

SPORTS



Photo by Jeff Paslay

Oregon's Kim Hyatt is one of the best javelin throwers in the country but only the second-best at Oregon.

Hyatt part of Duck javelin strength

By Jake Berg
Emerald Sports Reporter

Kim Hyatt's goal is simple — win the Pacific-10 Conference javelin championship.

But second might be all right too, as long as it's to Oregon teammate Paula Berry.

"I'm going in it to win it," Hyatt said of this weekend's conference championships in Tempe, Ariz., "but if Paula's ahead of me, that's great too. As long as we get our 18 points" for first and second place.

On any other team, Hyatt would be the star javelin thrower, but at Oregon, she often takes second billing to Berry, the nation's top collegiate javelin thrower this season.

Berry and Hyatt, whose best throw ranks her fourth among collegiates this year, return to the Pac-10 meet Saturday after a first and third place finish at last year's championships.

The duo is undefeated together this season and would like to keep it that way.

"It's something that we kind of take pride in," said Hyatt, a junior. "Hopefully, we can keep it up for the rest of the season."

Their undefeated streak will face its greatest test at the Pac-10 Championships, though, as the conference features many of the country's top javelin throwers.

Arizona's Louise Perreault ranks second in the nation, and defending NCAA champion Ashley Selman of USC has the country's fifth-best collegiate throw this season.

Taking a break from competition last weekend may be the prime ingredient for Hyatt to overcome those foes and get a personal record at the Pac-10s, she said.

"I'm hoping that I'm ready for a PR now, with us taking the weekend off for some rest. I'm starting to get focused again," said Hyatt, whose 177-9 PR came last May in a dual meet with Nebraska.

Oregon throws coach Sally Harmon said she gave Hyatt the weekend off with the idea that she would improve for the Pac-10 meet.

"If Kim can move ahead with solid training," Harmon said, "it will ensure a better Pac-10 performance. Hopefully, the

next three weeks (before the NCAAs) will tell the tale of her improvement."

Improvement is, excuse the cliché, Hyatt's middle name.

Hyatt's athletic specialty in high school wasn't throwing the javelin. Instead, her prep

days saw her shooting her way to a Western Oregon State College basketball scholarship.

When health problems forced her to leave WOSC, Hyatt

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