

It's homecoming for Pre

By JOHN CONRAD
Of the Register-Guard

COOS BAY — Steve Prefontaine has run in Coos Bay only once competitively since graduating from Marshfield High, that in the summer of 1971 to raise money for the Munich Olympics. It was not exactly a race to remember as he ran the mile in something like 4:12.0.

The former University of Oregon distance great will be hoping for something more Friday night when he runs 2,000 meters to highlight the second of his mini-meets featuring a touring Finnish track team.

"I'm looking forward to the meet," Pre said. "The performances in Madras last weekend were great considering the weather, and I think we're over our credibility problem now. The Finns are here and competing."

Pre is hoping for considerably better than the crowd of 600 that

watched the Madras meet. Weather conditions permitting he'll surely get it. He also expects to run much better than his 8:26.4 for 3,000 meters at Madras, although the American record of 5:02.2 by Marty Liquori and the world standard of 4:56.2 by Michel Jazy of France should be safe.

Pre's battle with Finland's Rune Holeman and possibly Oregon Track Club runners Mike Manley and Jon Anderson, plus Oregon runners such as Matt Centrowitz, Peter Spir and Larry Hurst, will highlight the 6 p.m. meet.

Finland's Pentti Kahma (218-3) will again battle former Oregon star Mac Wilkins (212-6) in the discus, while Oregon's Dave Voorhees (187-7) will also throw.

University of Oregon Coach Bill Dellinger will send better than a dozen of his Ducks to the meet, most of them athletes who will compete in the Pac-8 meet the following weekend.

Jeff Carter (247-8) and ex-USC thrower Bruce Dow (240-5) will take on Finland's Jorma Jaakola (242-7 last week but 282-11¼ lifetime) in the javelin. If healthy, Oregon's Craig Brigham (15-6) will enter the pole vault along with Finland's Antti Kalliomaki, who went 17-9¼ last weekend despite the foul weather in Madras.

The other Ducks who will compete are Steve Bence, Mark Feig and Lars Kaupang in the 1,000 meters, Tom McChesney and possibly Dave Taylor in the 3,000 meters, Dave Hagmeier, Dacre Bowen and Denzil Davis in the 220, Gary Carew in the 100 and Al Dukowski, Bowen, Stan Whigham and Chris Brathwaite in a 440 relay.

"It's preparation for the Pac-8 for most of them," Dellinger said. "They'll go through a morning workout before they leave, similar to what we did for the Twilight Meet."