

# Woods heaves shot put record

PORTLAND — George Woods had to remind an official that he'd just broken the world indoor shot put record, but the crowd came to its feet to clearly certify Steve Prefontaine's American record two-mile run in Saturday night's Oregon Invitational Track and Field meet at Memorial Coliseum.

Pre's unprecedented fifth straight victory here lowered his American indoor record to 8:22.1, bettering the old mark of 8:24.6 he set last year in this meet.

"THE GUY measured it and casually said 69-10 $\frac{3}{4}$ ," Wood related after his epic event.

"I walked up to him and told him that it was a new world's record and that he might want to look at it closer."

Only then did the crowd of 8,121 become aware of the record. Woods held the old mark at 69-9 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

That prodigious throw netted

Woods the Outstanding Performer trophy. Even on Pre's home turf, it's hard to upstage a world record.

For Pre, it was "just another race," and one he would just as soon not remember.

"Let's hurry up, I've got a splitting headache," he said in the press room afterwards.

Pre was upset with the lap cards.

"They were giving me the 3.5 and 6 shot. And I knew there were only one or two laps remaining."

The problem apparently stemmed from the fact that Pre—who burned the field with a 4:07 mile — had lapped the field with more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile remaining. So while the man responsible for notifying runners how many laps they had left to run was trying to service everybody, Pre was left pretty much on his own.

AS FOR THE race, "I wasn't really going for any time, because when I go for time, I don't want to do all the work. There is only one runner who can do that, and he retired — Ron Clarke."

Pre also was somewhat displeased with the crowd reaction Saturday night — not so much for his performance — but for the meet in general. "They just didn't respond as usual."

Only double winner of the meet was Coos Bay's outstanding sprinter, Fran Sichting, who picked up a 7.0 in the 60 yard dash, then followed with a 58.5 in the 440 dash.

One face familiar to Oregon track fans, and one who was happy to be back, was Dr. Delano Meriwether, the sprinting blood doctor from the East Coast.

The suspenders-wearing doctor

won the 60 yard dash in 6.1.

Although several meet records were broken, only Franocie Larrieu, America's top woman miler, came close to another world record — falling three seconds shy of the mark she set last year of 4:35.6.

SHE RAN the 11 laps in 4:38.7. "That equals my outdoor American record, though," she said as an afterthought while discussing the indoor world record.

The pole vault, long jump, and to a certain extent, the high jump were disappointments, considering quality fields collected by meet Director Bob Newland.

The much publicized battle in the high jump between Oregon State's Tom Woods and UCLA's outdoor world record holder Dwight Stones, ended with Woods an easy victor at 7-2.

Stones, who has now lost to Woods two of the three times they have met this winter, said he just wasn't with it. "Mentally, I wasn't here. The take-off ramp wasn't good, and, ah heck, I don't know."

"Maybe last night (the Millrose games in New York) took more out of me than I thought. Tom said he didn't jump well either. Maybe next week."

Stones managed to clear 6-10, way below his world outdoor record of 7-6 $\frac{5}{8}$ .

The pole vault was expected to be a battle of Swedes, with Kjell Isaksson last year's winner, and Hans Lagerquist, the favorites. Both are 17-footers, Isaksson an 18-footer.

SO WHAT happened? Neither placed after passing at early heights, then bombing out in later attempts. Lagerquist missed at 16-0, Isaksson at 16-8.

Bob Richards, son of the famed vaulting minister and former Olympic champion, won at 16-4, beating out USC's Robert Pullard who managed 16-0.