

# Collins jumps out of her frustrations

By Robert Collias  
Of the Emerald

Saturday at the NorPac Track-and-Field Championships, Shari Collins could clear only 5-6 in the high jump finals in Pullman, Wash.

And it looked as if she had finished another frustrating season without living up to her potential.

"I don't know what was wrong, but I just felt terrible," Collins said of her disappointing performance in Pullman.

On Sunday, she found her old rhythm. Collins went to Hayward Field with some friends and cleared 5-11 at a

special heptathlon meet, which qualified her for the upcoming NCAA Championships. Collins' jump also solidified Oregon's team chances at the NCAA's.

"I just went out there (Hayward Field) to watch, and then my friends convinced me to jump," Collins says. "There wasn't any pressure, and I'm glad that I jumped."

Collins admitted that she had felt the pressure in Pullman. In fact, the pressure has probably been building on Collins since she arrived on campus in 1982 as one of Oregon's top recruits.

Collins was the state of Oregon's second six-foot high

jumper in history. In her junior year, Collins cleared 6-0 for Chiloquin High School, which is in a small community 30 miles north of Klamath Falls.

Collins received a lot of fanfare in Chiloquin. In her senior year, Collins posted her third straight Class A high jump title as she cleared the 6-foot barrier three more times. By the time she arrived at Oregon, people were expecting big things from Collins.

"When I first got here, I really wanted to do well," Collins says.

Collins started her career at Oregon right on a positive note.

She set the Oregon school record in her first meet as a Duck. Collins cleared 6-1 in the 1983 Portland Indoor.

But her glory was short-lived at Portland. On Collins' third try at 6-3, she bruised her heel. Then her troubles began. The heel injury forced Collins to redshirt the rest of her freshman year.

Hopeful to come back strong for her next season, Collins ran into another roadblock — one that almost ended her career. While doing some strength work in a long-jump drill during the summer, Collins tore her anterior cruciate ligament in her knee.

"Those kind of injuries can be really bad," said Mark Stream, Oregon assistant track coach for field events. "It was lucky that the injury was to her off leg. Because if it would have been to her jumping leg, she probably would never have jumped again."

Collins spent three months in a cast and lost virtually all of her season as she competed in only three meets.

Collins found it hard to face her injuries. She rarely takes off the tights that cover her surgery scars. In fact, Collins took her sweats off for the first time in a recent meet in Corvallis against

Oregon State University. It was the first time Collins had jumped without her tights since her injury.

"Kory Tarpenning (Oregon's top pole vaulter) told me that I would never qualify for NCAA's unless I took them off," Collins says.

Collins took the sweats off, but still failed to qualify as she cleared 5-8, three and a half inches away from the NCAA qualifying standard of 5-11½.

"That is the way the whole season was going," Collins says. "I would feel really good, but it would never quite be there."

Last Sunday it was finally there as she cleared 5-11½. Stream thinks that there is more good things to come for Collins and the Ducks.

"I think that Shari has had that jump in her for a long time," Stream says. "The thing is that she is only probably at 85 percent strength in her leg even now."

Now that the pressure is off, Collins thinks she will do well at the NCAA's in Austin, Texas next week.

"It seems so weird to have finally qualified," Collins said. "At NCAA's, there will be a lot of great jumpers, and I think the competition will help me go even higher."



Emerald file photo

Shari Collins qualified in the high jump for the NCAA's Sunday at Hayward Field.

## Holmes closes in on Marciano's record

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Larry Holmes moved to within one fight of Rocky Marciano's record Monday night with a unanimous but hard-fought 15-round decision over Carl "The Truth" Williams.

Holmes used his reknowned left jab, some good rights to the head and body, and the savvy he has acquired in 15 years in the pro ring to build his record to 48-0.

Marciano, the only heavyweight champion to retire without having lost, was 49-0 when he hung up his gloves at age 33 in 1956.

But while the 35-year-old Holmes was a unanimous winner to retain his International Boxing Federation title, he was very tired at the end, his left eye was almost swollen shut and at times he appeared tentative against his 25-year-old opponent, who went into the fight with a 16-0 record.

Judge Jerry Roth scored it 143-142, and Al Rothenbery and Paul Gibbs saw it 146-139, all for Holmes, who was winning his 21st title fight.

Holmes hurt Williams on a few occasions, but when he did he was never able to put together the kind of attack he needed to finish

The 6-foot-4 Williams, who weighed 215, exhibited a fine left jab of his own and held his own with Holmes, 222, through the first six rounds, although he was cut above the left eye in the third.

Williams had an extremely good round in the fifth, when he brought roars from a crowd of 6,046 at the Lawlor Events Center with five or six shots to the head and body at about the mintue mark. Then, with 45 seconds left, Williams landed six or seven more shots.

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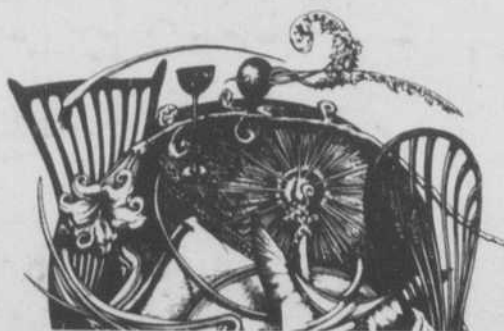
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