

Sports

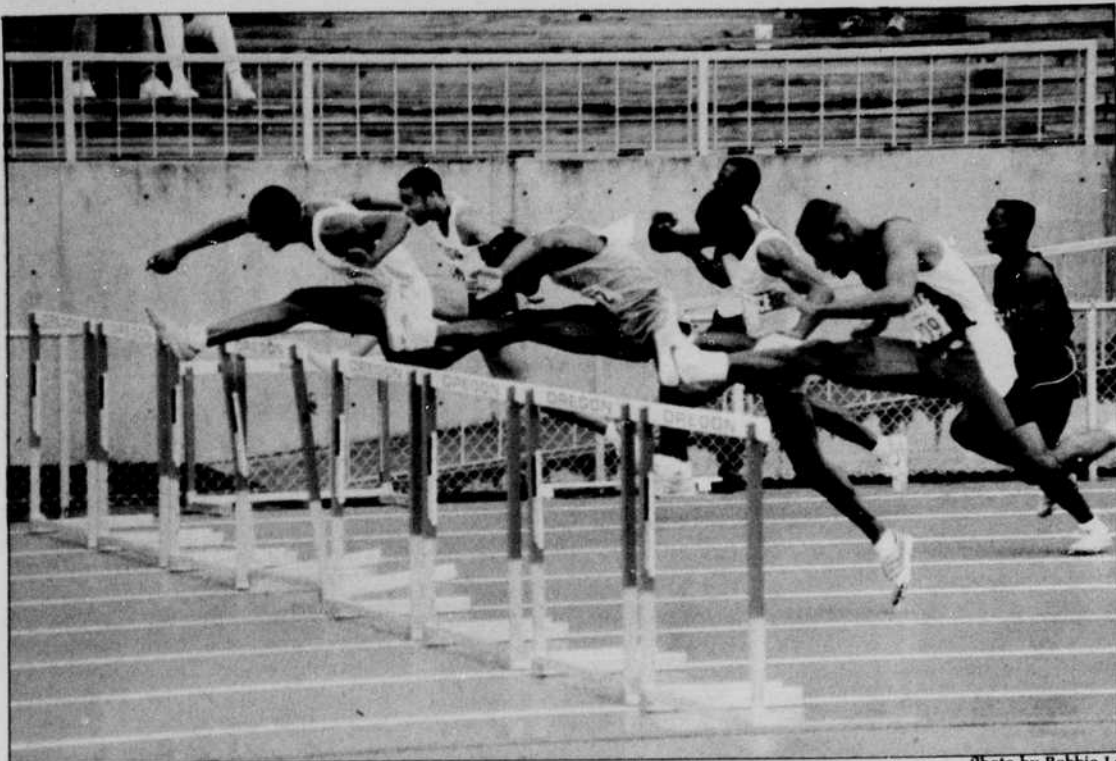


Photo by Bobbie Lo

Dirk Morris of Georgia Tech hits the hurdles first, and holds on to win the third heat of the men's 110-meter high hurdles.

Ducks do well, but Bruins do better

By Kevin Allen
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Hayward Field mystique reared its bright head Thursday through the clouds and rain to allow two Oregon men to squeak into Saturday's finals.

Meanwhile, the second day of competition of the 1988 National Collegiate Athletic Association Track and Field Championship did no damage to UCLA's mission to be the first team to repeat as men's champions since Texas-El Paso did so from 1979-82.

Three more Oregon athletes qualified for the finals on Thursday, bringing the total to seven Ducks who will run today or Saturday.

Eric Peterson finished seventh and last in the second heat of the 1,500-meter qualifying race with a 3:46.50, but finished 12th overall and was rewarded with the final spot for the final race Saturday.

"I just wanted to give myself a chance to run with the best runners in the nation this weekend," Peterson said. "Everyone in this race has run as fast or faster than my lifetime

best, so I can't take anything for granted."

Joe Falcon of Arkansas had the day's best time in the 1,500, finishing in 3:35.61. The pace of both heats was slow, allowing everyone in the race to be competitive up through the final 100-meter kick.

"As far as the finals, I want to be competitive and win. Everyone in the race is good. Hopefully, I will have a homestretch duel with one or two other people, so I can get used to having someone on my shoulder. If the pace is slow, everyone will be involved," Falcon said.

Eric Finch was the other Duck to get into the finals in the 12th and last spot, with his throw of 200-9 in the hammer. Finch's third throw outdistanced a 198-3 toss by Steve Dering of Syracuse. Although relieved to be in the finals, Finch was anything but pleased with his performance.

"I just screwed up, I just didn't do what I was supposed to do and what I've been training to do everyday for the past two weeks," Finch said. "I had the goal of being number one in America, but now I had to drop

that down a bit to make it to the last set of three throws — I want to put myself in a scoring position."

Scott McGee, however, did not survive the trials, closing out his sophomore year with a throw of 192 in the hammer.

"I was coming down from a peak. I had a personal record at the (Pacific-10 Conference) meet two weeks ago and it's kind of hard to peak again," McGee said.

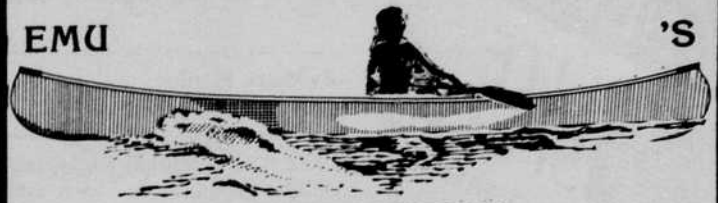
Oregon coach Bill Dellinger was pleased with the qualifica-

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