

Berry's contribution not measured by statistics

By Kevin Allen
Emerald Sports Reporter

In a quote he attributed to British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli, Mark Twain once said, "There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics."

Statistics may indeed often lie, but in many ways it can not be avoided. The world judges

by numbers, from checkbooks to grade point averages, but no where is this more true than in the world of sports.

Athletes are often evaluated solely by the number of times their names appear in the record books, their most recent clockings at the end of a race, or how many points they scored in their team's latest victory.

In such a society where acceptance is based on statistics, an individual's performance relative to those around him has replaced character as the yardstick for success, and as a result the role of "hero" is almost extinct.

Close to home, the Ducks have their own such 'hero,' who is preparing for Saturday's football game against Washing-

ton. However, as a hero, he may be better known to the fans at Hayward Field than to those at Autzen Stadium.

In the spring, the world around Eugene will stop for about 30 seconds as Latin Berry prepares to long jump. The Hayward crowd's unified clapping starts slowly and builds until Berry does his little jig of a start and takes off the run-

way. The crowd goes wild.

Berry is arguably the finest combined horizontal jumper in Oregon track and field history, winning the Pacific-10 Conference title in both events last year and earning all-America honors twice for his fifth-place finish in the long jump at the NCAA championships in 1986.

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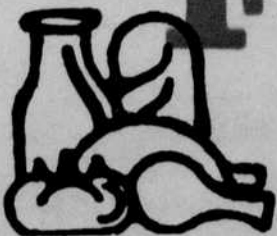
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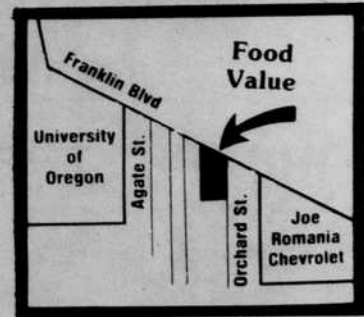
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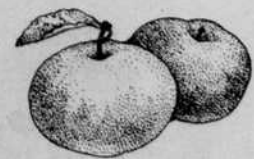
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