

# Hayward facelift reveals 'history'

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Of the Emerald

Students are not supposed to be here.

Underfoot is a tangled mass of broken boards, thickly studded with rusty nail-points. Where tiers of seats once climbed steeply upward under a high, echoing roof, all is wreckage. Staunch old wooden beams have been ground into long, spaghetti-like strands under the treads of bulldozers.

This was the old West Grandstand of Hayward field—parts of its structure supposedly dating far back to the dim beginnings of our athletic history. The stand has been demolished to make room for a modern concrete structure, the beginning of an ambitious renewal program.

How far into the past could that old stand actually take us? One can turn to faded old photographs in the University archives, yellowing files of the old *Oregon Weekly* and the *Emerald*, the memories of old grads...

A broad, empty field, lying where Commonwealth and the Computer Center are today, was owned by the Hon. Harrison Kincaid in the 1890's. He permitted students of the young University free use of his field as an athletic area.

In 1894, Kincaid Street and 13th, bounding the field, were mere muddy lanes. That fall, a straggling crowd stood on the muddy sidelines, or sat in their carriages to watch the University play its first game, trouncing Albany College 44-2.

The game was rugged then; rules were scanty, play was rough, and protection for players' heads was provided by long hair, parted in the middle. The timorous might wear knitted caps.

Track got started at the University in the same era. By 1904, the University's first Olympian, Dan Kelley, was competing in the sprints at the international games in St. Louis, Missouri.

The University finally decided to invest in a field of its own. A tract of land across 13th, where Condon and Chapman stand today, was obtained from Kincaid. The old clay track across the street was filled in, and the new one was ready by the 1903 track season.

For the football season, the University's first grandstand was proposed. At an estimated cost of \$750, it would seat 800 people under cover. Foundations were dug Oct. 3, 1903, and students were invited to help in construction—an idea unheard of today—to cut down on costs.

With student help, the stand was quickly finished, and the *Oregon Weekly* (the *Emerald's* predecessor) noted that "the grandstand will be appreciated, especially by those who had had the pleasure of sitting on the old bleachers or standing in the mud and water to see a game."

On Oct. 26, a hard-fought game with Albany College inaugurated the new facility. The losing team, Albany, was warmly praised, especially the left tackle, Grif-fith, who "stood to his work with

four broken ribs and played the game more fiercely after every injury." The game ended with the score at 22-0, the teams formally cheered each other, and "Kincaid Field" was launched on a career that was to span two decades.

The new athletic trainer, a youngish chap named Bill Hayward, arrived in the spring of 1904. He started work with both track and football teams, and there was no telling, then, that he was to be here almost half a century, and leave an indelible mark on the track history of the state and the country.

Dan Kelley was only the first of a long line of University Olympians. In the next few years, more track men represented the University at the Games. Football, too, boomed with such men as the amazing "Anse" Cornell on the team. One of the more lopsided games in state history occurred in 1911, on Kincaid Field, when the Oregon team beat the University of Puget Sound 114-0. "Chuck" Taylor alone made seven touchdowns, which may still stand as a record.

A University team featuring "Shy" Huntington won the Rose Bowl in 1916, under coach Hugo Bezdek. With Huntington as coach, the team went back in 1920, but lost to Harvard 7-6.

Hayward's popularity was incredible; when the second gymnasium was completed in 1909, it was seriously proposed that it be called "Hayward Hall."

The expanding University needed room, and as early as 1910, it was realized that Kincaid would have to give way to buildings. A thirty-acre field southeast of the President's House (now the Faculty Club) was proposed for a new field.

A sluggish stream ran through this field, and in the southeast part of it—near where Condon Elementary School is now—was a weedy marsh, where Bill Hayward and his understudies went duck-hunting. It was inside city limits, but they managed to bag one or two now and then.

Hayward's duck-hunting preserve was doomed when construction finally started on the new athletic complex in 1919. Drain-pipes carried away the waters of the marsh, tons of gravel were hauled in, and a topsoil cover was seeded with grass.

The big grandstand was erected, at a cost of about \$10,000; it would shelter 4,000 people. Legend has it that this, the West Grandstand, was moved from old Kincaid, and set up again in the new location. But this fine tradition is only a legend. Students dismantled some bleachers on Kincaid and set them up on the new field, but those bleachers were replaced by the East Grandstand a few years later.

On Nov. 15, 1919, a record crowd of 12,000 jammed all the seats and overflowed onto the sidelines to see the first game on the field—a match with Oregon Agricultural College.

Before the game began, Oregon Governor Ben W. Olcott announced to the crowd that the new facility had been named for Bill Hayward. "Colonel" Bill received a thunderous ovation; hopefully the honor made up for loss of his duck-pond.

Then the crowd settled back to watch one of the hardest battles seen on the Oregon gridiron, as the University won 9-0. Stars of the game were quarterbacks Steers and Manerud, though the former was taken out by injuries in the third quarter.

For a while, then, the University had two fields—old Kincaid being used for practice. The old grandstand, far from being moved, was finally torn down in the spring of 1922, and the wood from it used for fences and board sidewalks around the campus.

Finally Kincaid was smoothed over, and Condon Hall built on the west end of the site in 1924, after which old Kincaid—source of

many legends and records—was only a memory.

Football teams from fabulous years, big-name players that have dropped into obscurity—generations of fans sat in the old West Stands, while sports history was made before them. Track men continued setting records on Hayward Field, and more Oregon men went to the Olympics. As his fame spread, Bill Hayward himself went as a trainer a couple of times.

Matthew "Mack" Robinson, Jackie Robinson's brother, went to the Berlin Games in 1936. He finished second behind the great Jesse Owens in the 200-meter run.

To students now on the campus, Bill Hayward is a dim and legendary figure. A hard, wiry, springy man with a face like tanned brown leather, finely wrinkled; a thick mane of iron-grey hair, and a nervous smile on flickering old film footage. He served the University for four decades, beginning a tradition of finely trained, superior athletes. His understudy, John Warren carried on when Bill retired in 1944 and died shortly afterward.

Bill Bowerman replaced Warren in 1948, and trained a series of record-breaking milers until his retirement last year.

The football team played its last game on Hayward Field for Homecoming, Nov. 5, 1966, losing to Washington State 13-4. After 47 years, the football team moved across the river to the new Autzen stadium.

The track team has remained on Hayward Field, running its meets now on the improved oval of Stevenson Track.

Steve Prefontaine is not the last, but the latest Olympian from Hayward Field. As the improvements continue on the track, and new concrete grandstands rear up to replace the old, grey, board giants, Hayward Field will continue to re-echo the rapid thud of spiked shoes, the heave and gasp of effort as new generations of athletes compete there.



Photo by Phil Waldstein

Hayward Field grandstands are now only a mass of rubble and dust, but in their heyday they saw many a determined runner jogging along its track. Hayward Field was the third athletic track for the University. Others were located on the site of Commonwealth Hall, and on the present site of Condon Hall.



Bill Hayward