Lathers, UO, nt. Gary Williams, UO, 4:11.8. Dale Hammitt, UO, nt. Randy James, UO, nt. Whitty Bass, OTC, nt.