## Sports

# Cullen transferred to Eugene

By Ashley Conklin

Oregon pole vaulter Brian Cullen returned to Eugene late

Tuesday evening and is now in Sacred Heart General Hospital where he will undergo a lengthy rehabilitation process to repair his left knee.

Cullen spent most of the last week at Saint Agnes Medical Center in Fresno, Calif., after seriously injuring his left knee at the Taco Bell track meet at Fresno State last Thursday in an attempt to qualify for the NCAA meet. Cullen's injury may be career ending.

After injuring his knee, Cullen underwent four hours of vascular surgery late Thursday evening and was resting afterward while doctors were trying to determine if he would need further surgery.

On Tuesday, Cullen was transferred to Eugene, but doctors still don't know if further surgery will be needed on what has officially been described as a dislocated left knee.

The Oregon Sports Information Office, which is handling all interview and other media requests for Cullen, said that only family members are allowed to visit Cullen now.

After last Thursday's sur gery. Cullen is still under quite a bit of pain from the injury. said Dave Williford, assistant sports information director.

"He's sleeping during the day and awake at night with a lot of pain," Williford said.

Williford said more would be known in the next few days regarding any possible future surgery, but the rehabilitation process will indeed be a lengthy

'Right now the wound's initial portion has to heal," he said. "There are also some nerves and muscle tissue that is torn that needs to heal.

While Cullen stays in the hospital bed, his classes go on and with final examinations next week, Gary Gray, the athletic department's academic coordinator, has been in touch with all of Cullen's professors.

All of them had been officially notified last Friday that he was in the hospital." Gray said.

As Cullen's status in the hos pital is day-to-day. Gray said he really didn't know how certain professors would deal with Cullen's status, but said that incompletes in classes, to be made up later, were the likely

"It's up to each professor because some have policies where they don't give incompletes. but I'm not sure if there's very many of them," he said, "Each professor has their different learning procedures. It's really a class-by-class thing.

One thing that will help Cullen academically is that he is one of the top student-athletes on the track team. Cullen is an Honors College student at the University and is pursuing a double major in economics and mathematics.

Although injuries aren't something coaches, athletes, or fans like to see, it's enough of a commonality that Gray has dealt with the situation many times before.

"It's not something we like to see and it's an unfortunate situation, but it does happen, he said. "That's just the nature of athletics.

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