

Brown, Osborne make 1980 'Olympic' team

From Gazette Staff and Wire Services

EUGENE, Ore. — Two Billings women have earned spots on the United State's national women's track and field team after performances Tuesday at the U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials in Eugene, Ore.

Julie Brown, who has been a world class distance runner for several years, placed second in the 800 meters in 2:00.96.

Stanford University freshman Mary Osborne provided the local drama.

She threw the javelin a career-best 181 feet, 3 inches, to grab third place and surpass the Olympic qualifying standard.

Osborne's throw came on her final attempt. Prior to the throw, she was in fourth place with 168-10. The Olympic qualifying standard is 180 feet. Karin Smith was the winner with Kate Schmidt second.

Brown, a 1973 graduate of Billings Senior, was second to 1978 Olympic champion Madeline Manning, who finished in 1:58.30.

Brown is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rockwood Brown, 3028 Joan Lane, and Osborne's parents are Mr. and Mrs. William Osborne, 5411 Gene Sarazen Drive.

A jubilant Renaldo Nehemiah, recovering from a slippery semifinal, sped to victory in the 100-meter high hurdles.

Nehemiah, after slithering through the semifinals on the wet University of Oregon track and finishing second in his heat, was flawless in the final.

He sprung quickly out of the blocks and then swept across the finish line with his right index finger raised, signaling he was No. 1. His time of 13.26 seconds was his fastest of the year, and an Olympic trials record.

In the trials, Nehemiah ran against a field that did not include NCAA champion Greg Foster of UCLA.

The disappointed Foster had to return home to Maywood, Ill., because of tonsillitis after winning his first heat in the trials.

Without Foster, Dedy Cooper provided the closest competition for Nehemiah, finishing second in 13.39. Third was Anthony Campbell of the University of Southern California in 13.44.

Smith, a 1976 Olympian who finished eighth in the Games at Montreal, took the women's javelin title with a toss of 208 feet, 5 inches — only five inches short of the lifetime best she threw earlier this month in Stuttgart, West Germany, where she has been

training.

Schmidt, the two-time Olympic bronze medalist and American record-holder at 227-5, settled for second at 207-4.

The two javelin standouts were tied for the lead going into their final attempts. But then Smith uncorked her winning toss.

The victory for Manning, the 1968 Olympic champion, was her fourth in a row at the Olympic Trials. And she made it look easy, running away from the field.

The smooth-striding Manning burst into the lead from the outset, built a big advantage over the first lap, and never was seriously challenged over the final 400 meters.

The 32-year-old Manning's time was the second-fastest ever by an American. She holds the American mark of 1:57.9, set in 1976 at College Park, Md.

Her long-range plans are to break the world record of 1:54.9, shared by two Russians. But the minister, mother and gospel singer from Tulsa, Okla., will need to be pushed harder than she was during the Trials.

Robin Campbell of Stanford University was third in 2:01.23.

Julie Brown Makes Olympic Team

Clipped By:



seabix1

Thu, Apr 16, 2020