

Ducks led by Jones' fleet feet

Trevor Kearney
Oregon Daily Emerald

After two days of competition, Camara Jones heads the list of Oregon participants at the NCAA Championship track and field meet in Knoxville, Tenn.

On Thursday, Jones finished first in her semifinal heat in the 400-meter dash with a time of 52.66 seconds. Overall, Jones is tied for fourth heading into Saturday's final.

The women also got strong performances from its relay teams. On Wednesday, the women's 4x100 relay team placed fourth in its own heat and ninth overall in the semifinals with a time of 45.02 seconds. The women's 4x400 relay team then took fourth overall in Thursday's semifinals with a time of 3:33.11. The final for the short relay is today while the long relay final is Saturday.

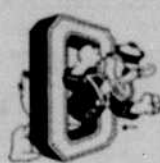
The Ducks' Kelsey Stellick placed ninth in the javelin on Wednesday with a throw of 159-05, while Jenna Carlson's 9:39.41 performance in the 3,000-meter run earned her 10th place overall. Carlson will look to pick up the pace in today's final.

For the men, freshman Pat Johnson took ninth overall in the 200-meter dash trials (20.82) and 12th overall in the 100-meter dash trials (10.41). Johnson will have to perform double-duty today as he is scheduled for the 100 semifinals two-hours before the start of the 200 semifinals.

Decathlete Ray Livingston finished the decathlon strong on Thursday — earning 7,628 points and fifth place — while teammate Kanon Vanderhoff finished in 15th place with 4,896 points.

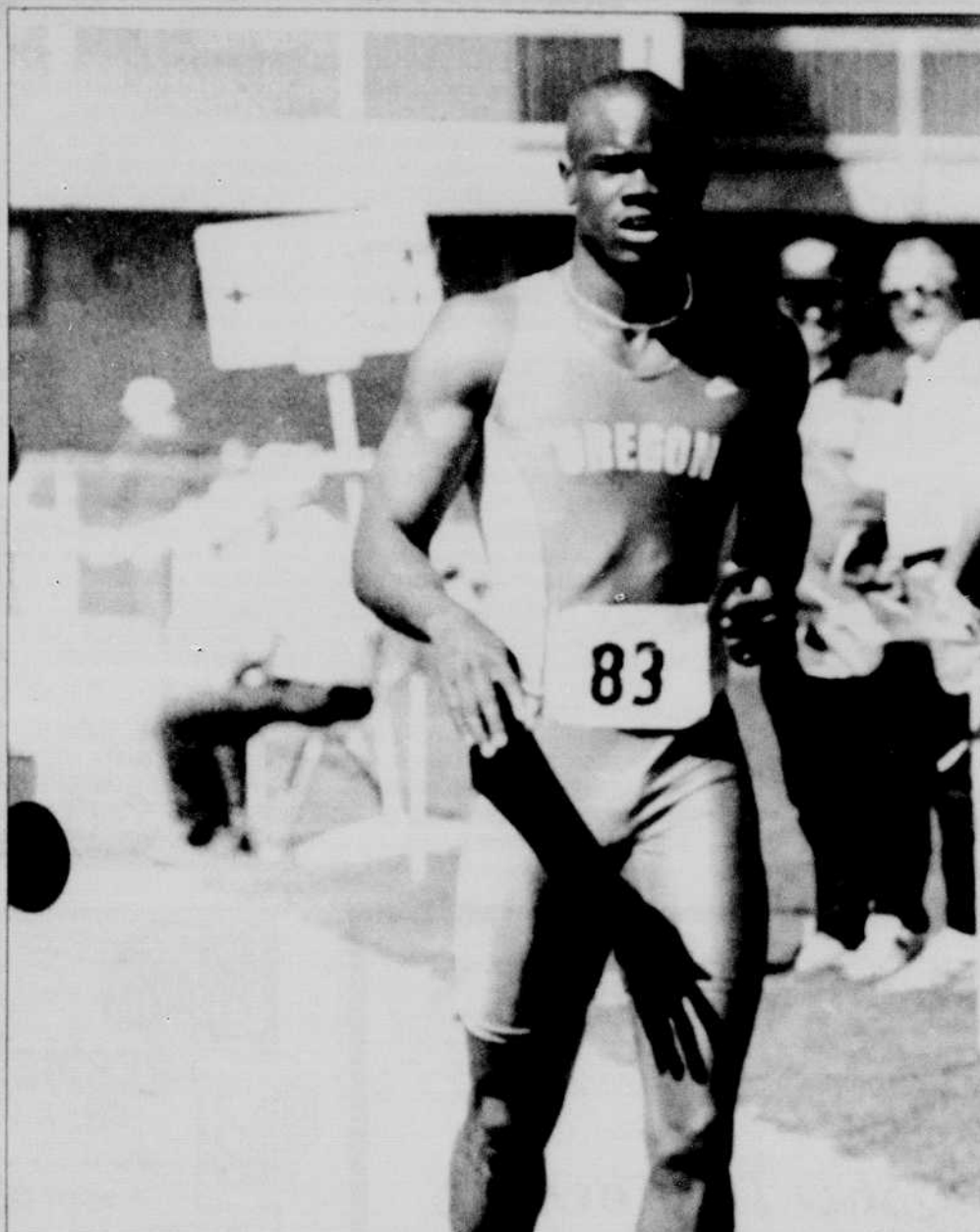
In the 1,500 semifinals on Thursday, Daniel Das Neves' 3:45.62 clocking was followed by Ben Andrews (3:52.89) and Karl Keska (3:56.85).

So far in team scoring, the men are tied with Stanford and Clemson for 23rd place, while the women have yet to score.



YEAR OF THE DUCK

PAT JOHNSON



In just his first collegiate track season, freshman Pat Johnson dominated almost every race he competed in.

Johnson, who is also a member of the Pacific-10 Conference champion football team, automatically qualified for the NCAA Championships in the 200-meter dash and 400-meter dash with times of 20.46 seconds and 45.57 seconds, respectively.

He then ran his best ever 100-meter dash at the Drake Relays with a time of 10.26, beating Carl Lewis in the process.

At the Pacific-10 Conference Championships in Tucson, Ariz., Johnson took first in the 400-meter dash with a time of 45.38 seconds. He then placed second behind UCLA's Ato Boldon in the 200-meter dash with a time of 20.44 seconds.

Wings take early lead in Western finals

DETROIT (AP) — It was Detroit's first overtime of the playoffs and the Red Wings wanted to pepper the Chicago goal with shots. It turned out just one was enough.

Nicklas Lidstrom's overtime goal 1:01 into the extra period powered the Red Wings to a 2-1 victory Thursday night in the opener of their Western Conference final series with the Blackhawks.

"We said before the overtime that we wanted to get as many shots on net as possible," Lidstrom said. "So, when we won the draw, Shawn (Burr) went to the net and I just took a shot. I thought it was going to hit Shawn's skate, but it didn't. And then I heard it hit the net. It was an unbelievable feeling."

It was Chicago's fifth overtime game during the playoffs, but the experience didn't help.

Lidstrom blasted a slap shot from just inside the blue line for his fourth goal of the playoffs. Chicago goaltender Ed Belfour was

screened on the shot. His reach for the puck was short and late as it buzzed into the net to set off yet another deluge of octopuses on the ice.

The slimy sea creature became a Detroit playoff tradition in the days of a six-team NHL when only eight wins were needed to clinch a Stanley Cup championship.

"You knew it was going to be a screen shot or a rebound, or something like that," Detroit coach Scotty Bowman said. "Because both defenses were playing much too well to give up a clean chance in overtime."

"It was a good shot. But we had a player in front, and he and the Chicago defenseman screened Belfour. He never had a chance."

It was the first overtime victory at home for the Red Wings since March 29, 1960 when they beat the Toronto Maple Leafs. The Red Wings had lost 10 straight overtime playoff games in between.

Game 2 will be played Sunday afternoon

at Joe Louis Arena before moving to to Chicago for Games 3 and 4.

Joe Murphy opened the scoring for Chicago. Keith Primeau tied it for Detroit.

The Blackhawks, who had converted just 4 of 48 previous power-play chances through the first two rounds, connected on their second try against the Red Wings. Murphy beat Mike Vernon from the left circle for his seventh playoff goal at 15:19 of the first period while Primeau was off for roughing Chris Chelios.

"It's tough. There's a lot of pressure on the home team to win the first game, and they weathered the storm," Chelios said. "That's to their credit. We've got to get a forecheck going, make them cough up the puck."

It was only the second time Detroit had trailed during the playoffs. The first was Game 4 of the first round when the Dallas Stars defeated the Red Wings 4-1. Detroit won that series in five games.

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Former Giants owner dies of cancer

JUPITER, Fla. (AP) — Tim Mara, former co-owner of the New York Giants, has died at the age of 59.

Mara, grandson of Giants' founder Timothy J. Mara, died of cancer on Wednesday at Jupiter Medical Center.

After his father died in 1965, Mara became co-owner of the Giants with his uncle Wellington Mara. The younger Mara sold his half of the franchise to Robert Tisch in March 1991.

Mara attended his first Giants' training camp when he was 6 years old, worked in various departments of the front office during his school years and joined the organization on a full-time basis after graduating from Iona College in 1957.

Oregon State replaces Hill with Montana State's Spoelstra

CORVALLIS (AP) — Montana State women's basketball coach Judi Spoelstra was named coach at Oregon State on Thursday.

Spoelstra, an Oregon State alumna, has been head coach at Montana State the past six years.

She succeeds Aki Hill, who resigned after Oregon State reported to the Pacific-10 Conference it had discovered some rule violations in the women's basketball program.

A report on the investigation is expected this month.

Hill was the Oregon State women's coach for 17 years, compiling a 274-206 record. She received a cash settlement and a new job at the university.

Skating Honors?

WORCESTER, Mass. (AP) — Nancy Kerrigan, Tonya Harding and Oksana Baiul were selected among the 25 most influential names in figure skating by International Figure Skating Magazine.

The members of the list were chosen for their influence on the sport during the 1994-1995 seasons.

Kerrigan was the victim of an attack with a metal baton at the 1994 U.S. Championships, an attack arranged by Harding's ex-husband. Harding wound up being suspended for her involvement, while Kerrigan went on to win a silver medal at the Lillehammer Olympics, behind Baiul of Ukraine.