

Skipper fails to qualify for finals at NCAAs

Other Ducks do advance

By Ashley Conklin
Emerald Sports Reporter

The hopes the Oregon men's track team had of winning a national championship might have gone out the window Wednesday when Art Skipper failed to qualify for the final of the javelin.

The Ducks had counted on Skipper at least scoring in the javelin in Friday's finals, but Skipper had a best of only 221-10 Wednesday at the NCAA Championships at Durham, N.C.

Coming into the meet, Skipper had a best of 246-5 which was also the sixth-best throw in the NCAA this season. Skipper had been consistently over 230 feet this season and threw 231-9 at the Pacific-10 Conference meet two weeks ago to finish second.

Skipper finished 14th in Wednesday's qualifying trials with only the top 12 advancing to Friday's finals.

Other than Skipper, the Oregon men and women got through the first day of trials relatively unscathed.

Leading the way for the men were Rick Mestler and Danny Lopez in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

Mestler won the second heat

of the steeplechase in 8:46.77 while Lopez was fourth in the same heat in 8:48.46 to easily qualify for Friday's steeplechase final.

The top seven times in the second heat would have been good enough to win the first heat.

In the first heat of the steeplechase, Tye Van Schoiack ran 8:59.39, but failed to qualify for the finals.

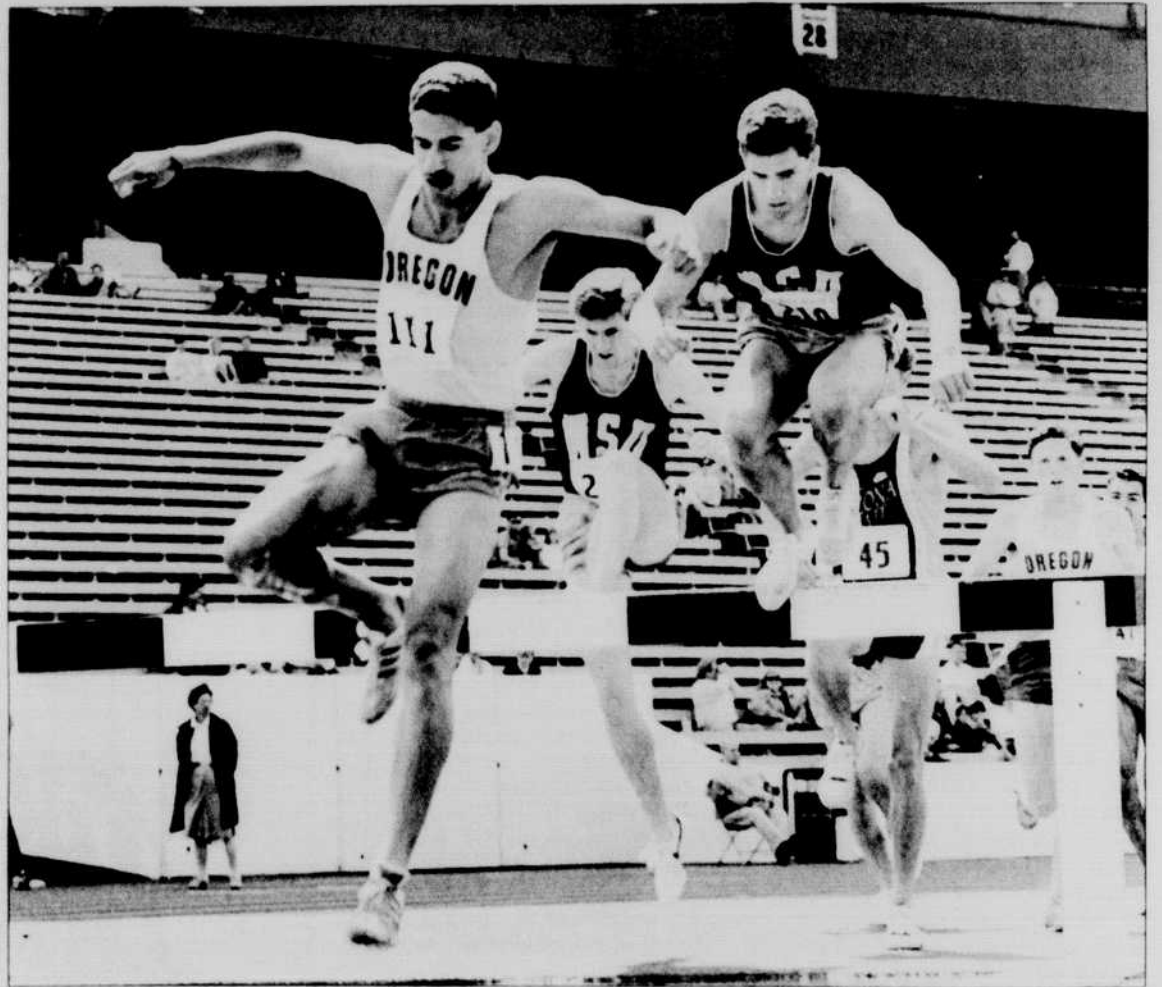
The heat and humidity of the East Coast is expected to give the distance runners problems throughout the meet, but on Wednesday conditions were "cool with a little wind," said a meet spokesman. "It was not hot or humid."

Temperatures were projected to be in the high 60s or low 70s on Wednesday, but are expected to rise throughout the rest of the meet.

Long jumper Latin Berry, seeking a third straight top six placing, won his flight of the long jump, leaping 25-4 1/4. Berry's mark was the sixth-best jump of the day.

Llewlynn Starks of Louisiana State had the top mark at 26-3 1/2.

Another Oregon athlete who



File photo

Oregon's Danny Lopez had the fourth-fastest time in the heats of Wednesday's 3,000-meter steeplechase at the NCAA meet in Durham, N.C. to easily qualify for Friday's finals. Teammate Rick Mestler had the day's fastest time in the event.

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