

Ducks get two titles, take fourth as team

By **Erick Studenicka**
Oregon Daily Emerald

If everything went right, the Oregon women's track team believed it could place within the top 10 at the NCAA Track and Field Championships in New Orleans.

Well, everything went right, and then some, as the Ducks placed fourth, scoring 35 team points and earning five All-American certificates.

Following Kelly Blair's example in the heptathlon, Ashley Selman won the Ducks' second individual title Friday with a career-best throw of 188-5. For Selman, it was her best series of throws ever, as five of her six throws were more than 180 feet.

Selman took the lead on her second throw with a 183-4 and then upped her lead with a 187-5 on her fifth throw. With the win, Selman became the first woman in NCAA history to win an individual track title at two different schools, as she won the javelin title in 1990 while a sophomore at USC.

In the past, Oregon distance runners had traditionally wilted in the heat and humidity when the championships were in the South, but this year was different as Erika Klein and Nicole Woodward were surprisingly competitive.

Klein took third in the final of the 1,500-meter run in a race that started slow and became a mass sprint for the finish. Klein covered the last 400 in 62 seconds to beat everyone except Wisconsin's Claire Eichner and

Georgetown's Aaronda Watson.

Woodward, who had competed in the 5,000 meters last year at the NCAA meet but chose to move down to the 3,000 because of the heat and humidity in New Orleans, went out with the leaders and hung on during the last lap to finish fourth.

"I did a lot of things this spring to get used to the heat, so it didn't bother me too much," Woodward said. "On the last lap I kind of died. I went out really hard with the leaders, and they're all used to running in the heat, and that caught up with me on the last lap."

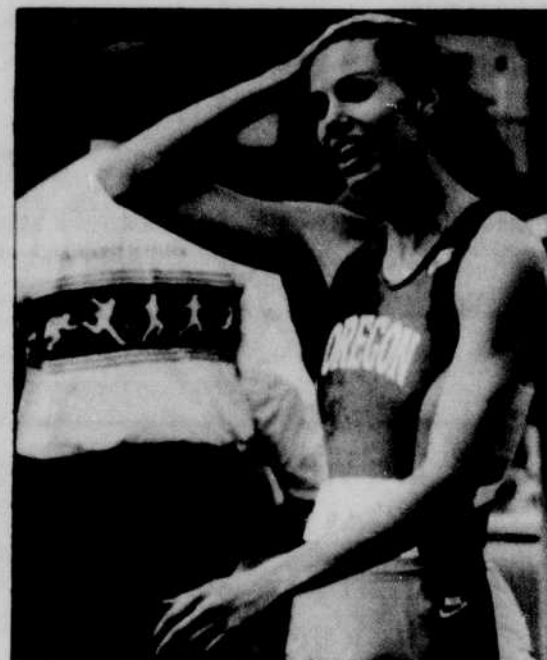
For Woodward, the fourth-place finish was a measure of redemption after finishing 10th in last year's meet.

"I feel a lot better after this race," Woodward said. "The fourth-place finish made me happy."

Camara Jones matched her finish of last year by placing fifth in the 400 meters with the time of 52.18. Jones' place was especially impressive considering she was running in lane eight.

Julie Beck competed in the shot put final Saturday, placing 12th with a throw of 47-3, nine feet off of the winning throw by UCLA's Dawn Dumble. It was the final throw in Beck's Oregon career, as she has announced she will be transferring to North Dakota next season.

The fourth-place finish was the team's best finish since 1988, when the squad placed third.



File photos
Ashley Selman and Kelly Blair (above) won titles in the javelin and heptathlon, and Camara Jones, Nicole Woodward and Erika Klein (below) all finished in the top five in their events to help the Ducks.



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