

Pre bags 3rd Hayward award



STEVE PREFONTAINE

'I'm speechless'

PORTLAND — Steve Prefontaine won his third Bill Hayward Award Monday night as Oregon's outstanding amateur athlete for 1973, then had a confession to make to the thousand-odd persons gathered at Portland's Hilton Hotel.

"For the first time in my life, I'm speechless," said Prefontaine, who won the Hayward Award in 1970 and 1971. "This is one of my greatest honors. I feel that several others up here are just as deserving."

Pre was picked over formidable company.

The Hayward finalists included his own Oregon track teammate, Mac Wilkins, who has been judged the best multiple weightman (shotput, discus, javelin) in track and field history, Oregon State's Greg Strobel, the national-champion wrestler who has won 60 match-

es in a row, and Albany's Mike Hess, the AAU's Outstanding Boxer in 1973.

The award is given annually to the athlete chosen by members of the Oregon Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association.

Portland Trailblazers guard Geoff Petrie, an NBA All-Star this year, was named the state's top professional athlete at the 26th annual banquet.

The Slats Gill Trophy, given annually to Oregon's "Man of The Year" in athletics, went to Jack Dunn, the Wilson High baseball coach who piloted the Watco Electric American Legion team to third place in the national tournament last year.

Richard Washington, perhaps the most sought-after prep athlete in the state's history as a senior at Portland's Benson Tech, was named as the Johnny Carpenter

Prep Athlete of the Year winner. Washington, a freshman on the UCLA basketball team, was in Los Angeles Monday night but his mother accepted the award.

Last year's Hayward winner, golfer Mary Budke, had been nominated again this year, as had Oregon basketball player Ronnie Lee, Oregon State high jumper Tom Woods, and Oregon football player Don Reynolds.

Dallas Cowboys running back Calvin Hill was featured speaker at the banquet and Bill Bowerman, the former Oregon track coach and now associated director of athletics, spoke in memory of Hayward, the longtime UO coach.

If Prefontaine's selection was a surprise, it was only because he'd won the award twice before. Two weeks ago in Portland Pre set a new American two-mile indoor record of 8:22.1 in the annual In-

door Meet but for one used to hitting the finish line first his current indoor campaign has been less than successful.

Pre was fourth in the Examiner Games mile last weekend and he was upset in his speciality — the two mile — by Dick Buerkle at Maryland in early January.

The two top contenders were probably Wilkins and Strobel.

Wilkins has turned into a consistent 200-foot discus thrower, has thrown the shot 60 feet, and as a freshman at Oregon tossed the javelin 257-4.

Strobel, a senior at OSU, has been one of the more dominating figures in collegiate sport since last year, when he won the NCAA title at 190 pounds and was named the Most Valuable Wrestler.