

She's ahead of her time



Photo by Bob Baker

Hayes has the fastest collegiate time turned in this year for the 3,000 meters.

Frosh Hayes breaking own records weekly

By Steve Friedman
For the Emerald

Week and week, record after record, Kathy Hayes is establishing herself as a premier middle distance runner.

The Oregon freshman is the Ducks' most versatile runner and has been burning up tracks with lightning-fast times in the 800, 1,500, 3,000 and 5,000-meter races.

Since joining the Ducks, she has finished first five times, second twice, and third four times in her first season for the Ducks. She has broken her personal bests seven times this year and is striving for even faster times in the future.

"I'm pretty happy with the way things have gone," Hayes says. "But I also want to keep improving." Improvement is something for which Hayes has seemingly always looked for. As a senior in high school, she was a good runner, but her times were nowhere close to what they are now.

"What she's done already is because she's mature and has handled the increases in training very well," says women's track coach Tom Heinonen.

Heinonen's main concern with all his incoming freshman is for them to get a year of experience, and "if we get any improvement at all, that's terrific — we'll go from there."

But Heinonen did not expect that by this time of the year, Hayes would have run the fastest collegiate time in the 3,000-meters this year.

With a 9:07.94 against Washington State, Hayes established a personal best, erased the school record by more than 14 seconds and showed the nation that she is a contender for the NCAA Championships.

"I was thinking I just wanted to get it over with," says Kathy of her record performance. "I didn't look back — I just tried to stay out in front. I heard the announcer say I was on record-pace during the last lap. All the pressure was in my mind."

As she crossed the finish line, she really did not know what she had accomplished. "I was happy, but it really didn't sink in," she says.

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Oregon drops pair to Beavers

Oregon's women's softball team did a lot of things right at the plate Wednesday, but unfortunately most of them came at the wrong time, as the Oregon State Beavers left Eugene with a double-header sweep.

Oregon pounded out 17 hits in the two games but could only get runners home four times. Oregon paid the price, dropping 4-2 and 5-2 decisions and falling to 5-4-1 on the season.

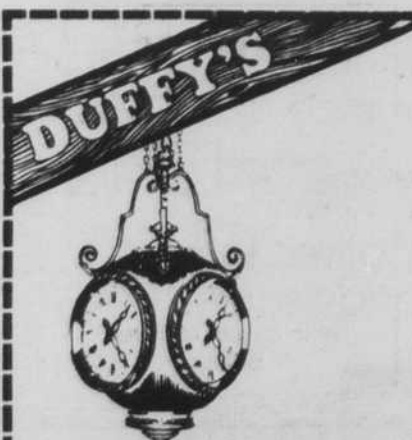
In the opener, ex-Duck Tami Cayton delivered the knockout punch with a pair of triples, driving in a pair of runs to turn a 2-2 tie into a Beaver win.

Cayton's counterpart at third base for Oregon, Katie Hickey managed a pair of hits, but like her teammates, was unable to come through with Ducks on base. She did, however, come up with a couple of key plays on line drives at the corner in game two to

squelch Beaver threats.

Senior center fielder June Liu, who entered the afternoon with just three hits on the year, strung five in a row together en route to a 5-for-6 day that saw her reach base seven times. But she only scored once — typifying the Ducks' day — accounting for the Ducks final run of the nightcap before they left the bases loaded in the third inning.

The two third-inning runs in the second game knotted the score at two. But, as in the first game, the Beavers took it from there. This time it was pesky Beaver shortstop Jo Ann Hiraoka who did most of the damage. In the fifth inning she doubled and scored to put OSU on top 3-2, and then took advantage of some sloppy Duck defense in the top of the seventh to nail the coffin shut with the Beavers' fifth run.



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