



Will Wottle (left), Liquori (middle) and Prefontaine give Hayward field its fastest mile ever?

It's Pre against Wottle, Liquori

By **BLAINE NEWNHAM**
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The University of Oregon announced today that Steve Prefontaine will run the mile against Olympic 800-meter champion Dave Wottle and Marty Liquori, the second fastest American miler of all time, in next Wednesday's Hayward Field Restoration meet.

The lineup is stunning, even without Great Britain Olympian Bob Maplestone, a sub-four minute miler, and former Washington star Jim Johnson, who are also entered.

In a stadium where great miles have been commonplace, this promises to be the greatest.

It will be the last meet before the old west grandstand is torn down. To help restore it, the U of O athletic department is staging this meet which will have a \$10 price tag per family. Three adults will also be admitted for the \$10 ticket.

BESIDES THE MAGICAL draw of a Prefontaine-Wottle-Liquori mile, Bill Landers, the U of O assistant athletic director who is in Bakersfield at the AAU meet lining up talent, revealed that world record-

holder Rod Milburn will run the high hurdles, NCAA six-mile champ Charlie Mcquire of Penn State will face Jon Anderson, winner of the Boston marathon, Dan Murphy of Washington State, John Hartnett of Villanova, Mike Keough of Manhattan and the Oregon Track Club's Paul Geis in a three-mile.

And there are others, according to Landers.

UCLA's 27-foot long jumper, James McAlister, is entered. So is NCAA 880 runnerup Ken Schappert of Villanova, Olympian Tim Vollmer in the discus against NCAA champ Mac Wilkins of Oregon, and a Club Northwest group that includes 17-foot vaulters Jack Ernst and Jeff Taylor.

The Pre-Wottle-Liquori thing is perfect.

ALL ARE RUNNING in the weekend's AAU championships in Bakersfield. They are, however, avoiding each other.

Wottle, a two-time NCAA mile champion who still contends the mile is his favorite race, is matched against Rick Wohlhuter in the 880; Liquori, making a comeback after injury, is in the mile; and Prefon-

taine is in the three-mile.

It was after he ran 3:55 on that bitterly cold, windy night in April that Pre said he thought the world record (Jim Ryun's 3:51.1) was within his grasp. Pre's 3:55.0 is still the fastest mile in the world this year.

And there has been more and more talk about Pre going after that record if the conditions were right. What better conditions than Wottle, Liquori and the hometown crowd in Eugene?

JOHN GREGORIO of Colorado, who finished third behind Pre in the NCAA three-mile, revealed a conversation with the Oregon star.

"He told me he feels he can run the first three laps in 2:52 and kick it from there. I feel he can do it, too. He's my idol, of course."

A 2:52 three-quarter time means laps of 58, 57, 57. A fourth lap of 57 would mean 3:49. Wottle had a 57-second last lap in winning the NCAA mile in 3:52.0.

Wottle proved he was the best of the collegiate milers in Baton Rouge, La.; now he must prove he is better than Pre and Liquori, the latter who ran the second fastest

American mile in history with 3:54.6 in beating Ryun at the 1971 King Games in Philadelphia.

In that race, Liquori showed an astonishingly long and fast kick. He ran the last 880 in 1:51.3 and the final quarter in 54.6.

OREGON ALSO announced that a special high school four-mile relay will be held, featuring teams from South Eugene, North Eugene and Marina High school of Huntington Beach, Calif.

It is further anticipated that two or three other teams from California will run in an all-out assault on the national record of 17:12.2 set by the Essex Catholic High team of New Jersey, whose anchor man was Marty Liquori.

The meet will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the hammer throw and conclude with the mile at 8:45 p.m.

The \$10 ticket — and no other tickets will be sold — are available at the University of Oregon ticket office.

The drive to reach \$600,000 for the restoration of the west grandstand is over \$400,000. It is hoped that the restoration will be completed by next season.