

Old legs don't slow Slaney

Star of '80s shows former speed in 1,500-meter win in Jenner Classic

By John Crumpacker
OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

SAN JOSE — For four minutes at least, Mary Slaney was able to turn the clock back, back to, say, 1983, when she was the best middle distance runner in the world.

The years since have not been kind to Slaney, whose delicate legs bear the scars of several surgeries below the knees. "That's where all the problems are," she said, pointing to her ravaged limbs.

But it was a hale and hearty Slaney who presented herself to 13,500 fans Saturday at the Bruce Jenner Classic at San Jose City College. In what would be the highlight race of the IAAF Grand Prix meet, a gritty Slaney turned back PattiSue Plumer to win the 1,500 meters, 4:04.92 to 4:05.04. It was a personal best for Plumer.

The sight of Plumer rising up to challenge Slaney in the final 100 meters, and Slaney responding with the fortitude necessary to win, was an encouraging one for track and field in this country. The sport has taken more than its share of body-slams of late.

"For a lover of track, it's great," Plumer said, "but from a personal perspective, it's like, 'Oh, no, she's back.' I have nothing but respect for Mary. I'm happy she's back."

Slaney is 32 now. Her best years as a runner are buried in the 1980s, but perhaps her fragile legs can carry her to one more run at greatness. Slaney had surgery on her right Achilles tendon last July in what she hopes is her last operation. She's had just two races in the last two years.

"I have nothing to lose this season," she said. "I'm the underdog. People have me one foot in the grave. It just depends on how far in the grave I am."

Hold those shovels for the time being. Saturday, in familiar fashion, Slaney led the race from the get-go, with Plumer trailing in striking range. Slaney had a two-meter lead on Plumer as they passed through the gun lap in an even three minutes.



Running confidently, Mary Slaney, right, strides across the finish line just ahead of PattiSue Plumer.

AP/PAUL SAKUMA

It looked like Plumer might pass Slaney with 75 meters to go, but Slaney gave her a nudge with her right elbow and forged ahead to victory.

"Normally I can hold a faster pace longer," Slaney said. "I'm not race-fit yet. But it feels great to win. It feels even better to be running healthy. It feels so nice to be able to go to the track and do a workout and not worry about being able to do the next one."

Slaney said the win "lets me

know I'm back."

Also on the way back is another thirtysomething "relic," hurdler Renaldo Nehemiah, 32. His football career as a 49er long since over and his hair flecked with gray, Nehemiah, like Slaney, is trying to squeeze the last drops of greatness out of his interrupted track career.

Against a decent field of 110-meter high hurdlers, Nehemiah triumphed in 13.47, slower than he would have liked. He also had to weather a challenge from Tony Li

of China and Washington State, who closed fast in 13.52 but stumbled a bit over the last barrier. Li's time was an Asian continental record.

"I cherish every race I have because my races are numbered," Nehemiah said. "I'm a symbolic name in the sport. I have a lot of respect for what I've accomplished. When I'm no longer competitive, then it's time to go. For some reason I don't want '92 to be my last year."

Nehemiah will need to run fast-

down

er than 13.47 to be a factor in next month's TAC Championships, which choose the U.S. team for the World Championships in August. A time in the low 13.20s could get him there.

"My technical knowledge is what has me head and shoulders ahead of the younger guys," he said. "The only reason I can run the times I am is I'm super fast. I'm running raggedy, but it's also given me confidence that I can run faster when my technique comes around."

If Nehemiah is super fast, then Leroy Burrell is super faster.

In his first 200 meters of the season, Burrell scorched the blue track in a wind-aided (2.9 meters per second) 20.02. He was more than two-tenths ahead of second-place Jeff Williams (20.25). Burrell is heading for a 200 showdown with Michael Johnson at TAC in what could be world-record time. The record is 19.72 by Italy's Pietro Mennea.

"I'm not sending any message to Michael," Burrell said. "I think that's what it's going to take."

The only negative to the meet was the no-show of Great Britain's Steve Cram. He was scheduled to run his first track race in the U.S. since the 1984 Olympics but tendinitis in his knee precluded an appearance in the 3,000. He let meet organizers know late Friday he would not be coming.

Tom Sturak, Cram's manager in the U.S., said, "He tested it and there was no way. It probably happened Thursday in workouts. Steve wanted to come here very badly."

NOTES: Mike Buncic won the discus with a good throw of 220 feet, 1 inch . . . Mike Powell leaped 27-2³/₄ to win the long jump . . . The meet also featured a three-event mini-decathlon and mini-heptathlon. Jackie Joyner Kersee ran up 3,080 points (13.02 in the 100 hurdles, 6-2³/₄ in the high jump and 48-10 in the shot). Dave Johnson long jumped 23-10¹/₄, threw the discus 156-3 and ran the 800, a non-decathlon event, in 2:01.05 . . . Dean Starkey scaled 18-10³/₄ to take the pole vault.

Kevin Pope, 6-0, 6-1; Billy Ball d. Curtis Dunn, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2; Mark Fairchild d. Dan Hiddleson, 6-3, 6-2.

Quarterfinals

Andersen d. Wiedenmeyer, 6-2, 6-2; Coupe d. Devens, 6-1, 6-3; Stone d. Eagle, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4; Fairchild d. Ball, 3-6, 6-4, 6-0.

Women's singles — quarterfinals

Lisa Green d. Marisa Louie-Stone, 7-5, 6-3; Lindsay Bartlett d. Tracy Houk-Kuhn, 4-6, 7-6, 6-0; Julie DeArmond d. Judy Newman, 6-3, 6-2; Stephanie Savides d. Gina Garcia, 6-1, 6-2.

Men's doubles — quarterfinals

John Sevely-Doug Stone d. Brandon Coupe-Derek Del Rosario, 6-3, 6-1; Gus Andersen-Rick Kepler d. Greg Davis-Kevin Pope, 7-6, 6-4; Rolf Wiedenmeyer-Mark Fairchild d. Doug Mouch-Glenn Furakawa, 6-0, 6-2.

Mixed doubles — first round

Anita Nyland-Arnie Dun d. Barbara Sandidge-Freedom Om by default; Shelly Bartlett-Peter Bartlett d. Lindy Irving-Joey Cabrera, 6-3, 6-1; Tiffany Lee-Mark Campana d. Judy Newman-Save Tourdo, 6-4, 6-3; Alice Clark-Brian Cory d. K. Clark-Francisco Ruiz, 6-1, 6-2; Kate Latham-Chuck Phillips d. Hammerback-Greg Davis by default; Chris Parker-Larry Parker d. Maria Cole-Brian Denny, 6-4, 7-6.

Second round

Tracy Houk-Kuhn-David Kuhn d. Julie Chan-Kurt Chan by default; Marisa Stone-Karl Yorston d. Mia Takashita-Mark Minnoch, 6-4, 6-2; Lisa Green-Dan Hiddleson d. Nyland-Dun, 6-3, 6-3; Caroline Boddart-Jack Fuller d. Pam Kim-Mike Howard by default; Lindsay Bartlett-Byron Nepomuceno d. Angela Schmidt-Clayton Beckwith by default.

TRACK AND FIELD

BRUCE JENNER CLASSIC

At San Jose

Race distances in meters

Men

100—1, Jeff Williams, United States, 10.40 seconds. 2, Augustin Olobia, Nigeria, 10.42. 3, Jeff Laynes, United States, 10.47.

110 hurdles—1, Renaldo Nehemiah, United States, 13.47. 2, Tony Li, China, 13.52. 3, Rod Jett, United States, 13.63.

200—1, Leroy Burrell, United States, 20.02 (wind-aided). 2, Jeff Williams, United States, 20.25. 3, Alexander Goremykin, Soviet Union, 20.59.

400—1, Steve Lewis, United States, 45.28. 2, Ian Morris, Trinidad-Tobago, 45.78. 3, Sean Maye, United States, 46.10.

3000—1, Aaron Ramirez, United States, 7 minutes, 45.82 seconds. 2, Reuben Reina, United States, 7:46.82. 3, Gary Staines, Britain, 7:47.20.

400 relay—1, Soviet Union, 39.55. 2, Fresno City College, 40.55. 3, Fresno State, 40.65.

800 relay—1, Soviet Union, 1:24.18. 2, Fresno State, 1:26.85. 3, Sacramento Track Club, 1:24.35.

Long jump—1, Mike Powell, United States, 27 feet, 2¼ inches. 2, Joe Greene, United States, 26-9¾. 3, Vernon George, United States, 26-6¼.

Pole vault—1, Dean Starkey, United States, 18-10¾. 2, Greg Duplantis, United States, 18-7. 3, Istvan Bagyula, Hungary, 18-3.

Discus—1, Mike Buncic, United States, 220-1. 2, Ade Olukolu, Nigeria, 215-1. 3, Wolfgang Schmidt, Germany, 207-9.

Women

100—1, Pauline Davis, Bahamas, 11.18 seconds. 2, Michelle Finn, United States, 11.26. 3, Evelyn Ashford, United States, 11.27.

800—Julie Jenkins, United States, 2:00.80. 2, Meredith Rainey, United States, 2:01.13. 3, Charmaine Crooks, Canada, 2:02.31.

1,500—1, Mary Slaney, United States, 4:04.92. 2, PattiSue Plumer, United States, 4:05.04. 3, Christine Cahill, Britain, 4:07.60.

3,000—1, Shelly Steely, United States, 8:50.39. 2, Wanda Panfil, Poland, 9:02.91. 3, Sabrina Dornhoefer, United States, 9:04.26.

400 hurdles—Kim Batten, United States, 56.38. 2, Schowanda Williams, United States, 56.57. 3, Donald Duprey, United States, 58.67.

Shot put—1, Astrid Kumbernuss, Germany, 62-9¼. 2, Connie Price,

United States, 61-1¼. 3, Ramona Pagel, United States, 60-1.

High jump—1, Sue Rembao, United States, 6-5. 2, Yolanda Henry, United States, 6-4. 3, Jan Wohlschlag, United States, 6-2¾.

GRANADA MEET

At Granada, Spain

Race distances in meters

Men

100 (heat A)—1, Dennis Mitchell, United States, 10.18 seconds. 2, Nikolai Antonov, Bulgaria, 10.49. 3, Luis Rodriguez, Spain, 10.52. 4, Patrick Stevens, Belgium, 10.53. 5, Ben Johnson, Canada, 10.54. 6, Calvin Smith, United States, 10.56.

100 (heat B)—1, Carlos Gals, Argentina, 10.59. 2, Jose Carlos Rivas, Spain, 10.64. 3, Carlos Moreno, Chile, 10.72.

400—1, Roger Black, Britain, 44.79 seconds. 2, Roberto Hernandez, Cuba, 44.98. 3, Cayetano Cornet, Spain, 45.58. 4, Bert Cameron, Jamaica, 46.30. 5, Lazaro Martinez, Cuba, 46.52.

400 hurdles—1, Winthrop Graham, Jamaica, 48.67 seconds. 2, Nat Page, United States, 48.92. 3, David Patrick, United States, 49.21. 4, Kriss Akabussi, Britain, 50.15. 5, Sven Nylander, Sweden, 50.43. 6, Jose Alonso, 52.17.

800—1, Jonah Birir, Kenya, 1 minute, 47.91 seconds. 2, Tomas de Teresa, Spain, 1:48.09. 3, Jose Arconada, Spain, 1:48.24. 4, Fermin Cacho, Spain, 1:48.64. 5, Victor Rojas, Spain, 1:48.68. 6, Billy Konchellah, Kenya, 1:49.55. 1,500—1, Manuel Pancorbo, Spain, 3 minutes, 44.35 seconds. 2, Mario Silva, Portugal, 3:44.63. 3, Sammy Koskei, Kenya, 3:44.86. 4, Isaac Viciosa, Spain, 3:45.23. 5, Teofilo Benito, Spain, 3:45.92. 6, Angel Farina, Spain, 3:46.90.

High jump—1, Charles Austin, United States, 7 feet, 7¾ inches. 2, Javier Sotomayor, Cuba, 7-6½. 3, Serguei Malchenko, Soviet Union, 7-6½. 4, Marino Drake, Cuba, 7-5. 5, Gustavo Adolfo Becker, Spain, 7-2½. 6, Arturo Ortiz, Spain, 7-2½.

Long jump—1, Jaime Jefferson, Cuba, 26-1½. Yusuf Ali, Nigeria, 25-9½. 3, Gordon Laine, United States, 25-6. 4, Robert Emmian, Soviet Union, 24-1¼.

3,000 Steeplechase—1, Patrick Sang, Kenya, 8 minutes, 27.15 seconds. 2, Mathius Birir, Kenya, 8:27.53. 3, Bela Vago, Hungary, 8:38.12. 4, Peter Koech, Kenya, 8:44.05. 5, Fernando Sinovas, Spain, 8:47.06. 6, Joao Junqueira, Portugal, 8:49.23.

Women

100—1, Liliana Allen, Cuba, 11.45 seconds. 2, Carmen Garcia Campero, Spain, 11.89. 3, Yolanda Diaz, Spain, 11.95. 4, Mari Paz Minocizzi, Spain, 11.97.

100 hurdles—1, Liliana Nastase, Romania, 12.95 seconds. 2, Julie Bauman, Switzerland, 13.09. 3, Odalys Adams, Cuba, 13.19. 4, Maria Jose Mardomingo, Spain, 13.51.

200—1, Grace Jackson, Jamaica, 22.87 seconds. 2, Sandra Myers, Spain, 22.91. 3, Lillie Leatherwood, United States, 23.52. 4, Iolanda Dania, Romania, 23.88. 5, Cristina Castro, Spain, 23.94.

800—1, Ana Fidelia Quirot, Cuba, 1 minute, 59.82 seconds. 2, Leticia Vriesde, Netherlands, 2:01.70. 3, Kiels Therese, Austria, 2:01.94. 4, Carmen Bes, Spain 2:12.81.

1,500—1, Teodorita Chidu, Romania, 4 minutes, 13.73 seconds. 2, Ivana Kubesova, Czechoslovakia, 4:14.18. 3, Albertina Dias, Portugal, 4:14.38. 4, Montserrat Puiol, Spain, 4:16.64.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

American League

CLEVELAND INDIANS—Activated Alex Cole, outfielder, from a 20-day rehabilitation assignment at Colorado Springs.

National League

LOS ANGELES DODGERS—Activated Alfredo Griffin, shortstop, from the 15-day disabled list. Sent Greg Smith, infielder, to Albuquerque of the Pacific Coast League.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

NEW YORK RANGERS—Traded Miloslav Horava, defenseman, to the Quebec Nordiques for Stephane Guerard, defenseman.

COLLEGE

DRAKE—Named Felton Sealey men's assistant basketball coach.