



Oregon's Brian Wright (48) finished fourth in the 400-meter hurdle finals at the NCAA Championships last weekend. Wright's time of 50.23 seconds was a personal best.

Fifth place finish for Oregon men at finals

By Ashley Conklin
Emerald Sports Reporter

Certainly the events that unfolded at the NCAA Track Championships this past week in Durham, N.C., weren't what Oregon men's coach Bill Delinger expected of his team.

The Ducks were considered one of the early contenders for the team crown, but when Art Skipper failed to make the javelin finals and Eric Peterson didn't make the finals of the 1,500-meter run, Oregon's chances grew slim.

But the biggest blow came Friday when Pedro daSilva withdrew from the decathlon competition because of a hamstring injury.

DaSilva, the NCAA runner-up last year, was considered

the favorite this year. Oregon was also banking on his 10 first-place points as a boost to its title hopes.

But daSilva pulled up in the decathlon's first event, the 100 meters, and from there the Ducks were out of the team race.

Oregon did finish in the top five, however, thanks to some outstanding performances from Scott McGee in the hammer, Brian Wright in the 400-meter hurdles and Danny Lopez and Rick Mestler in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

The Ducks scored 27 points to nab fifth while Louisiana State won its second straight NCAA team title with 44

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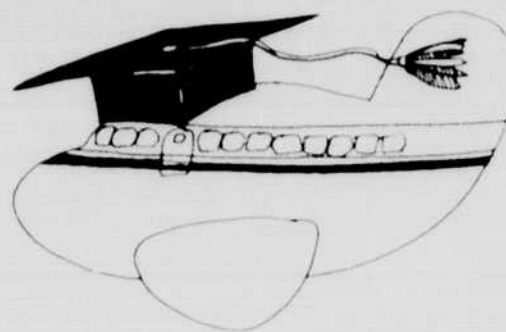


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