

Selman makes career out of gift

Erick Studenicka
Oregon Daily Emerald

Athletic equipment is a common Christmas gift. Who hasn't heard of children waking up to a baseball mitt, basketball or bicycle under their tree on Christmas morning?

But a javelin?

"When I was in sixth grade, my parents gave me a javelin for Christmas," said Oregon senior track athlete Ashley Selman. "I was like, 'What's this?'"

Since the sixth grade, Selman has become very familiar with the javelin. She is a three-time all-American in the event and was the NCAA champion in 1990 while competing for USC. Last weekend, Selman became the second Oregon athlete to qualify for the NCAA meet by throwing a 181-7 against Washington State.

If Selman can win the NCAA championship for the Ducks this season, she will become the first athlete in NCAA history to win two individual titles for two different schools.

Selman said changes in the USC track program caused her to transfer to Oregon.

"After I won in 1990, my coach, Mike Bailey, stopped being the throws coach," Selman said. "I had to make the choice of whether to train by myself with him or to train with the new coach. I chose to train by myself,

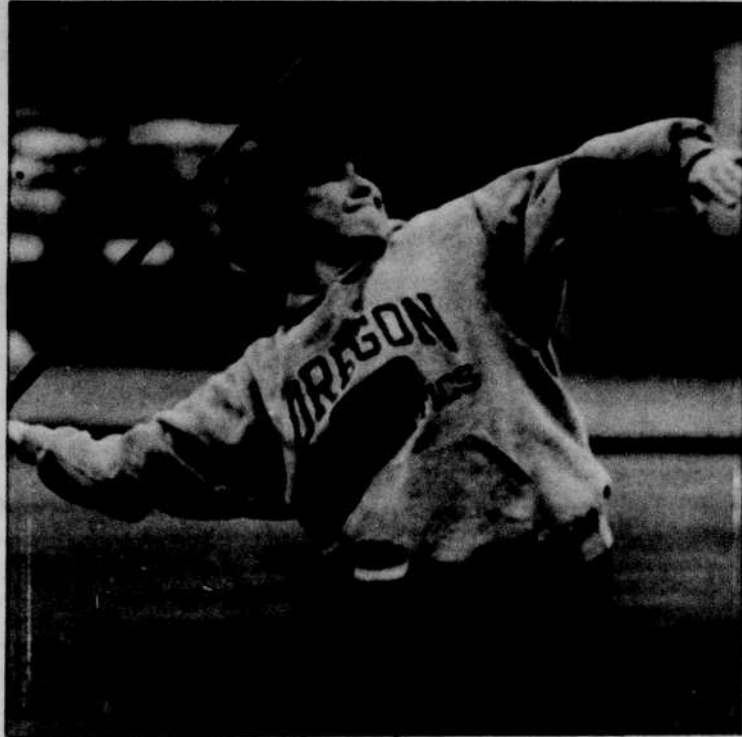


Photo by Anthony Forney
Oregon javelin thrower Ashley Selman is going after her second NCAA championship this year.

but I got frustrated and had a bad season."

Selman then took a year off of school with the intentions of returning to USC, but after being introduced to Eugene by former Oregon javelin throwers Paula Berry and Kim Hyatt, she

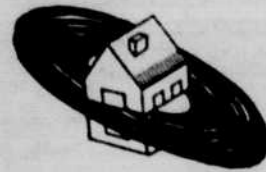
enrolled at Oregon.

"I liked it better up here," Selman said. "There was a fun group to train with and I liked living in Eugene."

Selman said it took a while to adjust to the new surroundings

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