

Duck women highlight Oregon Open

By Robert Collias
Of the Emerald

For Kathy Hayes and Leann Warren the opening of the 1985 Oregon women's track season on Saturday may have seemed like an impossibility not so long ago. However, both seniors made their 1985 debuts in style as they battled head-to-head in the 3000 meters in the spotlight event of the Oregon Open Women's Track and Field meet at Hayward Field.

Not too long ago, both were doubtful as to whether they would make it to Hayward to compete on Saturday. Hayes was ill for a good part of the week, but she decided to run anyway Saturday morning.

"I had a cold all week, and I was going back and forth on whether to run or not," Hayes said of the race, which she used as a warm-up for next week's World Cross Country Championships in Lisbon, Portugal.

Hayes' sickness didn't seem to bother her too much as she stayed on Warren's heels for the first part of the race. Then the senior from Newberg raced past Warren to win the race in a Na-

tional Collegiate Athletic Association qualifying-time of 9:12.22. Warren finished second in 9:24.47, also qualifying her for the NCAA's.

For Warren, the race was part of a longer journey. Saturday's meet was the first outdoor competition for her since 1982. The three-time NCAA champion (1,500 and 800 meters) has been hampered by knee injuries that have kept her out of competition. She has made a comeback as evidenced by her second-place finish in the 1,500 meters at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships earlier in March. After Saturday's race, everything appears to be falling into place for Warren with the 1985 season on the horizon.

"I felt a little flat today, but it is good to be back on the track," Warren said.

Oregon coach Tom Heinonen was pleased with Hayes and Warren, as well as the other performances by the Ducks.

"Hayes and Warren both ran well, but our throwers were the ones that got us rolling," Heinonen said. "Cathy Gran got things started with a 19-foot

personal-record in the javelin, and things just started falling into place after that."

Gran's PR of 153-10 placed her second behind Sally Harmon, former national champion, who won the event with a toss of 170 feet and one inch. Harmon is coming off a redshirt year last season because of elbow troubles. But Harmon's winning effort showed she was healthy for the upcoming season. In the other throwing events, Quenna Beasley was a double-winner for the Ducks as she won the shot put with a heave of 49-8 and then added a first place in the discus with a toss of 169-9.

Beasley was one of only three multiple-winners in the meet. Cam Talton won the 100- (12.31) and 200-meters (24.94) and ran a leg on the Ducks' victorious 400-meter relay team (46.80). Janell Thorsland was a double-winner as she won the long jump (18-9) and the 100-meter hurdles (14.65).

Shari Collins, a redshirt from a year ago, won the high jump with an effort of 5-8, and Sharon Johnson captured the triple jump at 37 feet and two inches.

Heinonen said that Saturday's meet was an attempt to qualify as many athletes as possible for NCAA competition. Hayes and Warren qualified in the 3000 meters and Beasley qualified in the discus. Beasley had earlier qualified for the NCAA shotput with a mark for the indoor season. Harmon's mark would have qualified for the NCAA's, however, she is not currently enrolled but will be spring term.

Birgit Petersen ran an inspired race in the 10,000 meters, but fell short of NCAA

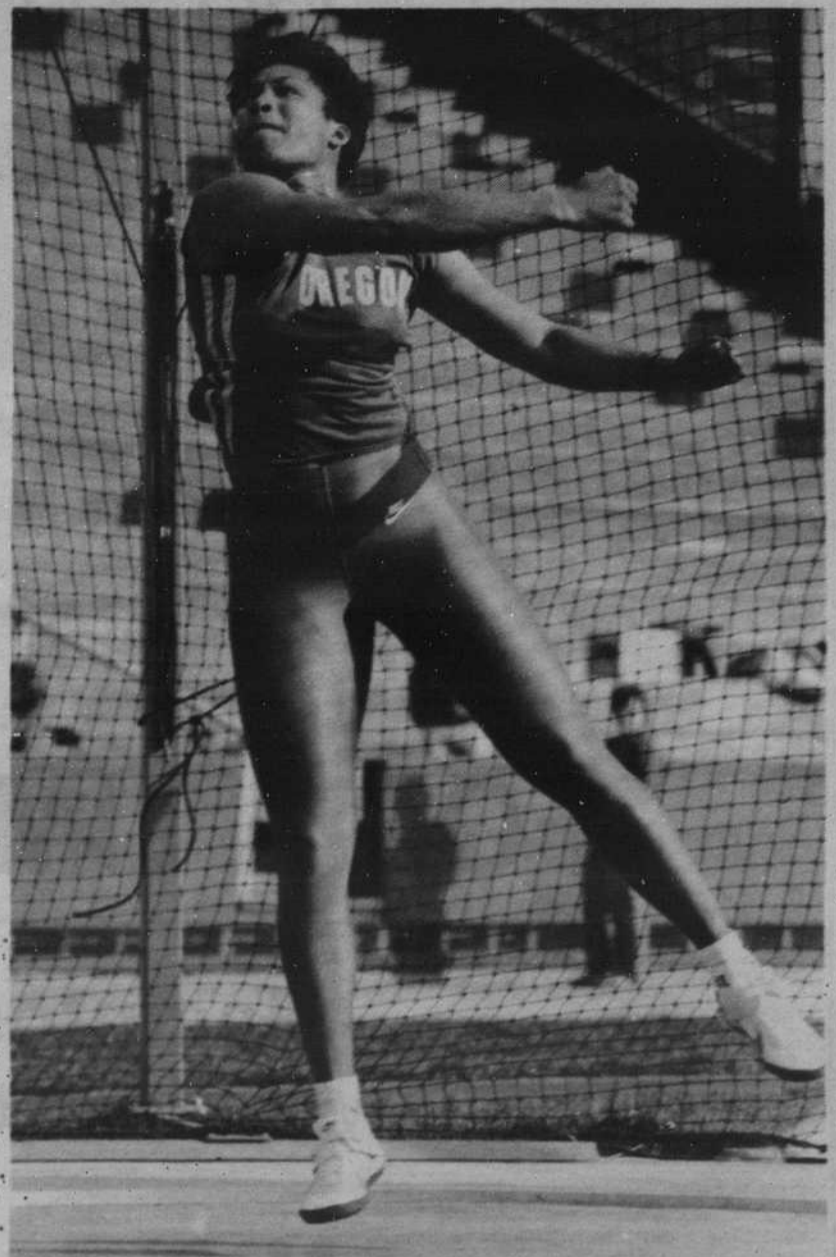


Photo by Hank Trotter
Oregon's Quenna Beasley heaved the discus 169-9 to win the event Saturday in the Oregon Open Women's Track and Field Meet Saturday at Hayward Field.

qualifying-mark with a personal record of 35:01. The qualifying mark is 34:30, but Petersen's run was a gutty one because she ran with little competition.

Defending NCAA 1,500 meter champion Claudette Groenendaal took command early and led from wire-to-wire as she won her specialty in 4:19.17.

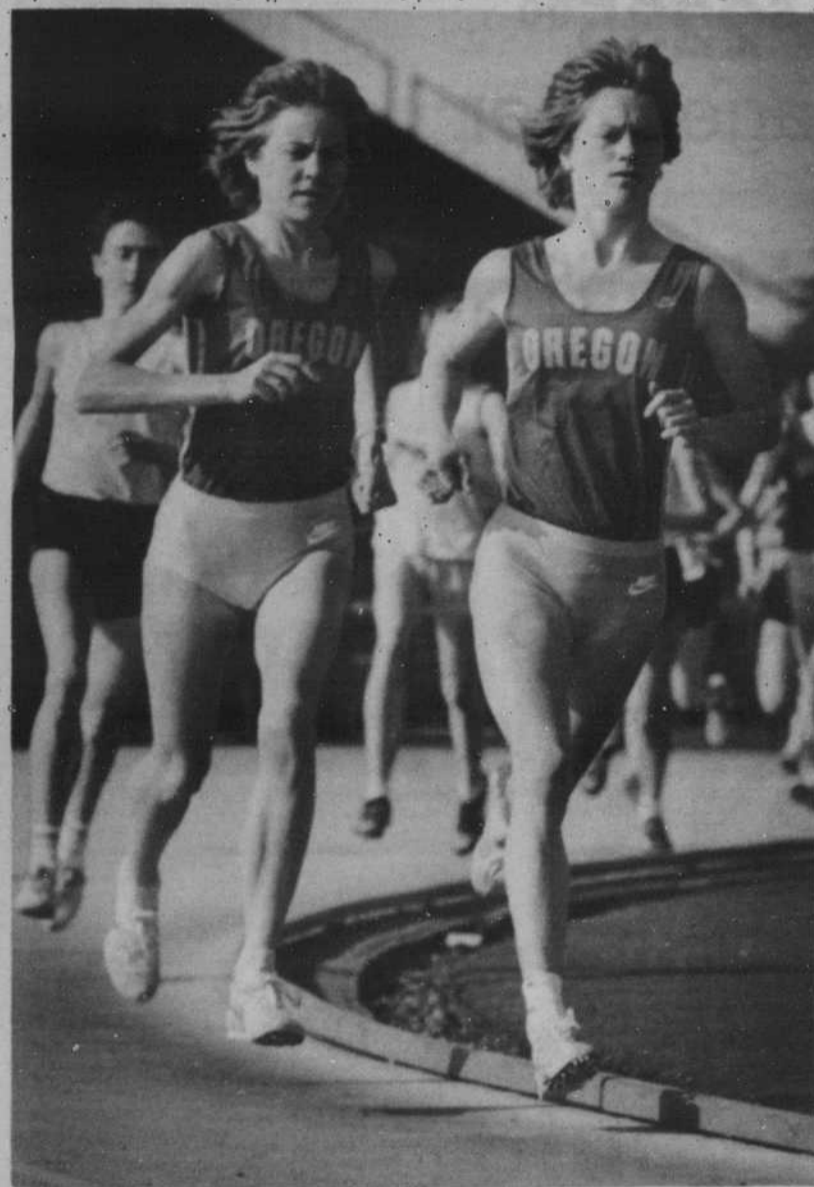
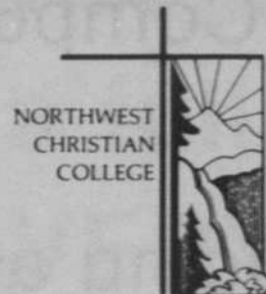
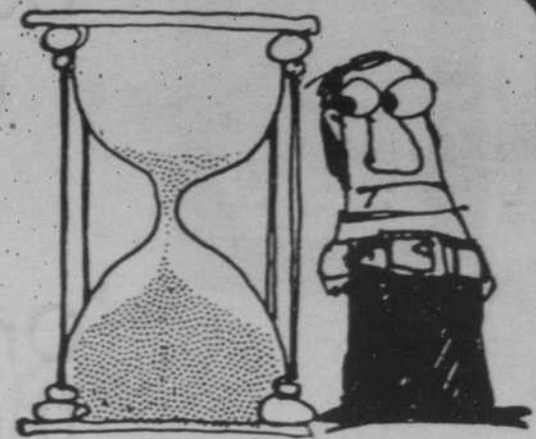


Photo by Hank Trotter
The Ducks' Leann Warren (front) took the early lead over teammate Kathy Hayes in the 3,000 meters, but Hayes rallied and passed Warren with three laps to go to win the race.

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