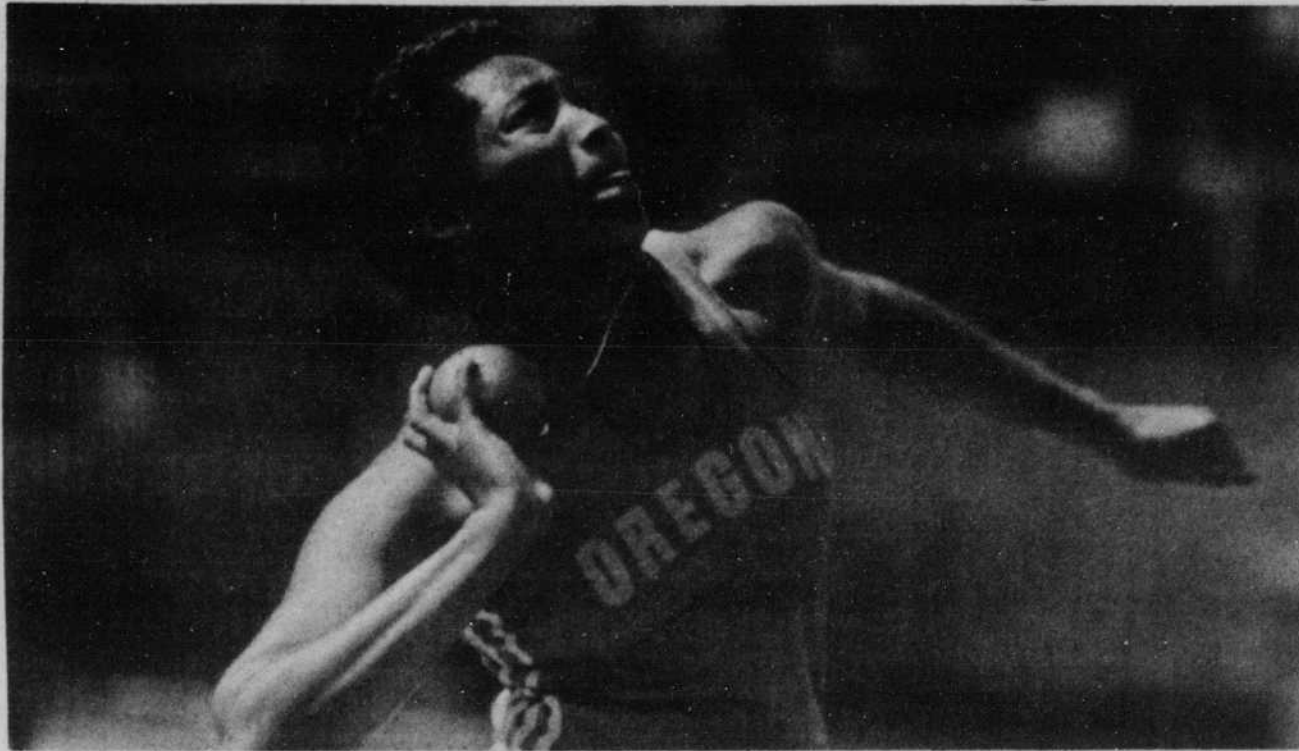


Women looking to stay on track

By Paul Danzer
Of the Emerald



Quenna Beasley, who set an Oregon record in the discus last weekend, will sit out that event to concentrate on the shot put in the Ducks' meet at Oregon State Saturday.

Photo by Bob Baker

Oregon coach Tom Heinonen will shuffle the deck once again this Saturday when the Oregon women's track team travels to Corvallis for their final dual meet of the season against Oregon State.

Although the Beavers have several talented athletes on the form chart, they don't have enough to challenge the Ducks in the team race. So Heinonen will move some people around, and give some others the day off as the Ducks prepare for the upcoming NorPac Conference and NCAA meets.

"This meet comes at a perfect time for us," says Heinonen, noting that this meet close to home and next weekend's Twilight Meet at Hayward Field should get the Ducks primed for the NorPac meet in two weeks.

Ducks staying home include Kathy Hayes, who set a new record for a collegiate woman in the 5,000 last week, distance runner Rosa Gutierrez, sprinters Julie Hilsenteger and Kay Garnett, and the javelin trio of Lynda Hughes, Roz Rouse and Julie Vobora.

Lexie Miller Beck will jump from the hurdles to the sprints and run in the 200 and 400-meter dashes. Beck has the fastest 400-meter time on the team this spring (56.47) behind freshman Carla Johnson. Beck has not run the 200 this year. Johnson, who has bests of 25.46 wind-aided in the 200 and 56.71 in the 400, will join Beck in those events.

Also stepping into the 400 will be 800-meter specialist Claudette Groenendaal, who is also slated to run a leg of the mile relay.

Among the other faces which will be seen in different places Saturday is Lisa Martin, who will run her first 1,500 of the spring after meeting the NCAA qualifying standard in the 5,000 last weekend.

"We're looking for some national qualifying marks," says Heinonen. "They may be tough to get in a meet like this, because the competition won't be that great in some events."

One of those is Lisa Nicholson who will carry the load in the 100 and 400-meter hurdles in the absence of Beck. Nicholson has season bests of 14.37 wind-aided in the 100 and 1:01.97 in the intermediates. She will be gunning for the qualifying times of 13.94 in the 100 and 1:00.0 in the 400.

"It's just a matter of putting it all together," says Heinonen of Nicholson's chances. "The 400-hurdles is a very technical event."

Heinonen foresees some interesting competition in the field events.

In the javelin Karen Martin will challenge OSU's Monica Witt. Recovering from an injury, Martin threw 155 in last week's Duck win over Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo. Witt has a best of 149-9. In the shot put, Quenna Beasley (51-6½) will go against the Beavers' Kam Johnson (48-5½). Beasley will not compete in the discus after setting a new school record in the event last week. That leaves Melanie Morrison (149-0) to challenge OSU's Johnson (152-6) in the discus.

The jumps also feature some interesting matchups. In the long jump, OSU's Colleen Gibson is the NorPac leader at 19-8¾, while Oregon's Sharron Johnson is still pursuing the 19-foot plateau. In the high jump the Beavers have Judy Summer with a best of 5-7, while the Ducks have Jeanne Borchardt and Trish King with marks of 5-6.

Several new faces will be in the Duck fold Saturday including freshman basketball player Lauri Tennant, who Heinonen says may compete in the heptathlon at the NorPac meet in two weeks. Tennant, who threw the javelin 133-8 in a "mini meet" earlier this season, will also compete in the shot put, long jump and 100-meter hurdles.

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NBA cream of the crop rises

From Associated Press reports

There are no underdogs. It will be power versus power when the National Basketball Association conference finals open Sunday.

The four teams still competing for the league title — Philadelphia, Milwaukee, Los Angeles and San Antonio — are all division champions who plowed through the early playoffs to this best-of-seven event.

The defending champion Lakers will open the Eastern Conference final at home Sunday against the San Antonio Spurs, a fast-breaking bunch who beat the Lakers four out of five during the regular season.

The Philadelphia 76ers, who won more regular-season games than any other team, host the Western Conference final opener Sunday against the Milwaukee Bucks, who wiped out the proud Boston Celtics in four straight games.

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