

## TITLE

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Oregon Twilight)," he said. "I told the coaches that I hoped they didn't go by that because it was really miserable that day and I'd been jumping pretty well before that."

When it came to finding big-time performers, the Ducks had plenty, but two of the biggest were Danny Lopez and Latin Berry.

Lopez won the 3,000-meter steeplechase on Saturday, beating last year's winner, Washington State's Marty Stroschein, after beating the Cougar over the final steeplechase barrier.

Two hours later he came back to try to qualify for the 800-meter finals. Although he failed, he showed plenty of determination by coming back and placing second to Washington State's E.J. Guo in the 5,000 meters Sunday. Guo had been beaten Saturday by Oregon's Peter Fonseca in the 10,000 meters.

It wasn't a case where Lopez had to come back and run the 5,000 because Oregon had the team title in the bag by then. However, Lopez wanted to run.

"A lot of it had to do with a talk I had with my coach," Lopez said. "We thought I could place in the top four and if I could do that then it showed I would have a good chance to win the steeplechase at nationals."

"It wasn't for the team or trying to get points, it was for personal gain," he added.

Berry, meanwhile, was suffering from a season of injuries and time constraints between track, school, and the Los Angeles Rams mini-camp, which he flew to after the meet.

But Saturday Berry was thinking about defending his two straight long jump titles and succeeded when he jumped 26-2 1/4 on his second jump. The mark broke the NCAA automatic standard of 26-1 and gave Berry a season's best.

"It's been a real frustrating season," Berry said, "and it's just been focusing on things. Getting 26 today was like getting a PR."

There was no doubt in Berry's mind which title means more.

"This one, the final one, meant more than any of the others," he said.

Dellinger for one didn't doubt Berry's abilities to come through in the clutch.

"You don't sell Latin short," Dellinger said. "When the chips are down Latin comes through and that's the kind of guy you want on your team."

On Sunday Berry came back to add whatever help he could in the triple jump, finishing fourth with a jump of 50-10 1/4.

The biggest performance from a Duck in the triple jump came from Spencer Williams who had a wind-aided jump of 53-11 1/4 on his first attempt to better the NCAA automatic standard of 53-3 3/4.

The most startling thing about Williams' runner-up performance to California's Mike Harris wasn't the distance on his first jump, but his consistency. Williams' other jumps measured 53-3, 53-4, 53-8 and 52-10 1/4.

"I was happy I qualified and got it," said Williams, who was fourth in the NCAA meet a year ago. "I didn't feel I jumped the

best I have all season, but I was pleased with how I jumped. It wasn't a winner, but it got me there (to the NCAA meet)."

But the biggest question was what Williams might have done had he not scratched on his second jump.

"I know I had one jump that was a high 54 (feet) and maybe a low 55 (feet)," he said.

Two other Oregon athletes came up with second place performances Sunday with Eric Peterson taking runner-up in the 1,500 meters and Brian Wright second in the 400 hurdles.

Peterson had his highest Pac-10 finish ever with his 3:48.39 performance in the 1,500 while Wright repeated his second place showing of a year ago when he crossed the finish line in 51.49.

Although Peterson's second place showing did redeem him from past Pac-10 misfortunes, he was shooting for only one thing.

"I wanted to win and you come here for that one reason," he said. "Time goes out the window and all you try to do is win."

"In the past I've had really bad races here, but I've only lost one 1,500-meter race this season," Peterson said. "I thought I could run anyway I wanted to and still win. I'm going to have to change my way of thinking in the future."

After the Ducks were beaten in dual meet by Washington to start the season, Dellinger couldn't have asked for more than to comeback and win the Pac-10 title in Husky Stadium.

"It was nice to come back and win here," he said. "It's a much better feeling than last time."

## WOMEN

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automatic standard of 173-11.

"I feel pretty good to put it mildly," Berry said. "I figured I'd make NCAAs on the provisional list because my old mark is in the top 10 (in the college ranks). It's my first PR since high school."

Heinonen was also quite pleased, to put it mildly, about Berry's performance.

"Paula started us off great," he said. "That's a real team breakthrough for her yesterday."

Berry beat defending Pac-10 champ Ashley Selman of USC and Oregon teammate Kim Hyatt. Selman finished second with a throw of 176-2 and Hyatt was third with a toss of 175-3.

"Having her (Selman) and my own teammate there, it's like competing in nationals," Berry said. "I was pretty nervous out there, but everybody has their day and today was mine."

On Sunday, Wilson and Wessell were expected to lead a 1-2 Oregon sweep in the 5,000, but fatigue took over and California's Sabrina Han took the lead on the last lap to win.

Wilson finished second in 16:31.50 and Wessell was third in 16:42.42.

On fire was what sprinter Rosie Williams looked like, despite running into a headwind in both the 100 and 200-meter dashes.

After suffering a mid-season hamstring injury, it was doubtful how Williams would be able to respond at the Pac-10 meet.

But the school record-holder in both the 100 and 200 meters looked like her old self. She finished third in the 100 in 12.38 despite the wind and then came back to finish third in the 200 in 23.60.

"I'm really proud of Rosie," Heinonen said, "because she had some physical and mental things to overcome after getting hurt."

Another outstanding performance was turned in by sophomore Kim Hutson in the 800 meters.

Hutson surprised everyone, including herself, by kicking past USC's Shannon Clark on the final straight and finishing third in 2:10.05 into a stiff wind.

Heinonen for one was surprised at Hutson's performance.

"Kim said before the race that she was going to score big points and I told her I thought she was going to score," he said, "but she said she was going to score big and she did."

It wasn't a bad outing for someone who had ran only one 800 before enrolling at Oregon as a freshman last year.

"When it (the pace) goes too slow it feels pretty ugly but once I get to the pace I want, it was alright," Hutson said. "The only pressure on me I put on myself. I try to have fun but it took awhile."

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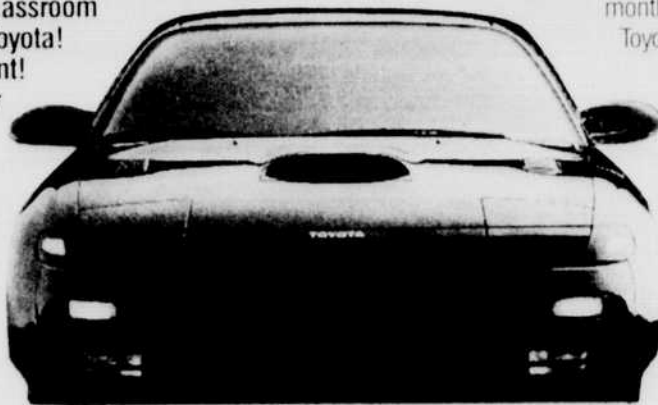
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