

## Track Town not just pizza

**W**hen most Oregon students hear the phrase "Track Town," chances are the first thing they think of is the local pizza parlor.

Granted, pizza is a very important part of an undergraduate education; however, "Track Town" means a good deal more to people living in Eugene and in the surrounding community. Track Town, USA is an unofficial nickname for the city of Eugene, a name that reflects both the success of Oregon's track and field program and



the almost religious support the community shows for the team and its athletes.

In short, Eugene is a track town. Track fans in Eugene love to come out and support their beloved Ducks at Hayward Field, and they come out in droves to do so. The actual number of fans that turn out for a home track meet pales in comparison to a typical crowd at an Oregon football or basketball game, but the track fans are just as loyal and fanatical as their Autzen Stadium and McArthur Court counterparts.

Last weekend's event at Hayward Field is a good example of the undying support the Eugene community lavishes on the Oregon track team. The Ducks hosted the Oregon Invitational, a meet traditionally dominated by post-collegiate athletes looking to qualify for the National Track and Field Championships. The meet was not considered big for Oregon's men's or women's teams because it was not a team scoring meet, and only a handful of Oregon athletes competed in various events.

The importance of the meet and the lack of Oregon competitors did not drive the fans away. In fact, 3,499 track supporters braved the chilly, windy conditions to come out and cheer on the Ducks.

The fans at Hayward Field are knowledgeable track-and-field followers. They also don't come out just to sit on their hands — the fans are noisy and become a vital part of a meet as a whole. If a personal-record performance or an NCAA qualifying mark is announced, the fans are quick to stand up and let the competitors know they are paying attention.

Track Town supporters also have a good memory, and they were quick to show their support for the former Oregon stars that competed Saturday at the Oregon Invitational.

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JOE BRUMICK/EMERALD  
The Club Sports lacrosse team notched two strong performances this weekend at South Bank Field, including this 6-5 double-overtime victory over Whitman College on Saturday.

## Lacrosse team ends thrilling weekend with 21-0 victory

By Jason Lewis-Berry  
Freelance Sports Reporter

Oregon Club Sports men's lacrosse team assured itself a trip to the lacrosse playoff's final four with two victories last weekend.

The Ducks pulled out a 6-5 double-overtime victory over Whitman College on Saturday at the South Bank Field. Whitman was the defending league champion, but Jeff Erickson tossed in his third goal of the game in the second overtime to give the Ducks the win. Ben Myler added two goals for Oregon.

The Ducks followed Saturday's nail-biter with an old-fashioned whopping of the University of Puget Sound on Sunday. Everyone got into the offense as Oregon rolled to a 21-0 victory. Erickson scored five goals and dished out three assists. Schuyler Harrison picked up three goals and four assists

and Jerry Baglien scored three times and added two assists. Even defensemen got into the action, led by Dan Calvert's four goals. Matt O'Brien and Colby Paine scored the first goals of their careers in the rout.

This Sunday the Ducks battle Gonzaga at noon on South Bank Field.

## Oregon crew gets boost at Dexter Reservoir Regatta

Oregon Club Sports crew had a successful outing Saturday at the Dexter Reservoir Covered Bridge Regatta.

Although the final results are not yet available, crew coordinator Anne Williams said, "As a team we did really well and boosted our confidence."

Joining Oregon at the regatta were the University of Puget Sound, Seattle Pacific University, Lewis and Clark College and Willamette University. It was the biggest turnout for the Dexter regatta in the race's three-year history.

The regatta included more than 30 races, each 2,000 meters long. Both men and women competed in the races. "Everybody had strong finishes," Williams said.

## Miller recovering from reconstructive surgery

■ **NBA:** The Pacers' leading scorer will wear protective goggles when he does return

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indiana Pacers have four regular-season games to get ready for playing as many as two rounds of the NBA playoffs without Reggie Miller.

Doctors for Miller said Monday that he is progressing well a day after having surgery to reconstruct part of his right eye socket.

Miller, injured in Saturday's game against Detroit, was sched-

uled to be released from the hospital late Monday or Tuesday, depending on how he feels, team officials said.

Ophthalmologist John Abrams said Miller was suffering from double vision, which could take up to two months to completely clear. Miller is expected to be out for up to three weeks, including the start of the playoffs.

Miller had surgery Sunday night after he was injured in a collision with Detroit's Otis Thorpe and Allan Houston. Miller also suffered a mild concussion and a neck sprain in the collision.

Sunday's 30-minute operation

involved reconstructive surgery on the floor of Miller's right eye socket.

"He's doing very well, considering it's 12 hours after surgery," Abrams said. "His eye moves well in all directions. He still has double vision, and the muscle swelling looks good."

Doctors said Miller will have to rest at least a week before he can begin to work out. Once his vision clears, he would wear protective goggles while playing.

Meanwhile, the Pacers had little time to worry about life without their leading scorer and most popular player.

## Magic gets three-game suspension

■ **JOHNSON:** The Lakers' star gets a suspension and a fine for his first ejection since 1988

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP) — Magic Johnson, who recently criticized teammates for irresponsible behavior, was suspended for three games and fined \$10,000 Monday for bumping a referee in the Los Angeles Lakers' game a day earlier.

Johnson will sit out games at Dallas on Tuesday night, at San Antonio on Thursday night and at home against Minnesota on Saturday night. He will be eligible to play again in the regular-season finale at Portland on Sunday night.

"I accept the league's fine and suspension, and I want all the fans, the media, and everyone associated with the Lakers to know that my actions were unprofessional and wrong," Johnson said in a statement issued by the Lakers before he left for Dallas with the team.

"I apologize to Scott Foster, to all the NBA referees, and to the league, and I hope they know, as I do, that the incident was accidental and that I respect them in their professionalism in what is a very difficult job. Hopefully, other players will learn not to even put themselves in a position to make contact with a referee when arguing calls in the future."

"The important thing is for our players to learn from these mistakes and for us as a team to put this behind and get prepared for the playoffs."

Johnson's agent, Lon Rosen, said Johnson "just feels awful about the situation."

"Earvin called (NBA executive) Rod Thorn this morning to apologize about the incident," Rosen said.

Jerry West, the Lakers executive vice president of basketball operations, said as with the suspension of Nick Van Exel last week, "We agree with the league's decision 100 percent."

"These incidents are regrettable and have been a distraction from what I believe the fans really want to see — the basketball action on the court," West said.

Johnson also got an automatic \$1,000 fine for being ejected — his first ejection since Dec. 26, 1988 in Phoenix.

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**”**

— **Magic Johnson**  
Los Angeles Forward