



Photo by Mark Ylen

McKinney, who also will attempt to qualify in the long jump, has received a lot of support from coaches and teammates, including Latin Berry and Spencer Williams.

long jump. As Oregon prepares to head into the heart of its schedule, it appears that McKinney is set to reach new heights.

"Right now I'm just taking it one step at a time," she said. "I want to qualify for the NCAA meet in the triple jump and then step up hopefully into the mid 40's. In the long jump I

also want to just take it one step at a time."

Last season McKinney broke the 40-foot barrier in six meets, and saved her best jumps of the season for last. In a dual with Oregon State, McKinney set the current school record and one week later finished fourth in the Pacific-10 Conference meet with a leap of 40-8 1/4.

McKinney also flirted with the long jump as the squad's number three jumper behind school record-holder Julie Goodrich and Camille Jampolsky last year. Again saving her best for last, McKinney set her current PR of 19-7 1/4 in the Oregon State dual meet and was ninth in the conference championships.

With the graduation of Goodrich and Jampolsky, McKinney has also become the top Duck long jumper. She has already recorded a wind-aided best of 19-6 1/4 this year and is looking to become the only jumper in school history besides Goodrich and Jampolsky to crack the 20-foot plateau.

As the top Duck jumper things have been different, and there has been added pressure for McKinney this season.

"It's been much different this year," she said. "Last year we switched things around a lot with Julie and Camille being there. I was more apt to qualify (for NCAA's) in the triple jump and they were more apt to qualify in the long jump. It's been different this year in that I'm doing more things and hopefully I can also qualify in the long jump this year."

It's also been a different role for McKinney, the conference's sixth best all-time jumper, in being the top triple jumper in the conference.

Collegiate and American record holder Sheila Hudson from California (45-5 1/4) has decided to sit out this year to concentrate on academics. With the graduation of USC's Yvette Bates and Wendy Brown, the second and third best Pac-10 triple jumpers all-time, McKinney has taken on the role as the odds-on favorite at this year's conference meet. And despite being the prohibitive favorite, McKinney doesn't feel the pressure as much as she does when attempting to qualify for the national championships.

"Since I've placed high in the Pac-10's before, I know what to expect," she said. "I'm just going to try harder and concentrate on winning it (the

triple jump title)."

Although Hudson won't be joining the Golden Bears in Saturday's dual meet at Hayward Field, McKinney will still be seeing plenty of competition. Mona Simmons has already qualified for the NCAA meet with a best of 20-8 1/2 in the long jump and gives McKinney to key off this week.

McKinney has also been able to key off her teammates and

men's horizontal jumpers Latin Berry and Spencer Williams.

"I get a lot of support from my coaches and teammates which helps a lot," McKinney said. "The men's jumpers help me out quite a bit and help me keep my confidence up."

With support like that, it seems that a new school record and an NCAA qualifying mark are only a hop, skip, and jump away for McKinney.

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