

Peterson hopes for 1,500 win Seeks to makeup for past misfortunes

By Ashley Conklin
Emerald Sports Reporter

Eric Peterson is taking nothing for granted Sunday afternoon.

When Peterson toes the line for the start of the 1,500-meter final at the Pacific-10 Conference track meet in Seattle, he will be seeking his first-ever Pac-10 title.

For the Oregon senior who has had a standout career with the Ducks, a Pac-10 title might not seem like a big thing.

But Peterson has never had a good showing at the conference championships.

In his redshirt freshman year, Peterson finished sixth in the 1,500 meters but failed to advance to the finals his sophomore season.

Last year, Peterson finished a non-scoring seventh in the 1,500. He did place sixth in the 800, but it still wasn't the kind of meet he hoped for.

So on Sunday, when the 1,500 begins, Peterson doesn't plan to let the race develop into a slow tactical race like distance events usually are in the Pac-10 meet.

"The guys that have the good times have to take responsibility for the race if it's going to be

a fast race," Peterson said. "If it ends up like in the past then there's no fun. Then anybody can move out and make it a kicker's race."

And as in past conference 1,500s, Peterson will once again be one of the top entries.

Peterson owns the second-fastest time in the Pac-10 this season at 3:44.06. Stanford's Bill Crowley has run 3:41.32, while Arizona's Gary Cobb has turned in a 3:44.72 clocking this season. Those three are favored for the top three spots and the only ones expected to win the event.

"I certainly expect Crowley to be my number one opposition," Peterson said. "But if the race goes slow, around 3:47, everybody can be in a position to win and I don't want that to happen."

Not only is Peterson one of the favorites for the 1,500, but the Ducks are the favorites in the team race, and Peterson knows a lot is riding on his performance.

"It's important for the team that we get every person to score some points," he said. "With the limited number of people being allowed to compete you can't have someone like me sticking a knife to the

throat when you're expected to score."

Head track coach Bill Dellinger agreed.

"In order to win the meet we have to score a lot of points in the distance events," he said. "We need to score some points in the 1,500 by having Eric far up there."

While Peterson and Dellinger hope past Pac-10 performances are history, Peterson's career on the track for Oregon would seem to indicate he'll be ready Sunday.

Peterson redshirted his first year as a Duck, but improved his personal record in the 1,500 by six seconds in his first meet that redshirt year. Since then Dellinger has called on Peterson in every dual meet to run either the 800, 1,500, or as he did once last year, the steeplechase.

Dependability is a Peterson trademark.

"Eric has been a good man to have on the team," Dellinger said. "He's a guy you can always count on."

At no other time in his career has Peterson been as important to Oregon as this season.

The Ducks looked to have

Turn to PETERSON, Page 9

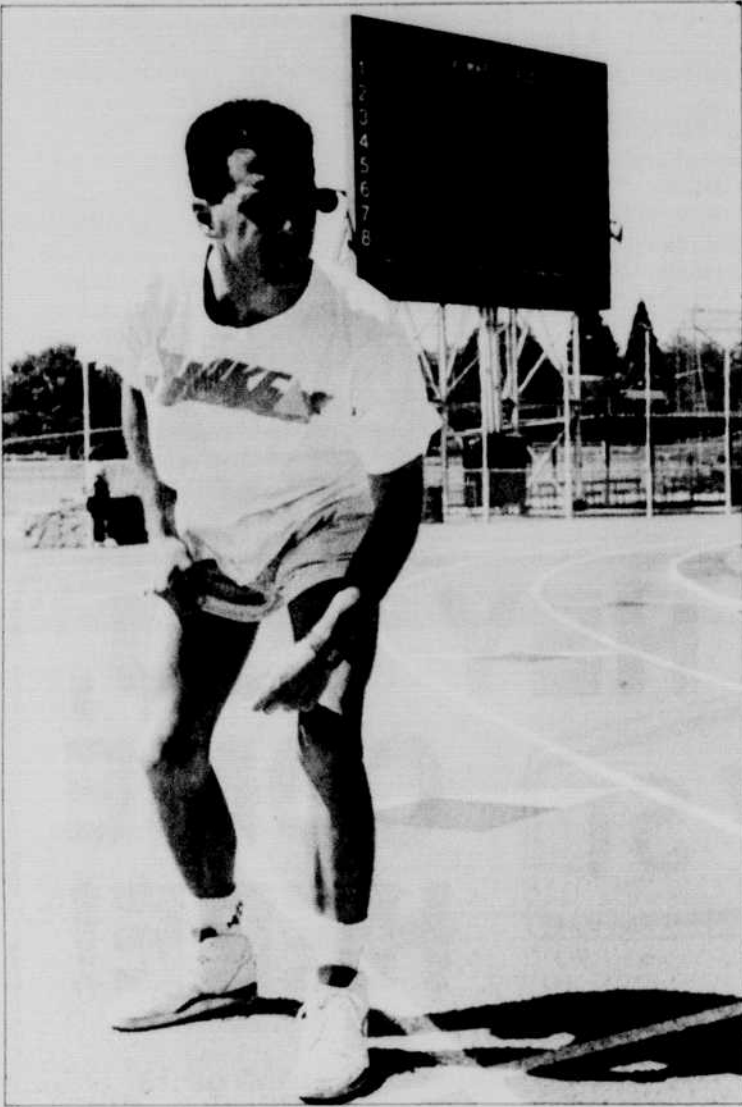
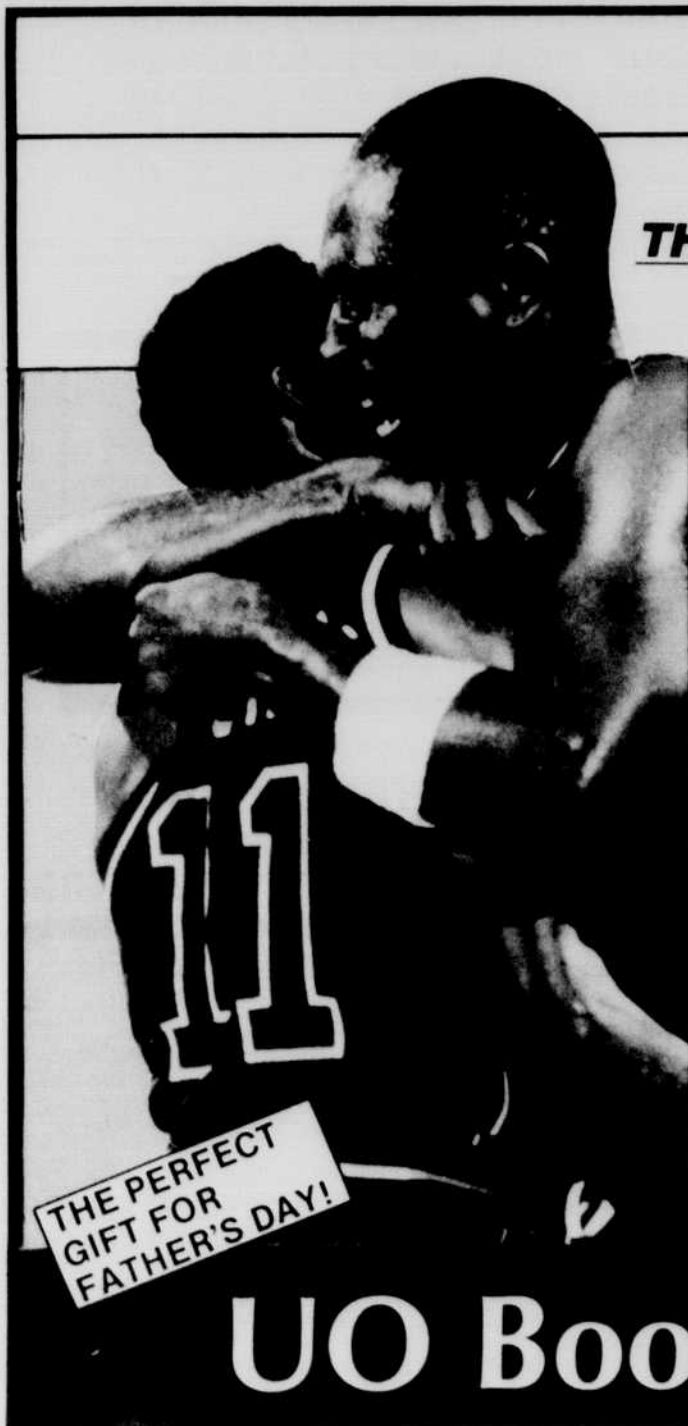


Photo by Martin Thiel

Oregon's Eric Peterson hopes to end a string of bad luck at the Pac-10 Conference meet this weekend with a win in the 1,500.



THE PERFECT GIFT FOR FATHER'S DAY!

UO Bookstore

13th & Kincaid
M-F 7:30-6:00
SAT 10:00-6:00
346-4331

Book Signing

THE FRANCHISE BY CAMERON STAUTH

SATURDAY, MAY 19
1:00 - 2:00 P.M.
GENERAL BOOK DEPT.

In the fall of 1988, General Manager Jack McCloskey of the Detroit Pistons extended an unprecedented offer to Cameron Stauth; to live at the heart to the NBA's hottest and most controversial team—to be in on every game, every practice, every scouting trip, and every key decision on the path to victory.

Stauth's mission was to find out—from inside the front office and the locker room—what makes a franchise tick; trades, draft choices, recruitment, drugs, million-dollar salaries. He found out how a team's "chemistry" is constructed, how coaches control the ego battles that rip teams apart, how players create courage from despair. Man by man, play by play, he found out how a winner is built.

In the eye of the storm, Stauth brings alive pro sports in a way that's never been done before. Players are shown as they really are, rather than the way they're presented in newspapers, television, and standard sports biographies. The action of the games—and even practices—is fully rendered, in all its brutality, violence, grace, courage, and selfishness.

The Franchise is the sort of book that can happen only when an extraordinary writer finds an extraordinary opportunity. It vividly brings to life every fan's dream: to run a team and build a champion—perhaps even a dynasty.

HARDCOVER 19.95

ROSES
\$7.99 DOZ.

Also available arranged in a vase with fern & babies breath
\$17.99 Doz.

In the Parking Structure
by Sacred Heart on 13th St.

Phone orders welcome • Delivery Available

Dandelions
FLOWERS AND GIFTS
UNIVERSITY • 607 E. 13th • 485-1992
WEST • 1710 CHAMBERS • 485-1261

**SPRINGFIELD
SCIENTIFIC
SUPPLY**

Hours:
Mon.-Sat.
10am-6pm

726-9176
1124 Main St.
Springfield

★ WUNDERLAND ★
GREAT FOR PARTIES AND BIRTHDAYS
5¢ VIDEO GAMES ALL GAMES WORK WITH NICKELS
ADMISSION \$1.50
5TH STREET PUBLIC MARKET
EUGENE • 683-8464