

Relay highlights track weekend

By Dave Charbonneau and
Scott Simonson
Oregon Daily Emerald

In a weekend of rain, snow and cold, the most impressive feat by the Oregon men's track team was outrunning Cyclones.

The Ducks beat local favorites Iowa State and won the 4x1,600-meter relay at the Drake Relays on Friday. The performance by the team of Rick Cantwell, Karl Keska, Scott Nicholas and Gordon Johnson was the highlight of Oregon's performance in the two-day competition in Des Moines, Iowa.

Oregon finished second to the Cyclones in the distance medley relay on Saturday. Oregon's Dusty Carlson, a Wyoming native, made the best of snowy conditions and placed eighth in the hammer throw.

Ray Livingston finished eighth in the pole vault. Both athletes placed with performances well below their career bests because of inclement weather.

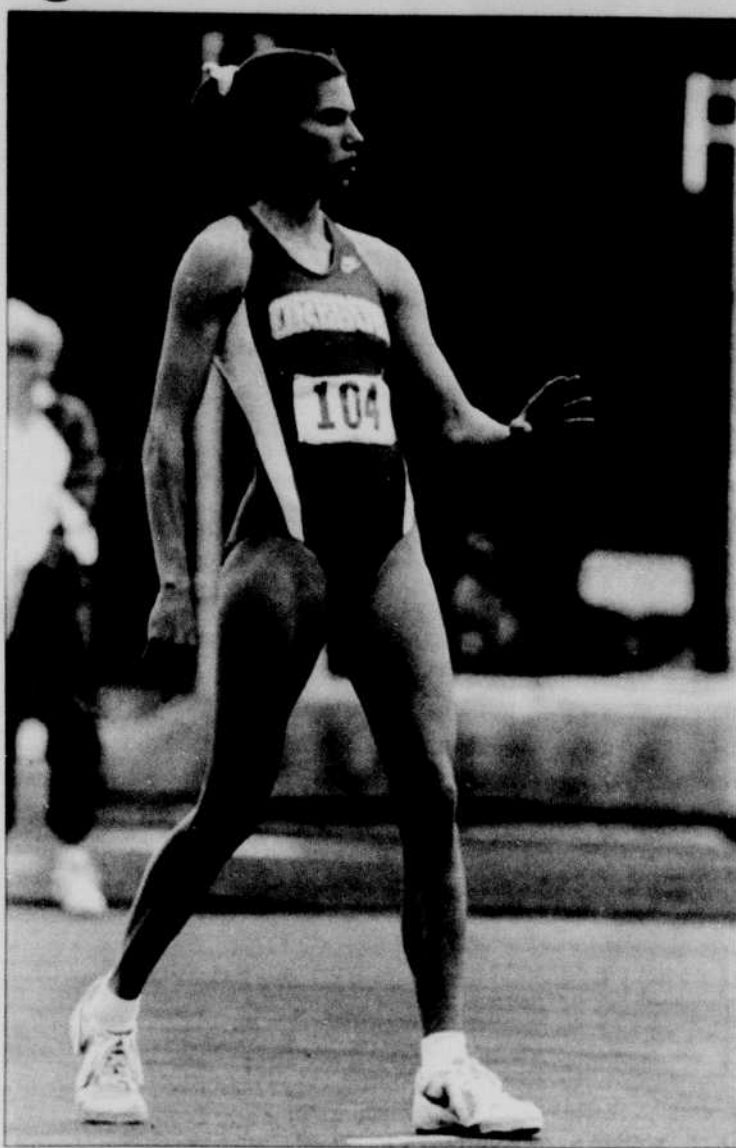
At the Penn Relays in Philadelphia, Oregon's sprinters qualified for Saturday's final in the college division of the 4x100 relay but did not place high in the final.

For the women's team, Oregon's Kelly Blair proved she was back to normal when she finished fourth in the 100-meter hurdles Saturday at the Drake Relays.

Blair also ran the third leg of the Ducks' third place 4x400-meter relay team.

Blair, who injured her foot a week ago at the Pepsi Invitational, also was scheduled to compete in the high jump and long jump, but opted to stick with the running events.

Oregon Freshman Christie Engesser finished ninth in the



Oregon's Kelly Blair was back to her old form this weekend, finishing well in two running events at the Drake Relays in Iowa.

800 with a time of 2:14.04, and freshman Milena Glusac decided not to run in the women's 1,500 after battling the flu all week.

The Ducks return home for a

meet at Hayward Field on Saturday. The women will compete against Boise State and Nevada-Las Vegas. The men face Boise State and arch-rival Washington State.

Softball splits a pair at Washington

The 10th-ranked Oregon softball team split with No. 13 Washington at the Husky Softball Stadium Saturday, losing the first game 4-3 in eight innings and winning the nightcap 4-1.

In the opener, Washington's Michelle Church hit a solo home run in the bottom of the second to give the Huskies the early lead. Washington added two more runs in the fifth inning when Jennifer Cline doubled in Mindy Wisktrom and Angie Marzetta.

The Ducks (32-16, 10-8) got all three of their runs in the top of the sixth inning when Washington starter Nancy Wagner gave up a single to Jennifer Piper and walked Heather Holte and Laura Schmidt to lead off the inning. Trina Salcido, Lisa Preston and Angie LeRoy hit consecutive singles to drive in the three runs.

After walking in the bottom of the eighth inning, Church scored the winning run when pinch-hitter Karen Shaull singled her home. Rachelle Taylor (18-13) took the loss for Oregon, giving up 10 hits and striking out five batters.

In the nightcap, the Ducks scored two runs in the second inning, giving Barbie Hickson (9-3) all the support she would need, as she scattered six hits — including four doubles — over seven innings for the win. Oregon had only four hits in the game, but three Husky errors helped Oregon's cause. Washington also stranded 11 runners in the game.

Preston was 3-for-7 for the day with a run and an RBI, while Salcido and Kathy Stahl each had two hits and a double in seven at-bats.

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