



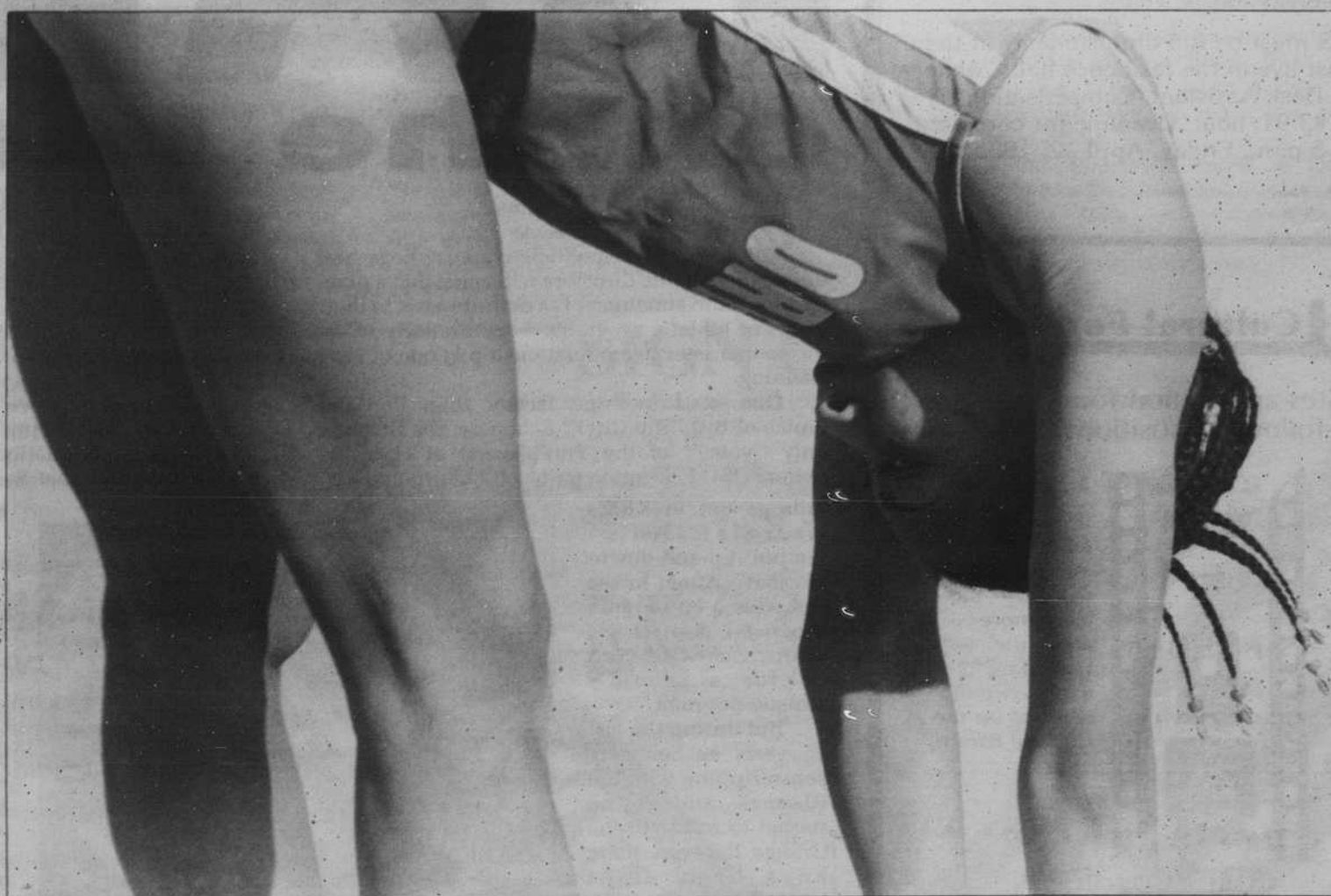
SIDELINES

Wednesday, April 10, 1985

Emerald Sports Supplement

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Oregon women's track coach may feel that 1985 is a homecoming of sorts. Tom Heinonen finally has a healthy team with talented newcomers to complement an impressive list of returnees.

The Ducks boast no less than four national champions and seven All-Americans returning to bolster the team for 1985. Perhaps the most impressive of the returnees is 1980 Olympian and three-time national champion Leann Warren. Warren is returning as a sixth-year senior after coming off a two-year hiatus that was marked by no less than five knee surgeries.

Another sixth-year senior joining the team for the first time since 1982 is 1981 national javelin champion Sally Harmon, who has been hobbled by elbow troubles, but appears ready to go for the 1985 season. She threw 170-1 against the

University of Washington Huskies Saturday.

Heinonen also is welcoming back NCAA scorer Quenna Beasley, who placed seventh in the shot put and eighth in the discus in the 1983 NCAA meet. Beasley redshirted the 1984 season to train for the Olympic trials.

With another two national champions returning from last year's National Collegiate Athletic Association meet (Kathy Hayes in the 10,000-meters and Claudette Groenendaal in the 1,500-meters), the team should be ready to make a possible run at a lofty national placing.

"If we stay healthy and run up to our potential, we could be in the top three at nationals," Heinonen says.

That would be a new accomplishment for the lady Ducks, who have never been in the top three at the NCAA meets. They were close finishing fourth in front of the hometown fans in last year's Eugene

event.

This year's NCAA meet won't be in the friendly confines of Hayward Field. But the fact that it will be held in Austin, Texas, doesn't bother Heinonen.

"In 1981 we competed well in Austin," Heinonen says of his team's third place finish in the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women. "We also competed well in Houston in 1983."

Heinonen says the Ducks will be counting on his "big five" to score the bulk of the points at the nationals. The "big five" includes Warren, Harmon, Groenendaal, Hayes and Beasley.

The Ducks are more than a national contender as they boast one of the best dual meet squads in the nation. Heinonen's teams have been in the top three of the national dual meet rankings since the rankings were started by Track

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STORY
BY
ROBERT
COLLIAS



Senior Leann Warren, a 1980 Olympian, is returning to the lady Ducks squad after a two-year hiatus peppered with knee operations.

PHOTOS
BY
HANK
TROTTER

