

Eugene Register-Guard

Sports

EUGENE, OREGON, TUESDAY, May 27, 1975

It's Pre and Shorter left in 5,000

By JOHN CONRAD
Of the Register-Guard

A week ago, Steve Prefontaine announced that he was going after a record in the two-mile and then ran only to win.

The former University of Oregon distance star isn't predicting records this week for the NCAA Preparation Meet Thursday, but it's possible he could have to break one to win as Pre and Frank Shorter stage a Hayward Field rematch, this time at 5,000 meters.

What once was to be a glittering field for

that race has paled slightly in the last week. First, Olympic champion Lasse Viren of Finland cancelled out with an injury. Now, Oregon's Paul Geis has been scratched because UO Coach Bill Dellinger doesn't want him getting into a showdown with Prefontaine just a week prior to the NCAA meet in Provo, Utah.

But, with Pre and Shorter definitely enlisted, there need be no apologies for the field. It was a year ago, in the Hayward Field Restoration Meet, that Prefontaine outkicked Shorter to set an American three-mile

record of 12:51.4, while Shorter clocked in at 12:52.0 to also go under Gerry Lindgren's old American standard of 12:53.0.

Prefontaine and Shorter are an ideal combination to make an assault on Pre's American record of 13:22.4 and the world standard of 13:13.0 by Emiel Puttemans of Belgium, and possibly Pre's American mark or Puttemans' world mark of 12:47.8 for three miles along the way. Both aren't afraid to set a fast pace, and in this case Pre won't have to do the work by himself because it is Shorter who found out a year ago that he can't wait for a sprint at the finish.

"Shorter's got to run an extremely fast pace to beat Pre," Dellinger said. "But I'm not sure he can run fast enough to wear him down. I don't know what he can do to beat Pre."

No matter the tactics, Pre promises it will be fast.

"We may share the pace if we decide to go for records or a fast time," Pre said. "But neither one of us will be afraid to take the pace if the race gets a little slow."