

## SPORTS

# LSU on track for another NCAA championship

By Jake Berg  
Emerald Sports Reporter

What could have been a great day for Camara Jones at the NCAA Track & Field Championships was wrecked by a car crash.

Jones, a freshman sprinter for Oregon, was involved in an automobile accident Wednesday morning, just hours before she would make her NCAA Championships debut in the 400-meter dash. No one was seriously injured in the wreck.

"It was pretty traumatic," Jones said of the accident, not the race. "It just kind of jolted me."

She finished last in a time of 55.35 in her preliminary heat but said the wreck probably hurt her more mentally in the race than the sore back she received from it. Jones' brother was killed in a car accident recently.

"I just ran a bad race, and that's all," she said. "Now I get to watch the superstars."

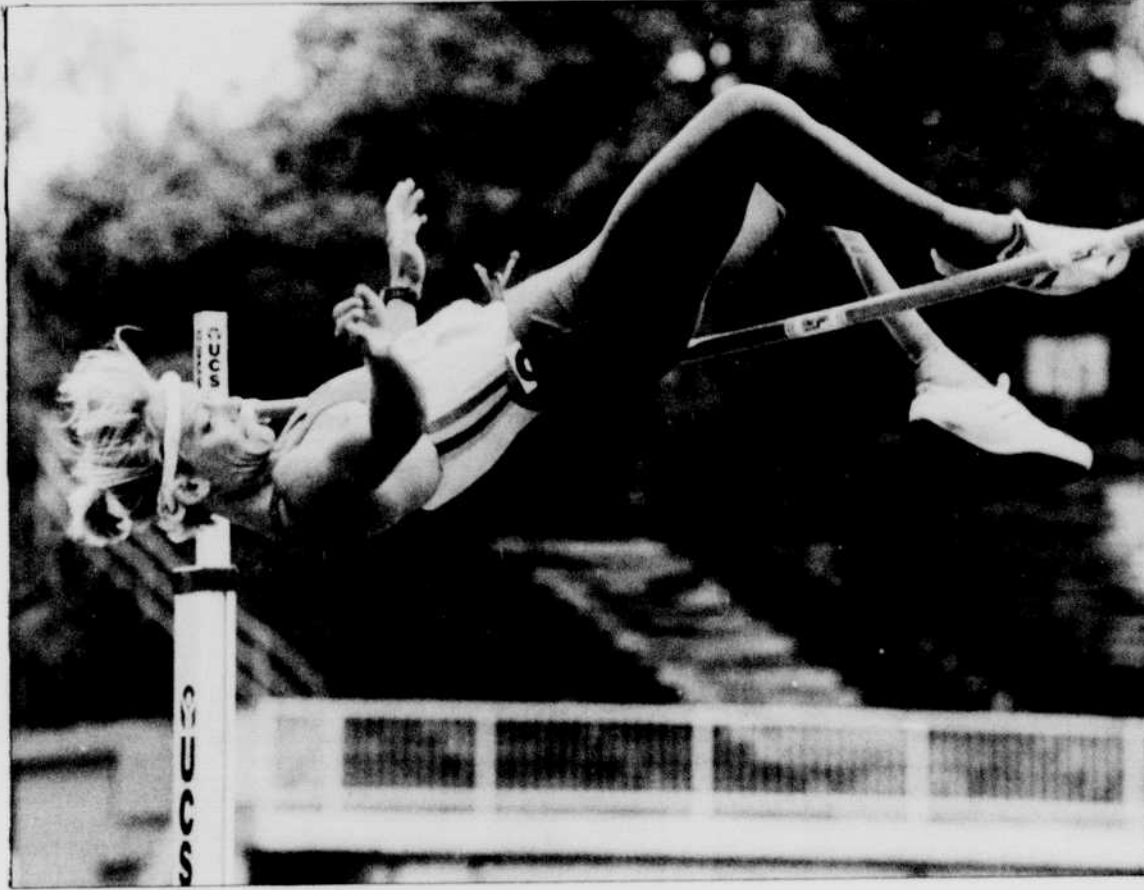
Oregon Coach Tom Heinonen found Jones' finish understandable because of the accident.

"Emotionally she was probably running on empty," Heinonen said. "You don't have a whole lot left after a car accident."

Arizona State's Maicel Malone, the defending national champion in the 400, ran the fastest time in all of the 400-meter heats. The Sun Devil sprinter ran against the wind and rain to a 51.42 finish.

In the heptathlon competition, Oregon sophomore Kelly Blair was 10th with 3,152 points after the opening four events Wednesday. The heptathlon concludes today with the long jump, javelin and 800-meter run.

"I felt I had an OK day, con-



LSU's Sharon Jaklofsky sails over the high jump bar to take the the first-day lead in the heptathlon.

Photo by Mark Ylen

sidering the weather conditions," Blair said. "I just want to finish well tomorrow."

Blair ran a 14.66 in the 100 hurdles, jumped 5-6½ in the high jump, put the shot 36-10½ and finished the 200 meters in 25.83.

"For Kelly getting the national championship experience as a sophomore is important," Heinonen said. "You just get better in the heptathlon."

Louisiana State's Sharon Jaklofsky is in first place in the heptathlon with 3,366 points and teammate Jovennie McDuffie sits in second place.

The Tigers' 4x100-meter re-

lay team also has the favored LSU team looking good after the first day. Despite less than ideal conditions for sprinting, the relay team ran to a time of 43.46 in a preliminary heat, the best time in the world this year and a Hayward Field record.

"It did (surprise us)," LSU 4x100 anchor Esther Jones said of getting the record in the rain. "We were a little skeptical because it rained when we first got out there."

LSU is trying to secure its fifth NCAA title in a row and is off to a good start on it, LSU Coach Pat Henry said.

"We've had a good day," Henry said. "We've done what

we thought we could do today. The conditions here are tough on the multi-event athletes."

High jumper Laurel Roberts, the only other Oregon competitor qualified for Wednesday's events, failed to clear the opening height of 5-9¼. Roberts said the wet conditions were somewhat distracting, but she was thrilled to be at the NCAA's in the first place.

"You look forward to having a nice day, but I'm really excited I made it in," Roberts said.

Roberts was, however, disappointed that the opening height of 5-9¼ was set higher than she was ready for.

"The whole mental thing at 5-9 is kind of a shock — you have to be more mentally prepared," Roberts said. "My approach and everything felt really good, but I don't think it came together real good."

Eight competitors qualified for the high jump finals by clearing 5-9¼, but eight more including Roberts didn't.

UCLA senior Janeene Vickers, a two-time defending NCAA champion in the 400 hurdles, finished with the fastest time of the 400 hurdle heats in 57.03.

"The coach wanted me to concentrate on the execution of the race," Vickers said. "It turned out well for me."

Another defending titleholder, Sonia O'Sullivan of Villanova, cruised to an easy win in her 3,000-meter preliminary. O'Sullivan finished the 3,000 in a 9:07.96 time.

"I'm not overly confident," O'Sullivan said of her chances at a repeat. "I'm just going to wait and see what happens."


Georgia freshman Ingrid Belz threw the discus 169-4 and George Mason's Diane Guthrie long jumped 21-3½ to lead all athletes in those two events.

Oregon fans may get their best look at top Oregon athletes this afternoon when javelin throwers Paula Berry and Kim Hyatt take center stage during the javelin qualifying throws at 5:30 p.m.

Berry's 202-1 javelin throw is the longest collegiate toss in the nation this season, and Hyatt has the nation's fourth-best collegiate throw.

Sally Harmon, the Oregon throws coach, believes the pair has the ability to take the top two places at the NCAA meet. She also thinks Berry could

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