



Fed up with it

By **BLAINE NEWNHAM**
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STEVE PREFONTAINE issued a challenge. Also an indictment. Toss in a few accusations.

He said in the wake of his world-best 8:24.6 two-mile Tuesday night that he will tour Europe this summer whether the Amateur Athletic Union grants him a travel permit or not.

"They're hassling me, as usual," he said.

"What right do they have to tell me I need a chaperon? Do you think I'm 12 years old?"

"Listen, I'm 22 years old and if I want to go to Europe I will. Maybe I'm testing the establishment. If I sound negative, that's because I have a lot of

negative feelings toward the AAU and the Olympic Committee.

"They sit around their hotels drinking bourbon and seven while we scrounge on nothing. I'm fed up with it."

The AAU has traditionally dictated which American athletes travel abroad by the issuing of travel permits. Traveling without one can conceivably cost a loss of recognition by the AAU and International Olympic Committee.

Pre had positive vibes from his European tour following the



PREFONTAINE

Munich Olympics. He developed friendships with European runners and wants badly to return.

"Like I like Emiel Puttemans a lot. He's not afraid to take the lead and set a hard pace. We'll have a lot of fun."

THE AAU WILL probably come through with a permit for Pre. It's unlikely they want the type of confrontation he is suggesting.

"I'm an American citizen," Pre continued, "and if I want to travel abroad then I will. That's that."

Before that comes the NCAA championships in Baton Rouge. Those Cajuns had better button down their grits and peas because Pre is taking dead aim.

"A lot of guys are going to take the hide right off both of their feet running in that heat and humidity," he said.

"Others will have heat stroke and heat prostration. You name it."

Don't take offense, Baton Rouge, Pre isn't blaming you.

"I'm not taking anything away from Louisiana State," he said. "I'm sure they have outstanding facilities and intentions, but have they ever had a big meet? Can they run it?"

"I hope so."

He is most concerned about the afternoon scheduling on Saturday to accommodate live TV coverage by ABC's Wide World of Sports. The first two days of the meet will be run at night.

"When are they going to make the meet for the athletes instead of for ABC, NBC, or CBS?"



THEY STOOD in the infield, looking slightly bewildered and probably wondering why 3,400 people were cheering a pick-up track meet as if it were the Olympic Games.

Whether the aura of the Twilight Meet was appealing enough to stimulate enrollment is quite another matter.

The fact is, however, that Bill Dellinger had two of the nation's better high school trackmen in town.

The recruits were Mike Estep, a 9.6 sprinter, 48.0 quartermiler, 19.6 low hurdler and 38.5 intermediate hurdler from Nevada, and Ted Hammond of Compton, Calif., the nation's leading prep long jumper at 25-6 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Dellinger has already signed an 8:53 two-miler, a 6-10 $\frac{3}{4}$ high jumper and two prodigious weightmen.

GARY McDONALD, the first basketball recruit Dick Harter signed in a year that netted Ronnie Lee, is leaving Oregon.

A 6-9 center who had limited playing time with the junior varsity because of injury and illness, McDonald will return home and attend Santa Barbara City College.

In addition, Bob Catchings, the 6-6 jumping jack from Joliet, Ill., who was Harter's final signee of last season, is also leaving. He, too, will play junior college basketball.

Either, neither, or both could return.

Speaking of basketball, Dick Gray, Richard Washington's coach at Benson High, coached the U.S. All-Stars in last Sunday's game against the New York-New Jersey All-Stars in New York.

On Gray's team was Ernie Kent, the 6-4 guard who has signed with Oregon.

"He's a tremendous leaper," said Gray. "He's all over the court and has tremendous potential. He's very quick."

A comparison with Rickey Lee, Gray's 6-6 guard at Benson who will attend Oregon State?

"Rickey's a little taller, Kent moves around more, is more active. Rickey is a better team player; individually they are about even."

Gray, whose team lost 105-104, was not impressed with the Eastern players.

"If you took Richard and nine of the other best kids in Oregon you could whip any of them. The New York kids are selfish, they don't see the other four kids on the floor. Our players do."