

Prefontaine betters two-mile mark, but it won't go into record books

From Associated Press Reports

MUNICH — Steve Prefontaine got his good workout — and unofficially an American record.

The University of Oregon star raced to a 7:47.6 winning time for 3,000 meters in an Olympic tune-up meet Thursday night, then kept on running.

And, when the 5,000-meter star had completed two miles, he had done so in 8:19.4 compared with George Young's American two-mile mark of 8:22.0. Because the race ended at 3,000 meters the record doesn't count.

"WE JUST WANTED a stiff workout," said Bill Bowerman, the University of Oregon coach who is the head mentor of the U.S. Olympic track and field forces.

The 21-year-old Pre, whose 3,000-meter clocking was second only to his American record of 7:44.2 run at Oslo three weeks ago, had to dodge fans after completing the 3,000.

Despite the noteworthy performance, Prefontaine was only moderately happy. He said he had wanted 8:16.2.

Meanwhile, two West Germans and a Japanese steeplechase runner showed fine form to vault into Olympic prominence.

Reinhard Kuretsky of West Germany soared 17 feet, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches to top world record-holder Bob Seagren of the U.S. Both agreed, however, that the poor lighting in the stadium caused them great problems. Seagren nearly made 17-8 $\frac{1}{2}$ on one attempt.

The other West German to surprise the crowd of 2,000 was Klaus Wolsermann, whose javelin throw of 296-7 thrust him into the No. 7 spot on the all-time javelin list. The throw was also the second best in the world this year, back of the world record throw of 307-9 by Russia's Janis Lusiv.

JAPAN'S TAKAHARU Koyama sped through the steeplechase in 8:33.0 for a victory over world record-holder Kerry O'Brien of Australia.

Koyama, 24, said he doesn't think he has a chance for a medal and "all I want to do is qualify for the final."

O'Brien, whose world mark is 8:22.0, has a sore right hamstring muscle, injured tendons in his left ankle and a sore right knee. "I've done the background work but these injuries have made it a heartbreaking season. Maybe a layoff is what I need."

He said his world record "is vulnerable unless we run a tactical race because of the great runners here this year, the great depth."

Americans Vince Matthews and Lee Evans ran 1-2 in the fastest heat of the 400 meters clocking 44.7 and 44.8 seconds, respectively, over the artificial surface.

Josh Owusu, a long jumper from Ghana who competed for San Angelo State College in Texas, went 26-5 $\frac{3}{4}$ to edge West Germany's Hans Baumgartner, who did 26-4 $\frac{1}{4}$. American Randy Williams did 26-3, for third.

SYLVIA CHIVAS of Cuba and Barbara Ferrell of the United States

both ran 100 meters in 11.2 and Tom Gage of the United States took the hammer throw at 225-3. U.S. Army Lt. Tom Hill won the high hurdles in 13.7.

Meanwhile, this festive capital welcomes the Olympic torch tonight as a relay runner from Greece jogs into historic Koenigsplatz where Hitler plotted his course to infamy.

The 20th Olympic Games, a \$1 billion undertaking of contemporary West Germany, becomes a reality Saturday with athletic teams of 122 nations marching into the 80,000 capacity Olympia Stadium.

On the eve of that opening ceremony, the Olympic torch, ferried by hundreds of runners from Olympia, Greece, will reach Munich to be received by Olympic officials and a likely international ovation from tourists and sports fans gathered in Koenigsplatz.

THAT MONUMENTAL central square of neoclassic architecture was the site of the "Brown House" which served as Nazi Party headquarters at the time of Hitler's rise to power in 1933.

The brown house was destroyed by allied bombs.

It was also the scene of the signing in 1938 of the Munich Pact, the ill-fated peace agreement between dictator Benito Mussolini of Italy, Germany Chancellor Adolf Hitler, and Prime Ministers Neville Chamberlain of England and Edouard Daladier of France.

When the pomp and pageantry fades into the cool Bavarian night,

the 10,000 athletes in Olympic Village will be posed to match their skills for 195 gold medals in 22 sports.

The International Olympic Committee announced Thursday night it had offered to welcome Communist China into the athletic festival, but Peking says no as long as Taiwan is admitted.

IN OTHER IOC action, the four-man bobsled competition was eliminated from the 1976 Winter Games as too expensive a sport — with an estimated possibly cost of \$100,000 an entry.

The move will allow Denver, the Winter Olympics' next host city, to conduct all events in Colorado. Tentative plans had been made to switch the four-man bobs to Lake Placid, N.Y.

The IOC added six women's rowing events to the 1976 Summer Games calendar at Montreal before reaching Friday's closing business session.

Jesse Owens, the svelte black man who won four gold medals in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, returned to the country of his famed accomplishments. The welcome was more than warm.

Owens, snubbed by Hitler due to his heritage, is an honored guest of the German Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games.

Owens won the 100 and 200-meter dashes, the long jump and helped on the 400-meter relay team. His record of four golds has been equalled just once, by U.S. swimmer Don Schollander at Tokyo in 1964.