



# Running for fun?

By **BLAINE NEWNHAM**  
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**BOB NEWLAND**, the director of Saturday's Hayward Field Restoration Meet, hung up after talking to the California International Track Club.

Sorry, said Bob, but we can't take Reynaldo Brown.

And there have been other very fine club athletes refused expenses to compete here.

"It's quite obvious," said Newland, "that if we set a date early next year we'll be making some pretty difficult decisions about who to let in."

"There is a definite need for this meet. The athletes want it."

You can trace the appeal of the Hayward Field meet to the never-ending beat of the jogtown sound. To a runner seeking a runner's world.



**PREFONTAINE**  
'Why pay more?'

"At this point," said Newland, "they love to come here and enjoy the experience of a good competition, good facilities and a great crowd."

"I can still remember those marathon runners at the national AAU championships a few years ago."

"One of them told me after running 26 miles that he was going to go out and come back through the gate to hear the roar of the crowd."

"As long as we can maintain that kind of attitude, then athletes will come here."

There is another reason for the athletes wanting to run here this weekend. A reason that gives you some hope for amateur athletics in this country.

There is no proliferation of big track meets in the country.

The latest of the white elephants is the high-powered, big-budgeted Vons Classic in Los Angeles. It's incredible that Los Angeles is now without a major invitational track meet.

Outdoors, only the Kennedy Games in Berkeley, the California Relays in Modesto, and the West Coast Relays in Fresno remain as big meets in the West. Even the Rose Festival in Portland is now a high school invitational.

### WHAT HAPPENED to the Vons Classic and the Compton Relays?

They dared play the money game with the athletes and were beaten to the tape.

"The price of talent keeps going up," says Newland, who as meet director of the Portland Indoor knows the nefarious ways of track promoting as well as anyone.

"I've been told by a number of people," continued Newland, "that there are only two honest indoor meets left . . . the Portland Indoor and the Seattle Indoors."

Newland isn't ready to condemn those who pay beyond the rules for top talent. He understands why a promoter pays it, and why an athlete accepts it. But he says in the long run it will ruin you.

"We just tell them that if they want extra money to go somewhere else," says Newland. "Sure, I've been asked for something extra."

The Amateur Athletic Union allows for the meet promoter to pay an athlete travel expenses, and a \$25 per diem per day for food and lodging.

"I would say," continued Newland, "that the top-notch athlete can make \$600 to \$800 on the weekend very easily."

"That is what he is paid above expenses. There are no checks written for it, and no way to trace it."

"In some cases an athlete gets incentive pay. You know, 'I'll give you 300 bucks if you break a record.' That kind of thing."

**NEWLAND** says there's never been an athlete that his meets couldn't do without. And yet he understands the inconsistency of it for the athletes.

"I'd really like to help them," he says. "In many cases they make a real sacrifice to compete. Many of them lose time and money away from their jobs.

"And, really, if you're the world's best you should be paid for your worth at the box office. If you're the world's best musician or singer you get paid for what you draw."

In track you don't, or at least you're not supposed to.

"How could I justify paying Lasse Viren, for example, \$1,000 when Pre is here running for nothing," asked Newland rhetorically.

For years, the meet promoters pocketed the difference between what that athletes drew and what they could legally be given in expense money.

"I could understand the athletes being sore about that," said Newland. "They are asked to live on almost nothing, to lose money from their jobs and then get nothing for it."

Newland sees the answer as sharing the profits with the athletes in a way that is legal.

"Any money we make from this meet will go to building the grandstand at Hayward Field," said Newland, "and that's something all the athletes can share in. It's similar to our indoor meet in which the profits go into scholarships for Oregon and Oregon State track athletes."

Newland pondered for a moment the promoters who have been known to take \$10,000 to \$15,000 from a single venture.

"Believe me," he said, "none of us in Eugene are getting rich.

"Well, in experiences yes. But financially no. Let's face it, we all love the sport. That's all."