

Blazers go mall-hopping for fun



From the Sidelines
Dave Charbonneau

Remember the days of having mom drop you and a buddy off at a mall? You wouldn't go into any stores, you just circled the place for one reason and one reason only:

To look for babes. Of course now, we college students go to the mall and look at all the little guys dressed up with their Raider jackets, baggy pants and tilted hats, and we know what they're doing. They're trying to impress the ladies, maybe get lucky with a phone number before the day is through.

But imagine if the mall was a hot hangout for us twenty-somethings on the weekends — not Guido's, not Taylor's, and not the party down the street.

"Jump in the car guys. We're goin' to Gateway tonight. I hear

it's ladies night. Let's party!!!!" Ridiculous, huh? Not to a few members of the Portland Trailblazers.

For a number of Blazers, the mall still seems to be a meat market.

Last week, between 2-6 members of the Blazers allegedly met some girls at a mall in Salt Lake City and invited them back to their hotel, where they allegedly had sex with two 16-year-old girls.

One girl claimed to have sex with four or five of Blazers, and the other said she had sex with three.

Whom they had sex with is still sketchy, but with all the talk and rumors about what happened that night, two things are certain: Portland players invited the girls up to their room, and sex did occur between the girls and at least a couple Portland players.

These guys play in the National Basketball Association, make easily six or seven-digit salaries a year, are members of one of the top teams in professional sports, are well in to their 20s and a couple are bor-

Can anyone really blame Drexler — an NBA all-star and former Olympian — for not wanting his name linked with a bunch of immature, juvenile excuses for professional athletes?

dering on 30. How hard up can these guys be?

I admit no Blazer is likely to be on the cover of *GQ* anytime soon, but 16-year-old run-aways?

Last week, Portland Trailblazer Clyde Drexler, whose name was on the Salt Lake City police report, asked that the police make it clear which Blazers were involved in the "sex scandal," with two 16-year-old girls.

Turn to **BLAZERS**, Page 8

Blair runs wild at indoor track meet

By Erick Studenicka
Emerald Sports Reporter

Oregon heptathlete Kelly Blair looked in mid-season form Friday when she captured the high jump title at the Eugene indoor track meet with a leap of 5 feet 9 inches, only one inch below the NCAA indoor championship meet qualifying standard.

Blair also set a meet record of 7.21 in the 55-meter hurdles in a qualifying race, but then failed to place in the final after she was disqualified for a false start. For good measure, she placed second in the long jump with a 19'1" effort.

Blair said that although she was near the NCAA indoor qualifying mark in the high jump, she was still concentrating primarily on the outdoor season.

"Indoor track lets us get our feet wet with some early season competition," Blair said. "I prefer outdoor track, but I do like jumping indoors as the conditions are usually better with no wind."

Oregon coach Tom Heinonen said that Blair, who redshirted last year after playing basketball for the Ducks, is performing well because she is concentrating on track this year and not playing basketball.

"Kelly is beginning to see that track and field is her sport. In her all-American season her freshman year, she didn't play basketball either," Heinonen said. "Looking at tonight's results, it's a great place for her to be this early in the season."

Blair's best event, the heptathlon, is a combination of seven different track and field events. The event is not contested during the indoor season, so Blair will have to wait until spring to see if she can better Camille Jampolsky's school record of 5516 points. Blair scored 5404 in 1991 and placed second in the Pacific-10 conference meet.

Another Oregon two-sport athlete, LaReina Woods, sprinted to a win in the 50 meter, clocking 6.5 seconds. Other Oregon winners included Michele Lanning in the 600 meter run, Lisa Bedwell in the 300 meter run, and Sara Hovell in the 50 meter hurdles.

In the men's events, it appeared that Oregon track alumni were using the meet as a reunion setting. Former Duck Mohammad Oliver, now a player on the Denver Bronco football team, won both the high and long jumps, and former Oregon half-miler Shannon Lemora was involved in the closest race of the evening, losing to law student Greg Whitely in the final stretch of the 1000 meter run.

Misfortune struck former Duck steeplechaser Danny Lopez in the 3000. Lopez finished first in a world class time of 8:00.7, but was then informed he had run one lap short of the true distance. Had he run one more lap, he would have certainly broken the legitimate meet record of 8:26.

Among current Oregon athletes, Erik Balstrom won the triple jump with a mark of 49 feet, 2 inches. Balstrom is a student from Sweden and is one of the top Scandinavian jumpers.

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