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**Sports**

**Fonseca suspended on two counts**

*Money, desire  
both involved*

By Ashley Conklin  
Emerald Sports Reporter

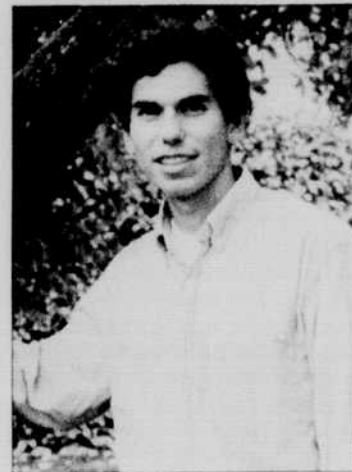
Although Oregon distance runner Peter Fonseca may or may not have received \$14,000 for his participation in Sunday's Los Angeles Marathon, it wasn't just an issue of money that led to his suspension from the men's track team.

Coach Bill Dellinger said that while the Pacific-10 and the NCAA will have to determine whether or not Fonseca received the third place prize money, the suspension also came about because Fonseca's participation in the race was not in the best interests of all involved.

"My objection is that we're trying to get ready for the dual meet season which is a week



Bill Dellinger



Peter Fonseca

away," Dellinger said. "There was no real purpose for running the marathon."

Fonseca said he ran in the marathon because he felt it was in his best interest to run. However, Dellinger pointed out that it takes a considerable amount of time to recover from the 26-

mile, 385-yard event and that he's had bad experiences with runners trying to come back and compete during the spring track season after running a marathon.

"I've had the experience with a couple of other runners competing in a marathon and come back and never do anything during track season," he said. "Shemi Sabag in 1984 tried to get a qualifying time for the Olympics so he could run in the marathon for Israel and he never did do anything in track."

Both Dellinger and Fonseca said the coach told Fonseca he would be off the team should he run in the marathon.

"There was no real purpose in terms of track to compete and that bothered me," Dellinger repeated.

Dellinger also said he was disappointed in Fonseca because he had to find out second hand that Fonseca was going to compete in the marathon.

"When I confronted him he admitted he was going to run and I was disappointed," Dellinger said. "Had he gone through me I still didn't want him to run because it wasn't in the best interest."

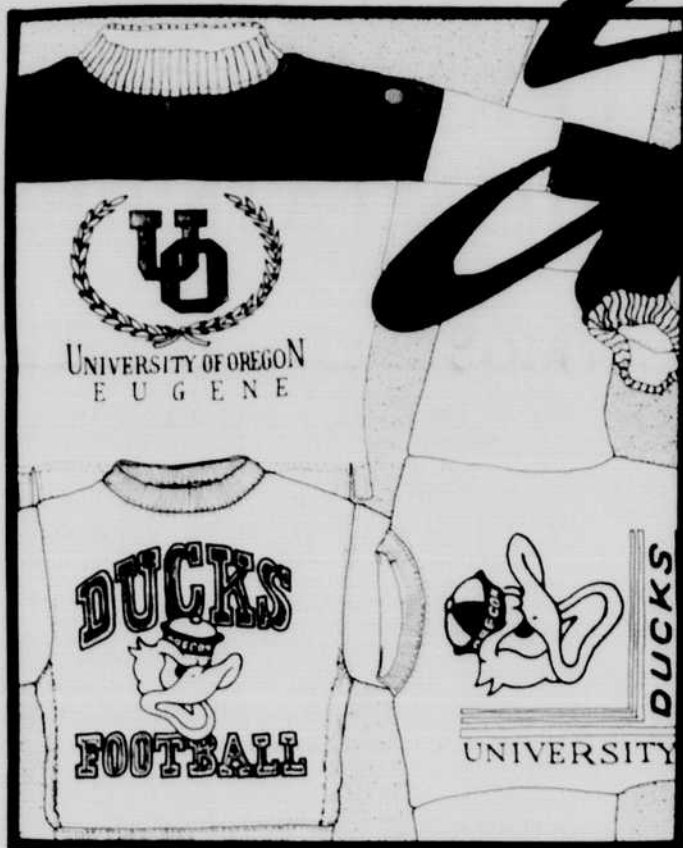
"I told him if he ran a full marathon he was off the team," Dellinger added. "It wasn't like he wasn't aware of the situation."

Fonseca said he wants to return to the team.

"I want to run for the Ducks," he said. "That's the bottom line."

According to Dellinger, the bottom line is that he is not sure whether Fonseca wants to run for the team or not, and that is the basis for the suspension. Should Dellinger believe Fonseca wants to be a Duck, he would welcome the runner back.

"Peter says he didn't take the money, but the NCAA has to be convinced of that," Dellinger said. "The other step is to show me he really wants to run for the team, but he didn't show me that."



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