

# It's hard for Hurd

Star jumper has had several setbacks

By Steve Friedman  
For the Emerald

With record-breaking style, Lamar Hurd leaped into the limelight on the Oregon track team last year.

As a freshman, he jumped 51-9 $\frac{3}{4}$  in the triple jump, eclipsing the old mark by 9 $\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

"It's hard to explain," Hurd says of his record jump in the Washington meet. "It felt like the greatest thing that could happen at the time. The crowd was behind me, and I wanted to go out and break it again on my next jump."

There was special meaning for "Hangtime" (a nickname he earned for his tremendous leaping ability) in that meet. It marked the first time he jumped against his high school friend and rival Aaron Williams.

"When I was talking to Aaron, we just joked around about old times. We didn't do any psyching-out jobs," Hurd admitted, however, "In my mind, I was thinking 'I'm going to beat you today.'"

And beat him he did — placing his name into the school record books.

But things did not go well for Hurd after that. "I peaked out too early in the season. I felt fatigued, sluggish and my adrenalin just wasn't pumping the way it usually did," he says.

The next week, Hurd hurt his heel in a meet against Auburn. "My season took a turn for the worse after that," he says with a frown.

When the Pacific 10 Conference championships came, it proved to be too strenuous on Hurd's heel.

"After my first jump, my heel was hurting bad," he says. "But I decided to keep on jumping — to go for it. I knew it might be my last meet of the season."

Hurd finished 10th in both the long and triple jumps.

"It was disappointing," he says, "but I was thankful I had the chance to go — I definitely have plans to be in the top six next year."

As the summer rolled around, Hurd seemed willing to train diligently for the upcoming season.

"I worked out real hard during the summer and got back in the groove — I felt I could jump 53 feet," he said.

With high hopes for a great season, he returned to the Oregon campus only to find a surprise waiting.

"The coach came up and wanted me to run hurdles this year," Hurd says. He

agreed and started training for both hurdles and jumping events.

"He looked superb on the hurdles," says sprint coach Dennis Whitby. "He was going to be our No. 3 man. He is very smooth."

But injuries to the versatile athlete's left leg set in and struck a serious blow against his hopes for another outstanding season.

"We had a tough hurdle workout, and afterward we had a sprint workout. I had only one more lap to go, and we were emphasizing high knees on the last 55 yards. When I started lifting my knees, my left leg tightened up. I stopped right there. I went immediately to the trainer and iced it."

"Of course I'd like to take that day away," Whitby says, "but I can't change things now."

Hurd was understandably apprehensive about training during the next week: "I never had any problems with my muscles before — it was a new experience for me."

Two weeks after the strain on his leg, He went with the track team to Santa Barbara for a meet. On his first jump, he pulled his hamstring — on the same leg which he strained before.

This was a case of coming back too soon from an injury — Hurd regrets it now.

But is it too late?  
"I saw the trainer last Monday, and we both agreed my season was shot," Hurd says.

Despite the injuries that have caused him to miss most of the remaining meets on the Ducks' schedule, Hurd will continue to train and hope to be ready for the Pacific 10 Championships meet at Hayward Field on May 21-22.

Whitby's optimism is apparent, however. "We took a gamble on him out of high school, and it paid off," he says. "He is probably the most talented athlete I've worked with as far as awareness and body control go. But only time will tell."

Head track coach Bill Dellinger seems even more optimistic and says, "I'm going to compete him if I possibly can. Even if it's just for the Pac-10 Championships."

Hurd is anxious but also cautious about his return. He does not want another injury.

"I'll be back, stronger and healthier — gunnin' for the record books."



Photo by Bob Baker

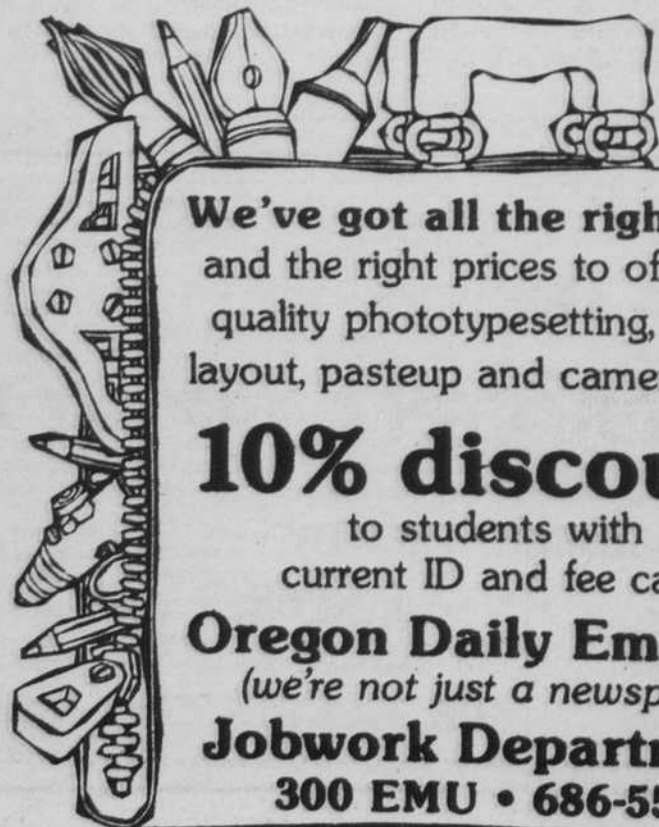
Though Hurd says his "season was shot", Dellinger hopes his premiere jumper will be ready for the Pac-10 Championships.

# DUFFY'S



Hot Whacks returns  
to DUFFY'S  
Friday & Saturday  
9-2

BEATLES TRIBUTE  
with special guest artist  
RICHARD PRICE  
Friday at 4 Pitcher Sale



We've got all the right tools  
and the right prices to offer you  
quality phototypesetting, design,  
layout, pasteup and camera work.

## 10% discount

to students with  
current ID and fee card

Oregon Daily Emerald  
(we're not just a newspaper)

Jobwork Department  
300 EMU • 686-5511