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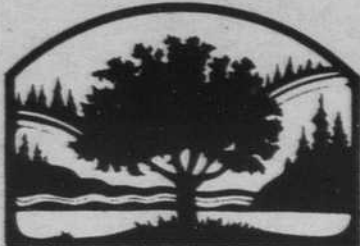
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Cheerleader in uniform

Hughes' efforts surpass teammate Harmon, her own expectations

By Carol Morton Of the Emerald

Looking more like a cheerleader after a hard practice of body-splitting leaps and stretches than the skilled javelin thrower she is, Lynda Hughes steps lightly across the track after practice. Her full dark blonde hair and stylish blue-and-white sweatsuit dispels any lingering notion of women javelin throwers as husky-voiced, burly, unfeminine hulks.

"Some people take on the role in their daily lives," Hughes says playfully imitating the gorilla-type waddle of weight-lifters. "I'm a javelin thrower when I throw. Otherwise, I'm a woman."

Words such as these might temporarily distract a listener from Hughes' dedication to the javelin. Hughes surprised the unsuspecting Hayward Field crowd at her first meet in an Oregon uniform by breaking Patty Kearney's school record.

With her 188-4 toss in the pouring rain at UCLA, which broke the school record she just had set the previous week, Hughes is ranked fourth in the U.S. by Track and Field News. Kate Schmidt of the Pacific Coast Club holds the American record (227-5). Hughes is about 20 feet short of being internationally ranked.

Hughes' main goal is to improve every meet. "I have an ultimate (season) goal of 190, which may not even be realistic anymore. I'll probably surpass that," she predicts.

In fact, Hughes wants to be the best in the world. "That's saying a lot, a lot, a lot," she admits, "but anyone that's out to pursue a goal wants to be the best in it. I'm not saying I'll be number one, or that it is even one of my (immediate) goals. But I wouldn't be out doing it if I didn't expect to improve up to my potential."

Hughes' potential had to be

quickly re-evaluated after surpassing pre-season expectations. Even Scott Irving, women's throws coach, who himself preaches a positive mental attitude, seemed caught off-guard by her early success. "I didn't expect her to grasp the concepts so early. Whatever she does from here on out is just icing on the cake."

Hughes seems unimpressed by her success. "I'd like to see success for the whole group. It's not me anymore, it's the team. I care about them all. I really want them to do well. I can hardly wait for Sally (Harmon, last year's AIAW champion) to do well. I'd have visions before the season started. Sally would throw really well, better than me, and I'd go up and give her a big hug."

Hughes, a walk-on this year, has ousted Sally Harmon from the No. 1 position on the team. It's a situation that seems ripe for tension and rivalry. Rozlyn Rouse, who gave up a scholarship at BYU to walk-on here, says that she has never experienced the sense of camaraderie that exists between the Oregon throwers elsewhere.

Each thrower insists she's not trying to beat anyone. "I get in-

spired by others, by Lynda, but I don't think beat. It's not my style," says Harmon, who usually throws farther later in the season. "You want to be like a pea in the pod, as good as them."

Hughes says she and Harmon watch films of themselves and analyze each other's technique. "Sally's a talker. Whatever she says is so good for me," Hughes says. "Competition has brought us much closer."

The Newberg native was discovered in her high school freshman year after hurling a softball 205 feet, the furthest a girl had thrown the ball since the beginning of the physical fitness tests. Throwing a javelin requires a different technique, but as Hughes says, "if you have an arm, you have an arm."

After an unhappy two months at Florida State, Hughes relinquished her scholarship there to come home and work. She attended George Fox College, where her father works, for winter and spring terms.

"It says a lot for her to have given up a scholarship," Irving says. "But the process was good. It made her more dedicated."

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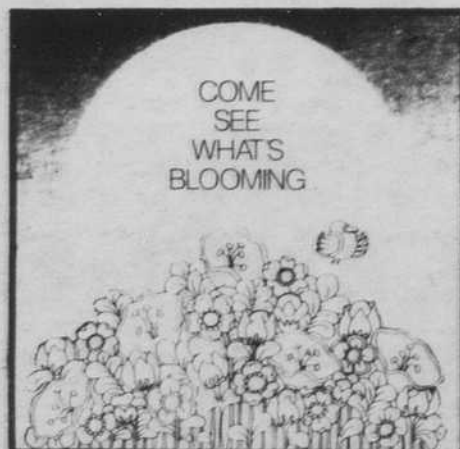
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OSU triumphs

Oregon swept

Oregon State's women rattled off six runs in the bottom of the fifth inning of Tuesday's second game in Corvallis to sweep a softball double-header from Oregon.

The Beavers shut out the Ducks 3-0 in the first game and erased a 2-0 Oregon lead en route to their 6-2 nightcap triumph. The losses dropped Oregon to 6-9-1 on the season.

In both games the Duck women were unable to come up with the big defensive play when they needed it, and they paid the price with their fourth and fifth losses in five days. Oregon has won only once in that time.

OSU picked up single unearned runs in the second and third innings of the opener, and added an insurance run in the sixth when the Beavers' Jo Ann Hiraoka knocked in Sandy Pearsall.

When Oregon's June Liu and Vicki Hogan singled to open the seventh, it looked as if the insura-

nce run might be needed. But the next three Ducks went down in order to extinguish the threat.

In the second game it looked like the Ducks might finally get to the Beavers, who are 4-0 against Oregon this year. Susan Tuggle delivered the big blow in the top of the fifth with a two-out triple, scoring Ruth House and Molly Barnes. House had reached base on a fielder's choice and Barnes on a single.

But the Ducks got into trouble in the bottom of the fifth.

Oregon might have gotten out of the inning in good shape, but pitcher Janet Wright, who had a no-hitter entering the inning, threw high trying to catch the runner at third on a bouncer back to the box. With two outs the flood gates opened, as OSU collected six runs on five hits and a walk.

Oregon will try again to turn the tables on their rivals Sunday when they return to Corvallis for a 1 p.m. twinbill.

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