

track

Kearney setting records out of the limelight

By KEVIN HACKETT
Of the Emerald

Needless to say, there were a number of superior individual performances turned in last weekend at the coed dual track meet. Names such as Don Coleman, Debbie Adams and Jon Ogard quickly come to mind and their feats didn't go unnoticed by the crowd at Hayward Field.

But if you were one of the many who arrived at the meet a little late, you may have missed the most awesome performance of the entire day. Competing in the meet's first event, Patty Kearney, Oregon's sophomore javelin thrower, broke the school record for the javelin on three consecutive throws. She broke the record of 141-11 she had set in the Oregon All-Comers meet two weeks earlier on her first throw. She bettered that mark on her second throw and improved it once more on her third and final throw. So at least until Kearney next picks up a javelin in competi-

tion, the new mark stands at 143-11.

Not a bad start for the 19-year-old biology major from Tigard who hadn't intended on participating in college track, this is at least until she read the results of the javelin after an Oregon meet last year and figured she could throw as well as those who won.

She turned out for the team at midseason and managed to qualify for the AIAW national meet. Obviously, the javelin wasn't a foreign object to her. Kearney threw both the javelin and the discus for David Douglas High School. She excelled enough in track, volleyball and basketball to be named the school's best woman athlete her senior year.

Kearney credits her improvement in the javelin essentially to three things: greater self-confidence, the track team's year round training program and the tutelage of women's weight coach Scott Irving.

Being ready mentally is proba-

bly equally as important as being ready physically in track and field. Following last year's abbreviated season, Kearney wasn't sure what would happen this year.

"I really didn't know what to expect from this season," Kearney says. "Last year was my freshman year and there were a lot of adjustments in track as well as other things."

Kearney got an indication of what to expect when she went out in the first meet of the year and bettered her best mark of the previous season by over nine feet.

Kearney says she has worked hard on the mental aspect. As a result she has developed a sort of philosophy of competition.

"I've learned a lot about the mental part of throwing. I figure that there are a lot of people who throw much better than I do. When I go into a meet now I try not to think about beating my opponents," Kearney says. "Because there are so many people better than myself, I try to concentrate on

competing with myself. I set reachable goals each time I go out and if I attain them I'm happy. If you feel good about yourself that day you're going to throw well. This mental attitude is really helping me out and it makes it fun."

Irving, who threw the javelin for Willamette University and was twice Central AAU champion in the event, believes that Kearney can place in the nationals and has the potential to reach 160 feet this year.

"Patty was in a sports conditioning class I taught this year and I would say that she's the best all-around women athlete I've ever seen," Irving says.

Kearney says Irving's coaching has been most significant in improving her mental attitude and her throwing technique. Irving has passed on some of his training experience that has been highly beneficial to Kearney.

"Scott has introduced me to some exercises that have made a big improvement in my form. It's helping me keep my plant leg straight and then drive over it with my arm. I think it has a lot to do with the explosion I've been getting recently."

Kearney says that Irving has also enlightened her to the fact that leg speed is equally important as upper-body strength in javelin throwers. She says she used to just run up to the line and throw rather than building speed on her approach and using her entire body to throw.

This Saturday, Kearney will again be competing with herself, but her team will be facing Washington State in a coed dual meet at Hayward Field. Based on what she's accomplished this year, who knows how far she'll throw this time..

Get there by noon and find out.

Kaufman's
on campus



**The Bubble Top Pantset
Has it All!**

A whole new proportion for spring '78. One that assures you of having fun with fashion.

THE BUBBLE TOP...A poof of fabric with adjustable drawstring neckline.

THE PANT...A new narrower silhouette with drawstring waistband.

THE FABRIC...Crunchy, crinkly, 100% cotton, of course.

THE LOOK...Absolutely smashing!

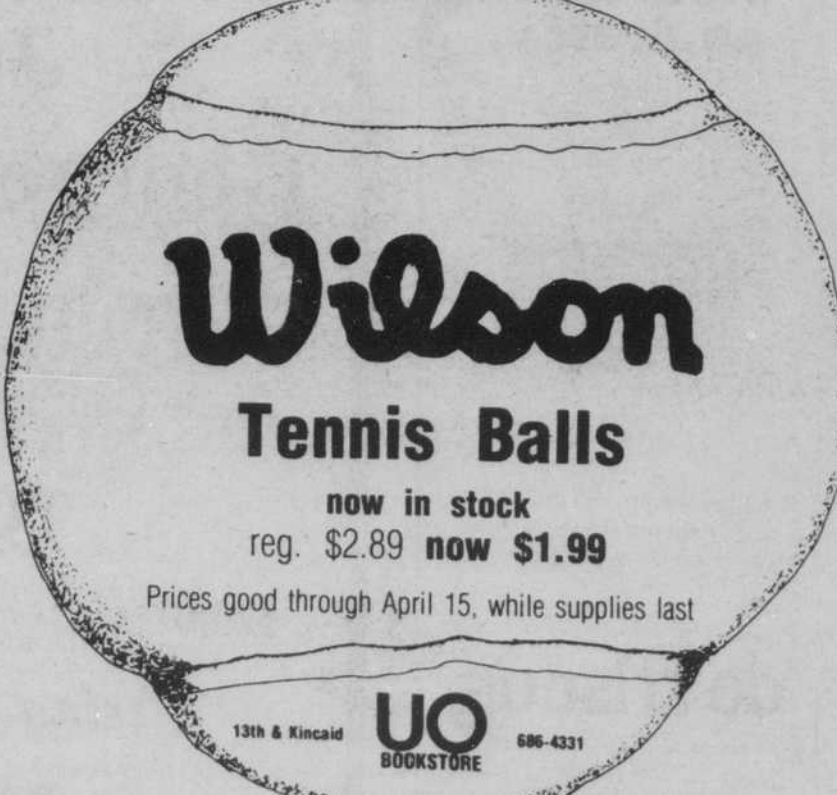
In natural colored or white...sizes 5 to 13, 50.00

What better time to use your Kaufman charge card. If you don't have yours yet...applications are available at the desk. Kaufman's on campus...840 E. 13th



Photo by Steve Schneider

Patty Kearney has found her mental preparation is just as important as any physical preparation she can make. Good form doesn't seem to hurt her stats any either.



Wilson
Tennis Balls

now in stock
reg. \$2.89 now \$1.99

Prices good through April 15, while supplies last

13th & Kincaid **UO** BOOKSTORE 686-4331