

# Duck track teams to awake hibernating Bears

By Jack Millikin  
Emerald Sports Reporter

As the Oregon men's and women's track teams prepare for Saturday's dual meet against California, a few Ducks await inevitable confrontations with some of the Pacific-10 Conference's top athletes.

Meanwhile, the rest are awaiting the onslaught.

In the past two weeks, the Duck men have upended Washington (132-31 on April 1) and swept past the teams from Illinois, Washington State and Colorado at the Pepsi Team Invitational last week en route to amassing 230½ points in the meet. The women have received some equally impressive performances as they triumphed over the Huskies 83-53

and totaled 194 points at the Pepsi Invitational to take the title.

Not much is expected to change against the Bears, who will come into town boasting some top-notch competitors in high/triple jumper Mike Harris (7-3½, 53-6¼ — both NCAA qualifying marks), defending Pac-10 1,500-meter champion David Ottoway (3:46.6), hurdler Kevin McPherson (14.00) and long jumper Kevin Smith (25-1¼), but will lack the depth to keep the Ducks from posting (yawn) another lopsided victory.

"I've been saying all year that our strength lies in our numbers," said Oregon head coach Bill Dellinger, whose Ducks look to boost their series record against Cal to 14-2 and give Dellinger his 30th straight

victory in one-day meets. "When we get on a roll, it's much like the tide. The challenge for the coaching staff is to keep the momentum going."

The Cal women boast a pair of NCAA qualifiers in high jumper Beth Vidakovits (6-0) and long jumper Mona Simmons (20-8½) and will also bring Kristen O'Hara, who finished third in the NCAA 10,000 last spring, to battle the Ducks' Stephanie Wessell and Lisa Karnopp in the 3,000.

Brooke Allen, one of three Duck javelin throwers to qualify for NCAA's last year, will make her first appearance in an Oregon dual meet as she will team with Paula Berry in an attempt to boost the number of Webfoot NCAA qualifiers, which currently stands at two (Liz Wilson in the 3,000 and fellow javelin tosser Jill Smith, who will travel to Walnut, Calif., for the Mt. SAC Relays on Sunday).

Freshman high jumper Laurel Roberts, having already qualified for the Pac-10 meet, views the meeting with Vidakovits as a chance to better her season best of 5-9.

"Competition is something that always pushes me," last year's Oregon prep high jump champion said. "I thought the competition last week would have helped me, but I haven't been real consistent lately."

Consistency hasn't been a problem for Duck long/triple jumper Latin Berry, who has routinely disposed of all comers thus far in both the horizontal jumps. Berry and Spencer Williams, who has been Berry's closest competitor so far this season with jumps of 25-3½ and 51-1¼, will finally meet a more formidable opposition in Harris, an NCAA qualifier in both the triple and high jumps.

"I hope (Harris) PRs. I hope

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Photo by Bill Haines

Oregon's Davon Russell will look to qualify for the NCAA's in the sprints this weekend at Hayward Field.

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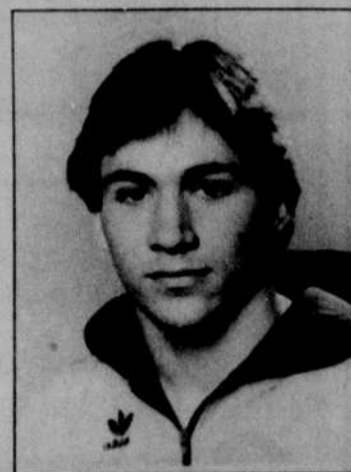
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## Duck hammer thrower Scott McGee obscure but talented

By Ashley Conklin  
Emerald Sports Reporter

Hammer thrower Scott McGee is used to obscurity and while it might not bother him personally he doesn't downplay the effects it has on the event.

"It really doesn't bother me personally," McGee said. "I've never been one to be in something for the glory of it. I do think it's wrong for the sport. I think one of the biggest problems in track is that instead of promoting the whole sphere of track they just promote certain events. We're slowly getting a better following for the sport. I hope we can continue to get more talented athletes into hammer throwing."



Scott McGee

McGee, a sophomore, has certainly done his part in making the hammer more well-

known this season.

After qualifying for the NCAA Championships last spring at the end of the season, McGee became Oregon's first NCAA qualifier this season with a throw of 203-1 at the Oregon Preview. Two weeks later McGee upped his personal record (PR) of 203-3 to 203-7 in a dual meet against Washington.

In last week's Pepsi Team Invitational, McGee bettered his PR on four of six throws before winding up the competition with a PR of 211-8. For McGee, last Saturday's competition came after a week of "bad practices," something not surprising when given the highly technical nature of the hammer.

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