

Beck throws way into limelight

By Erick Studenicka
Oregon Daily Emerald

Track and field has its glamour events.

The 100-meter sprint. The 1,500-meter run. The long and high jumps.

And then there are the shot put and discus throw.

Although the throwing events may never win a popularity contest, Oregon shot putter and discus thrower Julie Beck is drawing attention to these events by quietly becoming one of top performers on the women's track team.

Beck recently qualified for the NCAA championships by throwing the discus 167-10, and she has been one of the leading point scorers for the Ducks this season by "doubling" (won both the shot and discus) in two dual meets and the Pepsi Invitational.

"Throwers get frustrated because we don't get recognized," Beck said. "It's hard sometimes knowing we're not going to be in the spotlight, but that's how it's always been with throwers. You just have to settle into your role on the team."

Perhaps no other single indi-

Turn to **BECK**, Page 16



Photo by Randy Theben

Oregon shot putter Julie Beck has already qualified for the NCAA Championships this season.

Men looking for qualifiers in Boise

By Dave Charbonneau
Oregon Daily Emerald

With the Pacific-10 Conference Championships a mere two weeks away, the Oregon men's track and field team will attempt to solidify its number of Pac-10 qualifiers at the Boise State Quadrangular Saturday in Boise, Idaho.

A few NCAA qualifiers wouldn't hurt either.

So far, the Ducks have 18 Pac-10 qualifiers in 11 different events, but have failed thus far to earn an automatic qualifying mark for the NCAA Championships. Derek Snelling is the only Oregon athlete to earn an NCAA provisional mark, with a 17-4 1/2 in the pole vault.

After an impressive team-championship performance at last weekend's Pepsi Invitational, the confidence level of the team as a whole could benefit the team this weekend.

In the distance races, three Ducks finally cracked Pac-10 standards. Scott Nicholas and Tracy Hollister (1,500) and Jason Humble (steeplechase) all ran season bests, giving Oregon some much needed competitors in the events that have become main-

stays in past years for the Ducks.

Nicholas had the most impressive performance, passing Washington State's Samuel Kibiri at the finish, setting a PR in the race.

"We (the distance runners) had been talking all week about how we hadn't won a race yet this season," Nicholas said. "I'm glad I was able to break that string."

Humble just missed his PR in the steeplechase, but he said it was by far his best race of the season. He had contemplated quitting the week before.

"I was really happy with the way I finished," he said. "After the way I ran today, I think I have a NCAA qualifier in me."

In the sprints, Ronnie Harris has qualified for the Pac-10s in the 100-, 200- and 400-meter events and could have a chance at an NCAA qualifying time in the 400, but he would have to run much faster than his current PR to do that.

LaVon Pierce has ran well for the past three weeks, earning Pac-10 marks in both the 100 and 200 and could add an additional qualifying mark

Turn to **BOISE**, Page 16

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