

SPORTS

Ducks, others get last chance for NCAA marks

By Ashley Conklin
Emerald Sports Editor

It used to simply be called the Last Chance Open. Even with a name change, it's still the last chance to qualify for the NCAA Championships.

Known as the Les Steers Open this year, Thursday's 5 p.m. track meet at Hayward Field is set for the sole purpose of getting people qualified for next week's NCAA meet at the same venue.

With midnight tonight the official deadline for NCAA qualifiers, it's now or never for some of Oregon and the Northwest's top collegiate talent.

Fittingly, some of the best competition tonight should be in the distance

events.

Kentucky's Bob Whelan and Jim Kaiser will line-up in the 1,500 meters with Oregon's Shannon Lemora, Andy Maris and Alan Foster. Those five runners will all be going for the NCAA automatic standard of 3:41.50 with some help from local runners such as Mike Blackmore and Jim Hill.

Foster and Lemora have both provisionally qualified for the 1,500 via the Twilight Mile two weeks ago in the Oregon Twilight.

Oregon's Colin Dalton probably won't run the 1,500 as he'll go against Southern Florida's Chris Payne and Washington State's E.J. Guo in the 5,000 meters.

Oregon assistant coach John Gillespie

said Dalton could come back in the 1,500, but will run the 5,000 tonight because Dalton would rather run the 5,000 at the NCAAs.

Another distance race to keep an eye on is the 3,000-meter steeplechase, featuring Oregon's Tye Van Schoiack (8:44.62) and Clemson's David Wittman, who has run 8:47.58 this season. Both are provisional qualifiers, but are shooting for an automatic standard of 8:43.00.


Lemora is also looking to lower his personal record of 1:47.75 in the 800 in an attempt to go below the automatic standard of 1:47.50.

Other Ducks looking for automatic qualifying marks are the 4x100-meter re-

lay team of Devon Hosey, Michael McClendon, Bob Gray and Ronnie Harris. Gray in the 110-meter hurdles, Art Skipper in the javelin and Nick Anastassiades in the hammer.

Gray will go against teammate Muhammad Oliver and Washington's Dana Hall in the 110 hurdles and could possibly come back later in the 400-meter hurdles. The NCAA automatic times in both are 13.72 and 50.70, respectively.

Anastassiades will be aiming for the automatic qualifier of 205-1 in the hammer against a field that includes Oregon's Scott McGee and local throwers Mike Fritchman and Jim Driscoll. Anastassiades has a season-best and PR of 202-1.



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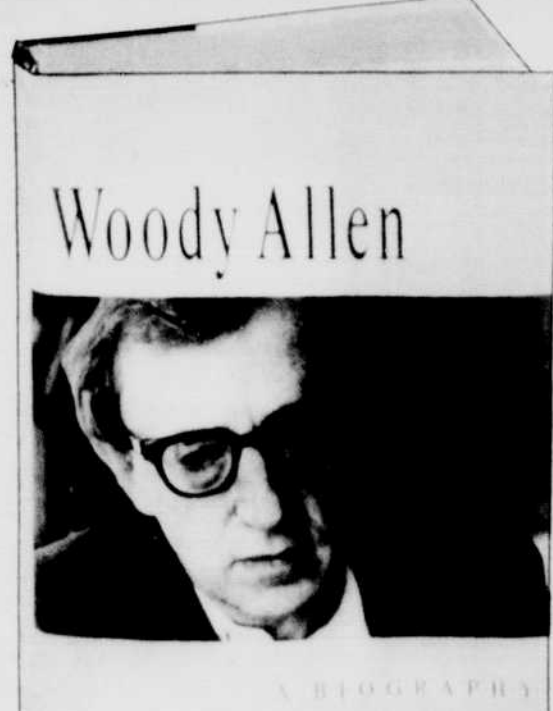
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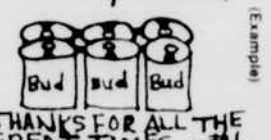
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