



OREGON *Track Club*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mark your calendars for April 12 and April 26. The Pepsi Invitational and Oregon Invitational are shaping up as perhaps the two best home meets in at least a decade.

Starting with the Pepsi -- Colorado, Minnesota and Washington are bringing their men's and women's teams for a scoring meet. For the men it could be huge. There may not be two better overall track teams in the country than Minnesota and Oregon. Minnesota finished 2nd in the Big-10 last year and has its eye on the top spot in 2003. Just like Oregon in the Pac-10. It brings a solid corps of middle distance and distance runners who, in their cross-country incarnation, have become annual fixtures in the NCAA Championships, including this year. Just like Oregon. It rounds out its squad with a solid group of field event performers, highlighted by vaulters and intermediate hurdlers, and had multiple individual conference champions last year. Just like Oregon. On paper these teams match up well against each other and may be the two best overall teams in the two best overall conferences.

Add Colorado for depth in the distance races. Colorado finished 4th in the NCAA Cross Country, just edging out Oregon, and boasts the individual national champion. Then we throw in the Huskies, just to give them their annual thrashing.

For the women it's equally competitive. The Minnesota women finished in the middle of their conference last year. Just like Oregon, although Oregon may be a team on the rise and I don't know about Minnesota. Minnesota had an individual qualifier at the NCAA XC. Just like Oregon. Minnesota had an all-american javelin thrower. Just like ... well, you get the point.

Throw in Colorado (5th in the NCAA XC) for depth in the distance races. And then the Huskies for their annual thrashing. I'm not kidding, this looks like a very competitive meet with a chance for both the men and women to win against extremely balanced competition.

The Oregon Invitational is on about the same level. The possibilities at this point look like maybe seven teams bringing at least partial squads. Northern Arizona plans to bring its distance runners (their men were 7th in the NCAA XC, their women 10th), plus Arizona State, which has two strong teams, Wake Forest (9th in the women's XC), Weber State, Utah and New Mexico, and, of course, the Huskies, unless they've had enough thrashing by then. These are all a little speculative, but it looks like an outstanding meet. Plus, there will be room for some post-collegians, with the hope being for a fast steeple and 5K for the men and the women's races still being developed.

At least part of the reason why these meets are possible is the NCAA's move to regional qualifying, which de-emphasizes qualifying standards. Collegiate track and field had become

distorted by all the teams flocking to a few select meets where they were assured quality fields in the pursuit of qualifying marks. Not only did Oregon's coaches feel the pressure to go to those meets -- after all, you wanted to give your athletes the best chance of getting to the NCAA -- but all the other teams did, too, making it next to impossible to get good teams to commit to come to rainy Oregon in the Spring. Tom and Martin have both worked hard over several years to come up with a solution, and laid the groundwork to put these two meets together. When the rules change came about, they were able to line up commitments that they had been working on for a long time.

Now how about this -- there's a move afoot for the NCAA to do the same for cross country what it did for track. For different reasons, cross country teams interested in qualifying for Nationals have been pressured into competing at the pre-National Meet or the Griak Invitational, or both, in order to enhance their chances of getting at-large invitations to Nationals. This worked to the detriment of every other meet in the country and is one of the big reasons, although not the only one, why our home meet met its demise. The NCAA is considering a new qualifying system which would give teams two chances to qualify automatically at different regional meets, eliminating or reducing at-large berths, with the hope that it will free up the regular season for more meets.

One of my fond hopes is to get a cross-country meet back. There are a lot of barriers to that -- the lack of a regular course is one of the more glaring ones -- but if the NCAA goes to this dual-regional system (sometimes you'll see it referred to as "Super-Regionals"), then at least one of the barriers might be reduced. We shall see.

Bryan Lessley

OTCM REPORT

by Ruth Obadal

This will be brief and barely under the deadline, since I just returned from the USATF annual meeting in Kansas City. This was my first time to attend the national convention, so I had a lot to learn. The OTC Masters were well represented by Becky Sisley, Frank Lulich, Suzy Hess, Jerry Wojcik, Luigi Schiavo, Tom Jordan, Barbara Kousky, Chuck Hammonds and me. Except for Chuck and me, all were veterans of past conventions.

I was pleased to find that masters are such a vital segment of USATF. Another thing I noticed was the high esteem in which people from around the country hold Eugene when it comes to hosting national meets. We are the standard by which all other meets are judged. For this we can thank the excellent officials in

our area as well as the very capable meet management team of Barbara and Tom. We will be hosting the 2003 National Masters Championships in August, so Barb gave an update on that meet to the Masters Committee. People are already talking about coming here, and I think we'll have an excellent turnout.

The Masters are winding down the year with our holiday social in December to be followed by our annual dinner in January, where new officers and members of the Board of Directors will be installed. Our featured speaker is renowned coach Pete Petersons. After two years as president preceded by two years as treasurer, I am ready to step down and let others take the lead. I have enjoyed my time in these offices, but I'm ready for a break. I plan to take over the function of OTCM newsletter editor and will continue on the Board as past president, so I won't be resting too much.

We are deeply saddened by the loss of two of our longtime dedicated members, Ross Carter and Dick Lee. They have both left their mark on our club and our sport, and they will be greatly missed!

OREGON XC, WOMEN

Pre-NCAA Invitational, Terre Haute, IN, 10/19 – Unranked Oregon would try their best for a high finish against many ranked teams including 15 of the top 40 teams in the nation. Two races were held, called the white race and the blue race. Oregon performed very well, finishing the 37-team white race in 18th place and even beating #31-ranked Florida State by two points. However, the Ducks finish on the 6K course of (53-63-112-122-153 = 503 pts.) did not bode well for making nationals. Second-ranked Stanford took the white race with 57 points (2-3-4-9-39), well ahead of Wake Forest (165) and North Carolina State (199). Pac-10 schools Arizona St. (254) finished eighth and UCLA (296) ninth. The individual winner was Vicky Gill of Florida State (19:55, 5:21/mile), followed by three Stanford women, Alicia Craig (20:03), Sara Bei (20:13) and Lauren Fleshman (20:13). The seven Oregon finishers were Carrie Zografos (21:35), Laura Harmon (21:41), Eri Macdonald (22:09), Magdalena Sandoval (22:14), Erinn Gulbrandsen (22:30), Alicia Snyder-Carlson (23:02) and Nicole Feest (23:07). In the 38-team blue race, BYU with 55 points beat Colorado with 143. Washington was 11th with 354.

OSU Beaver Classic, Corvallis, 10/26 - With its top runners preparing for the Pac-10 meet next week, Oregon sent their B team to Avery Park to compete in a 4000 meter race and won the team title easily. Oregon scored 23 points, to 42 for Portland, 63 for Willamette and 103 for Team GFR. Leading Oregon were Nicole Feest in first place at 14:10.5 (5:42/mile), followed in second and third by teammates Eleanor Gordon (14:15.7) and Taylor Bryant (14:33.6). The other Duck finishers were Krissy Sonnixsen (14:43.3), Haripurkh Khalsa (15:02.0), Chelsea Manesh (15:34.7) and Beth Jackson (16:33.7). Oregon's adjusted team scoring was (1-2-3-5-12) versus Portland's (4-6-8-11-13), an impressive showing.

Pac-10, Pasadena, 11/2 - The 6K race was held on the Brookside Golf Course in 57-degree weather. Stanford was the overwhelming favorite and dominated the team scoring, ending

with 23 points (1-2-4-5-11) to 59 for Arizona State (6-10-12-15-16), 79 for Washington, 86 for UCLA and 134 for Oregon in fifth, well ahead of Washington State (197). This was Oregon's fewest points in the Pac-10 meet since 125 in 1998. Leading Stanford were Sara Bei in first (19:48, 5:19/mile) and Lauren Fleshman in second (19:50). Lena Nilsson of UCLA was third in 20:01.

It was a big improvement for Oregon, who finished eighth last year with 210 points. The seven Oregon finishers were Carrie Zografos in eighth (21:03), Laura Harmon in 19th (21:25), Magdalena Sandoval (22:13), Erinn Gulbrandsen (22:22), Eri Macdonald (22:36), Nicole Feest (23:00) and Eleanor Gordon (23:13). The Ducks adjusted scoring places were (8-19-33-36-38).

Western Regional, Stanford, 11/16 - This was one of nine regionals held around the country. The top two teams in each regional automatically qualified for the NCAA finals, together with 13 other teams selected by vote but based mostly on head-to-head records. Stanford dominated the 6K race held on the Stanford Golf Course, scoring 24 points to lead Arizona State (70), UCLA (82), Washington (120), Oregon (129) and Idaho (227). Twenty-eight schools competed. Stanford's scoring was (1-3-4-5-11), led by Alicia Craig (20:39, 5:32/mile), Lauren Fleshman (20:54), Malindi Elmore (21:07) and Sara Bei (21:08). Lena Nilsson of UCLA was second in 20:45 and Carrie Zografos of Oregon was sixth in 21:26. The other Oregon finishers were Laura Harmon (22:15), Eri Macdonald (22:20), Magdalena Sandoval (22:30), Erinn Gulbrandsen (22:55), Nicole Feest (23:24) and Alicia Snyder-Carlson (23:33). The Ducks scoring was (6-23-25-29-46). Coach Tom Heinonen praised his team, "They showed guts early on, going faster than they ever had this year." But he realized where his team stood, "Today may get us to nationals, it may not." As it turned out, despite beating two teams during the year that would make nationals (Northwestern and Florida State), only Carrie Zografos would represent Oregon in Terre Haute. Washington, who barely beat the Duck women in this race 120 to 129, was chosen for nationals. It was that close!

NCAA Championship, Terre Haute, IN, 11/25 - Stanford had the faster runners but BYU had better depth and pulled out the win with an adjusted 85 points (4-6-15-28-32). Stanford was second with 113 (2-3-9-40-59) and Notre Dame was third with 170 (5-14-37-56-58). The Washington team that barely beat Oregon in the Western Regional last week ended last of the 31 teams with 699 points. Individual honors in the 6K race on the LaVern Gibson Cross Country Course went to junior Shalene Flanagan of North Carolina (19:36.0, 5:15/mile), followed by senior Kate O'Neill of Yale (19:45.9), soph Alicia Craig of Stanford (19:48.0) and senior Lauren Fleshman of Stanford (19:48.3). BYU was led by Michaela Manova, fifth in 19:49.5 and Kassie Anderson, seventh in 19:56.1. Oregon senior Carrie Zografos became the 31st all-American to run cross country for coach Heinonen as she finished 33rd in 20:31.4. There were 254 women finishers. A Portland native, Zografos started her collegiate career at the University of Colorado before transferring to Oregon.

OREGON XC, MEN

Pre-NCAA Invitational, Terre Haute, IN, 10/19 - The fifth-ranked Oregon team decided to pass on this meet as they had little to gain. Two 8K races were held, called the blue race and the white race. In the blue race, Stanford finished first with 27 points (2-3-6-7-9) followed by Northern Arizona with 92. Kip Kangogo of BYU won the race in 23:46 (4:47/mile), followed by Grant Robison of Stanford in 23:47 and Ian Dobson of Stanford in 23:49. In the white race, Colorado was the winner with 87 points followed by Iona with 125. Colorado runners finished 1-2-3, with Jorge Torres in 23:35 (4:45/mile), Steve Slattery in 23:55 and Ed Torres in 23:58.

OSU Beaver Classic, Corvallis, 10/26 - Oregon sent their B team to the event in Avery Park and they won with 32 points over Willamette (44), Portland (59) and Oregon State (103). Unattached runners took the first six places in the 6K race, led by Ryan Craig in 17:35 (4:43/mile). The Oregon finishers were Shane Ahlers (seventh in 18:39), Collin Stark-Benz (ninth in 18:47), Jan Olszowy (12th in 18:54), Ryan Flaherty (19th in 19:16), Ricky Scott (36th in 20:34), Kyle Sunderland (44th in 22:01), Tomas Finol (45th in 22:02) and Adam Bailey (49th in 22:05).

Pac-10, Pasadena, 11/2 - The 8K race on the Brookside Golf Course saw Stanford post a near-perfect win with 19 points (1-2-3-6-7), but Oregon was a strong second with 51 points (4-5-11-15-16), well ahead of Arizona State (85) and Washington (114). This was Oregon's lowest point total in the Pac-10 meet since 50 in 1998 and 48 in 1992. The top seven were all from Stanford or Oregon, with Grant Robison winning in 23:27 (4:43/mile) followed by teammates Ian Dobson (23:30) and Donald Sage (23:36). Jason Hartmann took fourth for Oregon in 23:38 and UO's Ryan Andrus was fifth in 23:43. The other Oregon finishers were Brett Holts (24:08), John Lucas (24:29), Noel Paulson (24:34), Eric Logsdon (24:41) and Will Viviani (25:23).

Western Regional, Stanford, 11/16 - The top two teams in the regional automatically advanced to the NCAA's, and these teams were Stanford (1-3-4-5-8 = 21 pts.) and Oregon (2-6-7-12-16 = 43), well ahead of Cal Poly (115) and Portland (120). In first place in the 10K race on the Stanford Golf Course was Donald Sage of Stanford in 30:13 (4:52/mile) followed by Jason Hartmann of Oregon (30:18) and Ian Dobson of Stanford (30:21). The other Oregon finishers were Ryan Andrus (30:37), Brett Holts (30:41), Eric Logsdon (30:49), John Lucas (31:00), Noel Paulson (31:48) and Shane Ahlers (33:20).

NCAA Championship, Terre Haute, IN, 11/25 - The Ducks, sixth-ranked going in, finished fifth in a tough field and ended with four all-Americans! The adjusted team scoring went as follows:

1. Stanford 47 (3-5-6-8-25)
2. Wisconsin 107 (11-19-21-22-34)
3. E. Michigan 165 (7-12-36-42-68)
4. Colorado 190 (1-9-38-52-90)
5. Oregon 210 (18-30-37-39-86)
6. Arkansas 215

The 10K race on the LaVern Gibson Cross Country Course was won by Jorge Torres of Colorado in 29:04.7 (4:41/mile), followed by Alistair Cragg of Arkansas (29:06.0), Grant Robison of Stanford (29:36.7), Mark Tucker of Butler (29:37.5), Louis Luchini of Stanford (29:41.0), Donald Sage of Stanford (29:44.4) and Boaz Cheboiywo of Eastern Michigan (29:46.1). In last year's NCAA XC, Cheboiywo was first, Torres second and Cragg third.

The Oregon finishers were Jason Hartmann (20th in 30:17.9), Ryan Andrus (34th in 30:30.0), Eric Logsdon (41st in 30:36.5), Brett Holts (43rd in 30:37.8), John Lucas (112th in 31:13.0), Noel Paulson (160th in 31:42.0) and Shane Ahlers (212th in 32:28.2). All except Hartmann will return for cross country next year, but Hartmann still has two years' eligibility for outdoor track.

MIDWESTERN LEAGUE XC (4A)

In the 5K races held at Lane Community College on October 24, South Eugene HS and Sheldon HS teams earned trips to the state meet for both boys and girls. For the boys, it was SE, 44 and Sheldon, 55 points in ending 1-2. The race winner was John Hoeck of Churchill HS (16:11, 5:13/mile) followed by John Barreto of Lebanon (16:15). For the girls, it was SE, 31 and Sheldon, 48. The top three finishers were from South Eugene, Erin Gray (18:14, 5:52/mile), Sarah Pearson (18:56) and Grace Shapland (18:58), followed by two Sheldon runners, Holly Thomson (19:19) and Heather Spinney (19:48).

SKY-EM LEAGUE XC (3A)

Also in 5K races at LCC on Oct. 24, the two boys' teams advancing to state were Siuslaw, 51 points, and Elmira, 60. The winner was Luke Martindale of Siuslaw in 16:28 (5:18/mile) followed by Todd Carman of Elmira (16:33) and Alex Scharmann of LaPine (16:33). For the girls, it was Elmira, 24 and Marist, 62 advancing to state. The winner was Lauren Zaludek of Elmira (20:20, 6:33/mile) followed by Danica Bates of Pleasant Hill (20:23) and Margo Meyer of Elmira (20:24).

HS STATE XC MEET

The 4A boys' meet had two of the best runners in the country, both undefeated this year, going head to head. Last year's winner, Lauren Jespersen from Klamath Union HS (and headed for Stanford) would be challenged by Central Catholic junior, Galen Rupp. And it was a great 5K race! Rupp was the winner in 14:56 (4:48/mile) to 14:57 for Jespersen, with third-placer Alec Wall of Grant way back at 15:26. This was a new state meet record! Rupp hit the track with 300 meters to go with about a four-second lead, but barely held on. Churchill's John Hoeck finished 21st in 16:13. The team title ended in a tie at 115 points between Jesuit and Grant, with Jesuit getting the crown via their sixth runner. South Eugene ended sixth (175) and Sheldon tenth (215). The 4A girls' meet featured South Eugene sophomore Erin Gray in an easy win, her time identical to her league win at 18:14 (5:52/mile). Second went to Meghan Armstrong of Tualatin (18:27) and third to Olivia Bender of Cleveland (18:32). The team title went to Jesuit HS with 74 points, followed by

South Eugene with 116 and St. Mary's with 158. Sheldon was eighth with 238. In the 3A boys' race, runners from Phoenix HS finished 1-2-3, namely Nathan May (16:03, 5:10/mile), Kyle Gillette (16:13) and Lalo Flores (16:20), but Phoenix ended fourth for the team title at 124 behind Wilsonville (97), Philomath (111) and Siuslaw (120). Todd Carman of Elmira was the top Sky-Em finisher in 17th (16:58) and his team ended fifth with 133 points. Brianna Anderson-Gregg of Philomath won the 3A girls' race in 18:49 (6:03/mile), beating Holli Dieu of Coquille (18:56). The team title went to Baker with 65 points followed by Sisters with 96. Elmira finished seventh with 194 and Marist 12th with 283.

COMM. COLLEGE XC CHAMPS

The NWAACC cross country championships were held in Battle Ground, WA on November 9. For the men, Spokane took the team title with 29 points (3-5-6-7-8) over Mt. Hood (59). Lane was seventh with 169. Bobby King of Mt. Hood won the 8K race in 25:38 (5:09/mile). Spokane was led by Patrick Chessar (25:46) and Lane by John Randall (27:41)

The women's title also went to Spokane with 119 points over Mt. Hood (136). Lane was fifth at 301. Chelliey Corder of Spokane won the 5K event in 19:04 (6:08/mile). The top Lane finisher was Stephanie Carter in 20:36.

POMPEL IN HALL OF FAME

Long-time official, Dave Pompel, was inducted into the UO Track and Field Hall of Fame at an awards banquet on June 5. Cited for his service and loyalty to the track and field program, Dave has been an official since 1972 and continues his officiating still, mainly in the pole vault. He has also served as an official at LCC and the local high schools. Dave joined OTC in 1972 and has been an active member since, serving as an officer for six years and also on the board of directors. He also works in the fall as a sideline official in football, in the winter as a bench official in men's and women's basketball, and does additional work in the UO sports information department. His dedication to the University of Oregon has been outstanding!

NYC MARATHON

MEN - No American man has won the New York City Marathon since Alberto Salazar's three straight wins in 1980, 81 and 82 and this year's race on November 3 was no different. Kenyans took the first three places, with Rodgers Rop winning in 2:08:07 followed by Christopher Chebolboch in 2:08:17 and Laban Kipkemboi in 2:08:39. The first American was track-great Meb Keflezighi in his marathon debut finishing ninth in 2:12:35. The second American was Sam Ngatia (43 years old) in 26th at 2:24:08. Sam was not the leading master runner, that honor going to 42-year-old Russian Fedor Ryzhov at 2:18:46.

WOMEN - The big story was Marla Runyan's debut in the marathon. With temperatures in the 40's and a slight headwind, Runyan ran a marvelous race and even beat last year's winner, Kenyan Margaret Okayo, but had to settle for fifth place in 2:27:10. The winner was Olympic bronze medalist Joyce Chepchumba of Kenya in 2:25:56, followed by Lyubov Denisova

of Russia in 2:26:17 and Olivera Jevtic of Yugoslavia in 2:26:44. Okayo finished sixth in 2:27:46. There was more good news from U.S. women. In her own first marathon, ex-Duck Milena Glusac finished 11th in 2:31:14 and Sylvia Mosqueda was 13th in 2:33:47. The two Americans bracketed Ireland's great Sonia O'Sullivan, who was 12th in 2:32:06. Together with Deena Drossin, these results put a sparkle on U.S. women's marathoning.

Editor's note: Nolan Swanson is a young runner who trains in Eugene under Coach Bill Dellinger. Nolan attended college at Wake Forest where he met Bill when he coached the cross country team.

COMPETING IN CHIBA

by Nolan Swanson

A big race worldwide but not prominently known in the USA is called the Chiba Ekiden, taking place yearly in Chiba, Japan. Chiba is not far from Tokyo. The U.S. Chiba Ekiden team was the first US team that I ever qualified for. Along with Dave Davis, who lives in Portland, we represented the US and Oregon on the five member squad. The Chiba Ekiden is regarded as the most competitive road relay competition in the world. The relay is run over the marathon distance, with runners racing distances in this order: 10K, 5K, 10K, 5K, 12.2K. There were 16 teams entered from all over the world.

Our US team also included Richie Brinker and Brian Sell of Rochester Hills, MI, and Ryan Kirkpatrick of Boulder, CO.

As for how the race went, Kirkpatrick struggled on the first 10K leg, running 29:46 and handing off in last place. Dave Davis caught two teams on his leg, which he completed in 14:12 and handed off in 14th. Brinker ran a nice 10K in 29:25, catching two more teams and having the fifth fastest carry on this part of the course. He handed off to me in 12th place, and I felt great, catching Canada, Denmark, and the British team. I ran 13:56 on my leg, which proved to be the third fastest for this leg. The Ethiopian and Japanese runners were faster than me, but I was proud that I was faster than the Kenyan. I handed to Sell in ninth place, and he gained two more places on his 12.2K leg to give us seventh place. We covered the marathon distance in about 2:02 and our seventh place gave our team \$2000 to split up. The winning team was from Ethiopia, in a course record of 1:57 and change. Next was Kenya, then Japan.

On a side note, Ethiopia had its world cross country champion, Kenenisa Bekele, running the second leg and he ran a great 13:08, which was a section record.

This race is taken very seriously by Japan and most of the countries that attend. We took it seriously too, but we may not have had the best US team that we possibly could have. I would love to compete there again with a team that could possibly end in the top three, which would really get our program a lot of respect from the Japanese. I will be going in the future if I can qualify for the team.

TRACK HALL OF FAME

Four athletes have been added to the National Track & Field Hall of Fame, bringing the total membership to 192. The new additions are pole vaulter Earl Bell, miler Steve Scott, sprinter Gwen Torrence and race walker Larry Young. Bell, 47, was the 1984 Olympic co-bronze medalist. In that Olympics, the winner was Pierre Quinon of France at 18-10 $\frac{1}{2}$, followed by USA's Mike Tully at 18-6 $\frac{1}{2}$. Bell tied for third with Thierry Vigneron of France at 18-4 $\frac{1}{2}$. Bell's all-time best vault was 19-3 in 1988.

Scott, 46, made three Olympic teams in the 1500 meters (80-84-88). The 1980 team was forced to boycott the Moscow Olympics, but Scott made the 1500 final in both 1984 and 1988. In the 1984 final, Scott forced the pace early, leading at 800 meters in 1:56.81, but ran out of gas and finished tenth, although his early pace led to an Olympic record for Great Britain's Sebastian Coe of 3:32.53. In the 1988 Olympic 1500 final, Scott finished fifth in 3:36.99, not far behind Kenyan Peter Rono who won in 3:35.96. Scott ran 136 sub-4-minute miles, more than anyone in history, and still holds the American record in the mile of 3:47.69 that he set in Oslo in 1982.

Torrence, 37, was the 1992 Olympic gold medalist in the 200 and the 1995 World outdoor champion in the 100. She also won Olympic golds in both 1992 and 1996 as a member of the 4 x 100 relay team. Her all-time bests were 10.82 in the 100 in 1994 and 21.72 in the 200 in 1992.

Young, 59, won Olympic bronze medals in the 50-km race walk in both the 1968 and 1972 Olympics. In 1968 at altitude in Mexico City, his time was 4:31:55 behind winner Christoph Hohne of East Germany's 4:20:14. In 1972 in Munich, his time was 4:00:46 behind Bernd Kannenberg of Germany's 3:56:12 (Olympic record). Young also was the 1967 and 1971 Pan American Games champion at 50K. The new home of the National Track & Field Hall of Fame will be the 168th Street Armory in New York City. The Hall of Fame is due to open in 2003.

COACHES HALL OF FAME

Five coaches have been elected to the U.S. Track Coaches Hall of Fame and will be inducted in a ceremony at the USATF annual meeting in Kansas City on December 7th. The coaches being honored are Mel Brodt, Bill McClure, Clarence Robison, Deanne Vochatzer and Berny Wagner. Brodt is a former head coach at Bowling Green, where his most famous athlete was Dave Wottle, the 1972 Olympic 800 champion. McClure coached at LSU, South Carolina and Abilene Christian and was an assistant coach at the 1972 Olympics. Robison was the head men's track and field coach at BYU for forty years. Vochatzer was the women's head coach at the 1996 Olympics and is currently at Cal, Davis. Wagner was the head coach at Oregon State from 1965 to 1975 where he coached 1968 Olympic high jump champion, Dick Fosbury, plus three other Olympians.

DISCUS CHAMPION DIES

Ben Plucknett, one of the greatest American discus throwers ever, died in November of a brain aneurysm. He was 48. Plucknett set a world record of 233-7 on May 16, 1981 in

Modesto, CA and raised it to 237-4 on July 7, 1981 in Stockholm, Sweden. This latter mark is still carried as the American record, although his marks were dropped internationally because of performance-enhancing drugs. The current world record was set in 1986 by Jurgen Schult of Germany at 243-0. In the Pre Meet in Eugene on June 4, 1983, Plucknett threw the discus 234-0. This mark plus his two world-record throws constitute three of the four longest discus marks ever by an American. Plucknett, Mac Wilkins and John Powell were the discus men on the 1980 U.S. Olympic team that was forced to boycott the Moscow Olympics. Plucknett attended the University of Missouri. He was 6-7 and weighed close to 300 pounds when competing.

UO INDOOR SCHEDULE - 2003

JAN

17-18 W PV Summit, Reno 18
M-W Husky Indoor, Seattle

FEB

1 M-W Boise Open, Boise 7-8
W Pentathlon, Pocatello, ID
14-15 M ISU Classic, Ames, IA
15 W Husky Inv., Seattle
21-22 W Mt. Pacific Champs, Boise
28-1 M-W Pac-10 Inv., Seattle

MAR

14-15 M-W NCAA Indoor, Fayetteville

UO OUTDOOR SCHEDULE - 2003

At Hayward Field:

MAR

22 Oregon Preview

APR

12 Pepsi Team Inv.
24-25 Dec. & Hept.
26 Oregon Inv.

MAY

3 Oregon Open
10 Oregon Twilight

Other:

MAR

1 W Willamette Open, Salem
26-27 W Heptathlon, Davis, CA
28-30 M-W Stanford Inv., Stanford

APR

2-3 M Texas Relays Dec., Austin
4-5 M-W Texas Relays, Austin
16-17 W Azusa Hept., Azusa, CA
18 W Pomona Inv., Claremont, CA
17-20 M-W Mt. SAC Relays, Walnut, CA

MAY

2 M Cardinal Inv., Stanford
10-11 M-W Pac-10 Dec/Hept. LA

MAY (Cont)

17-18 M-W Pac-10, LA

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| 30-31 | M-W | NCAA Regional, Stanford |
| JUN | | |
| 11-14 | M-W | NCAA, Sacramento |
| 19-22 | | USATF, Stanford |

T & F SUMMARY, 2002

The annual issue of "Track & Field News" provides a wonderful summary of the year. They select male and female athletes of the year, both world and American, and also rank the top ten in every track and field event. The following are their selections:

MEN: WORLD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

1. Hicham El Guerrouj, Morocco - World record holder in the mile (3:43.13) and 1500 meters (3:26.00). Won the mile at the Pre Classic in 3:50.89. Was undefeated during the year, and had bests of 3:48.28 in the mile (Rome) and 3:26.89 in the 1500 (Zurich).

2. Khalid Khannouchi, USA - Won two fantastic marathons, the London Marathon in 2:05:38 in April and the Chicago Marathon in 2:05:56 in October. He is the first marathoner ever to be ranked this high.

3. Felix Sanchez, Dominican Republic - Had an undefeated season in the 400m hurdles, including a best of 47.35 in Zurich that moved him to #7 all-time. He was also ranked #3 in the open 400m, with a season best of 45.14.

4. Robert Fazekas, Hungary - Won the discus at all his meets except two minor ones. His best of 235-3 has only been bettered by three men in history. His second-best of the year of 233-9 won the World Cup.

5. Adam Nelson, USA - His shot put best of 73-10 _ at the Portland Grand Prix was the top mark since 1990 and puts him in eighth place all-time. He was second in the Pre Classic (72-0 _) to Kevin Toth's year-best of 72-9 _ .

MEN: U.S. ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

1. Khalid Khannouchi - TFN World #2.

2. Adam Nelson - TFN World #5.

3. Tim Montgomery - TFN World #6. Set a new world record in the 100 meters of 9.78 in Paris. Won the Pre Classic in 9.97w. Also had impressive wins at Brussels (9.91) and Zurich (9.98).

4. Jeff Hartwig - Was ranked #1 in the pole vault for the first time by TFN, although ranked #2 three times. Faced #2 ranked Tim Lobinger of Germany 15 times and topped the German 9-6. Had bests of 19-9 indoors and 19-4 _ outdoors.

5. Savante Stringfellow - Ranked #1 in the world in the long jump ahead of fellow Americans Miguel Pate and Dwight Phillips. Had a season best of 27-11 _ in the USATF meet at Stanford.

MEN: ATHLETES WITH A EUGENE CONNECTION

Ray Hughes - Trains in Eugene under Bill Dellinger. Ranked #4 U.S. in the steeplechase, behind Anthony Famiglietti, Tim Broe and Steve Slattery. Got his PR of 8:24.67 in the nationals at Stanford, finishing fourth.

Lance Deal - Out of retirement at age 40 to be ranked #1 U.S. in the hammer. Won nationals at Stanford with a throw of 244-5.

Tom Pappas - Ranked #2 World in the decathlon. Former LCC star, beat world record-holder Roman Sebrle (Czech Republic, ranked #1) at Talence, France 8525-8417. Had his best of the year of 8583 in a loss to Sebrle (8800), also won the U.S. nationals at 8398.

WOMEN: WORLD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

1. Paula Radcliffe, Great Britain - Ran her first-ever marathon in London in 2:18:55, then a world record in Chicago of 2:17:18. Also ranked #1 World in the 10K for her outstanding 30:01.09 in the European Championships, #4 World in the 5K for her 14:31.42 in the Commonwealth Games and #5 World in the 3K for her 8:22.20 second place at Monaco behind Gabriella Szabo (8:21.42).

2. Marion Jones, USA - Ranked #1 World in both the 100 and 200, the only athlete so ranked. Had an undefeated season and beat Zhanna Pintusevich-Block (Ukraine, who beat her last year in the Edmonton 100) twice, 10.97-11.11 and 10.88-10.90. Had bests of 10.84 and 22.11.

3. Ana Guevara, Mexico - Had an unbeaten year in the 400 meters. Her season best of 49.16 in Zurich is the fastest 400 since the Atlanta Olympics in 1996 (Marie-Jose Perek (France), 48.25, Cathy Freeman (Australia), 48.63, and Falilat Ogunkoya (Nigeria), 49.10).

4. Svetlana Feofanova, Russia - Replaced Stacy Dragila (USA) as #1 World in the pole vault (Dragila dropped to #4 World). Had an indoor best of 15-7, an outdoor best of 15-8 _ . In their head-to-head meetings, was 9-0 versus Dragila.

5. Tatyana Kotova, Russia - Ranked #1 World in the long jump. Had a yearly best of 24-4 _ , many jumps over 23 feet. Lost only one meet all year.

WOMEN: U.S. ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

1. Marion Jones - World #2. Unanimous U.S. female athlete of the year.

2. Gail Devers - Ranked #1 World in the 100 meter hurdles. Won the Pre Classic in 12.29w (w = 2.70). Had a legal yearly best of 12.40. In head-to-head races, beat #2 Bridgette Foster of Jamaica 9-3.

3. Nicole Teter - Ranked #3 World in the 800 behind only Maria Mutola (Mozambique) and Jolanda Ceplak (Slovenia). Ran a season best of 1:57.97 in finishing second to Mutola's 1:56.25 in Lausanne, then won in Stockholm in 1:58.13 over Mutola (1:58.23). At this point, an injury ended her season.

4. Jearl Miles Clark - Ranked #3 World in the 400 and #2 U.S. in the 800. In the World Cup, she finished second in 50.27 behind only Ana Guevara's (Mexico) 49.56. She won the U.S. Nationals in 50.91.

5. Sandra Glover - Ranked #3 World in the 400 meter hurdles, behind only Yuliya Pechonkina (Russia) and Jana Pittman (Australia). Had a yearly best of 54.40. Won the U.S. Nationals in 55.22.

WOMEN: ATHLETES WITH A EUGENE CONNECTION

Maria Mutola - Ranked #1 World in the 800, the eighth time she has been so ranked (not consecutively). Her season best was

1:56.16. In head-to-head races against #2 Jolanda Ceplak (Slovenia), Mutola was 5-0.

Marla Runyan - Was ranked #1 U.S. in both the 3K and the 5K, also #4 U.S. in the 1500. She was first in the Pre Classic in the 3K, beating Ireland's Sonia O'Sullivan 8:39.36 to 8:39.88. In the U.S. Nationals, she won the 5K in 15:07.19 over Deena Drossin and her 15:13.93. As detailed elsewhere in this issue, her first marathon was outstanding.

Milena Glusac - Ranked #5 U.S. in the 10K. Finished second in the U.S. Nationals in 32:15.09 behind Jen Rhines (31:57.38). Also ran her first marathon.

Becky Holliday - Ranked #8 U.S. in the pole vault. Placed second at the Mt. Sac Relays in a new UO record of 14-1. Also won in Lincoln, NE at 14-0. Ended third in the NCAA's at 13-5 and cleared 13-9 at U.S. Nationals.

Sarah Malone - Ranked #8 U.S. in the javelin. Won the Texas Relays at 179-2. Won the Oregon Invitational at 170-5 and was second at Pac-10 at 171-9.

Elisa Crumley - Ranked #10 U.S. in the javelin. Got a 3-foot PR at the Mt. Sac Relays of 169-4. Was fifth in the Pac-10 meet at 160-6 and 12th at the NCAA's at 157-4.

TOP MEN'S PERFORMANCE OF 2002

1. Khalid Khannouchi's 2:05:38 world record in the London Marathon.
2. Tim Montgomery's 9.78 world record in the 100 meters in Paris.
3. Robert Korzeniowski's (Poland) 3:36:39 world record in the 50K walk at the European Championships.
4. Adam Nelson's 73-10 shot put at the Portland Grand Prix.
5. Hicham El Guerrouj's near-record 3:26.89 in the Zurich 1500.

TOP WOMEN'S PERFORMANCE OF 2002

1. Paula Radcliffe's (GBR) 2:17:18 world record in the Chicago Marathon.
2. Paula Radcliffe's 10K win of 30:01.09 in the European Championships.
3. Tatyana Kotova's (RUS) 24-4 1/4 long jump at the European Cup.
4. Gabriella Szabo's (ROM) 8:21.42 3K at the Monaco Grand Prix.
5. Paula Radcliffe's 2:18:56 at the London Marathon in her marathon debut.

PAC-10 ALL-ACADEMIC TEAM

The Ducks cross country teams supplied three first team selections, one second team and seven honorable mentions to the Pac-10 all-academic team.

On the first team were Erinn Gulbrandsen (3.75 in English), Eri Macdonald (3.66 in Journalism) and Ryan Andrus (4.00 in Business Administration). On the second team was John Lucas. Those getting honorable mention were Taylor Bryant, Laura Harmon, Alicia Snyder-Carlson, Carrie Zografos, Brett Holts, Eric Logsdon and Noel Paulson.

RICHARD LEE DIES

Long-time OTC member, Richard Lee, died on November 11 of a heart attack at the age of 66. He served as the president of OTC from 1997 to 1998. He was a shot putter in his younger days, enjoyed all aspects of track and field, and was also an avid photographer. He was a loan officer at the Register Guard Credit Union for 11 years. In recent years, he and his partner of 4 years, Rosa Smothers, traveled extensively together, including to Germany and Mexico. He leaves five sons, two brothers, and three grandchildren. He will be missed by all of us at OTC!

LATE BREAKING NEWS

Four regionals were held on December 7 to determine the qualifiers for the Footlocker HS Cross Country Championships in San Diego on December 14. The western regional was at Mt. Sac College in Walnut, CA. Oregon boys did outstanding! The boys' results on the 5K course:

1. Mike Poe, CA 15:34
2. Steve Shepherd, UT 15:38
3. Andrew Jones, WY 15:39
4. Tim Nelson, CA 15:39
5. Lauren Jespersen, OR 15:40
6. Galen Rupp, OR 15:41
7. Alec Wall, OR 15:43

The girls' results:

1. Zoe Nelson, MT 18:02
 2. Heidi Magill, UT 18:15
 3. Rachel Bryan, CA 18:17
 4. Caitlin Chock, CA 18:20
- no Oregon finishers in the top 10

The Footlocker finals will be televised by Fox Sports on Dec. 19 at 12 noon PST (tape delay).

OTCM ANNUAL DINNER

The entire membership of OTC is welcome at the OTCM annual dinner on Friday, January 10, at the Shadow Hills Country Club. The speaker will be Pete Petersons from Los Angeles, a track coach and manager of Nike teams touring in Europe, who will show half an hour of slides covering his experiences in Europe, including a number of Eugene runners on his teams like Annette Peters and Mary Slaney.

Shadow Hills CC is easy to find, 6 miles north of Beltline on River Road. A social hour will start at 6 pm, followed by dinner and a raffle. Three entrees can be chosen, prime rib (\$17), chicken cordon bleu (\$15) and vegetarian pasta (\$14). Make advance reservations with Melanie or Richard Reske (746-6128) and pay at the door.

ARTICLES WELCOME

Send any article or notice or bit of news concerning track and field that you want published in the newsletter to Donn Kirk at dbk@efn.org.

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