

Stephanie Wessell (31) and Liz Wilson are expected to improve their times in the 5,000 at Saturday's Twilight meet at Hayward Field.

Woman's team readies for Twilight

By Cam Sivesind Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon women's track team hopes the Oregon Twilight meet at Hayward Field Saturday becomes the perfect setting for NCAA qualifying marks

Sophomore javelin thrower Kim Hyatt is the only Duck to have surpassed the NCAA automatic standard. Hyatt threw 177-9 last week to easily outdistance the standard of 173-11.

The Ducks have 18 Pacific-10 Conference qualifiers, but Oregon coach Tom Heinonen looks to add to that number as well.

"The emphasis this week is to try and get ready for the Pac-10s, and we'd like to take a shot at some NCAA qualifying marks too," Heinonen said.

Senior Liz Wilson and junior Stephanie Wessell need to improve their times in the 5,000 to climb up the NCAA ladder. Both runners are provisional qualifiers by more than 11 seconds. Wessell's personal best of 16:26.00 and Wilson's season best of 16:27.27 are more than 10 seconds off the automatic mark of 16:16.00. Wilson's PR is 16:17.58.

Stiff competition from past collegiate greats Annette Peters, Eryne Forbes, and Shelley Steely, could help both runners to improved times.

Peters and Forbes are former Ducks. Peters was the 1988 NCAA champion in the 5,000. Forbes finished second in the 10,000 in 1982 while grabbing third in the 5,000 that same year.

High jumper Laurel Roberts is another Duck looking to crack the NCAA barrier. The sophomore has cleared 5-1034 twice this season, good enough for a provisional spot, but has failed to leap over the 6-034 automatic height.

A pair of Smiths are making positive strides in the throwing events for the Ducks. Stephanie Smith has a toss of 163-4 in the discus to put her on the NCAA provisional list, but the mark is shy of the automatic distance of 172-3.

Jill Smith, the 1988 NCAA javelin champ, has been struggling back from an elbow injury incurred late in the 1989 season. Against Nebraska last week at Hayward Field, she threw a season-best 155-11. The mark is far from her PR of 187-7, but she is feeling better every outing.

Rosie Williams returned to action at last Saturday's meet, but the junior sprinter was obviously not at 100 percent. Williams, who had been undefeated in the 100 and 200 so far this season, broke her streak with a second place in the 200.

Williams suffered a strain of her right thigh nearly a month ago. Oregon's best sprinter in history has yet to qualify for the NCAAs, and with the injury layoff, it could be difficult to get her times down to the necessary standards.

Junior Kamala Kohlmeier is another Duck who has fallen under the injury category. In winning the 100 hurdles last week, Kohlmeier hit her ankle on a hurdle, causing a large bruise to form.

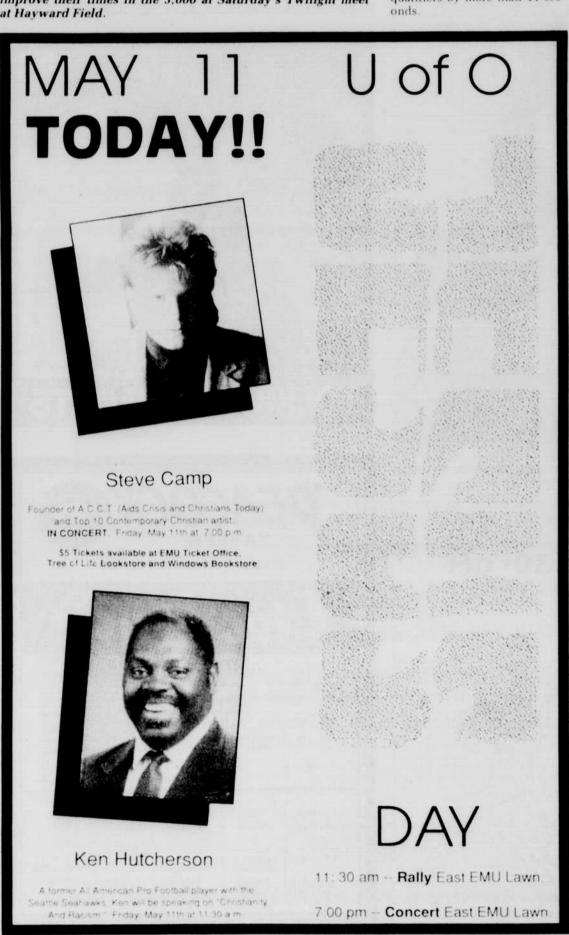
With the Pac-10 heptathlon set to begin Monday in Seattle at Husky Stadium, the all-around athlete's health is of great concern. If Kohlmeier could perform well in Seattle, along with freshman teammate Kelly Blair, the Ducks would have a good foothold on point for the Pac-10 meet.

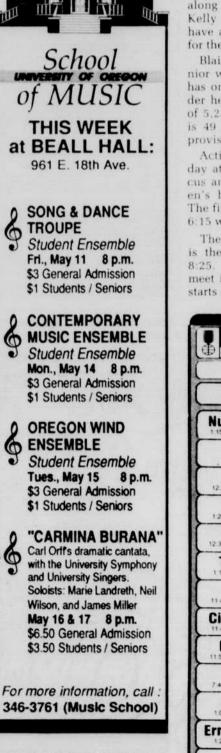
Blair, the two-time TAC junior winner in the heptathlon, has only one collegiate try under her belt. Her personal best of 5.231 set as a high schooler is 49 points below the NCAA provisional mark of 5,270.

Action gets under way Saturday at 5:30 p.m. with the discus and long jump. The women's high jump follows at 6. The first running event starts at 6:15 with the 100-hurdles.

The last event for the women is the 5,000 which begins at 8:25. The final event of the meet is the men's 1,500 which starts at 8:45.







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