

Livingston barely misses NCAA title

■ **NCAA MEN:** The Oregon decathlete almost captured Oregon's only individual championship

By Pete Schneider
Sports Reporter

In track and field's most grueling showcase of athletic talent, Ray Livingston experienced the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat on Saturday.

The Oregon senior experienced both emotions during the decathlon competition at the 1996 NCAA Track and Field Championships. After nine events and leading the 19-man field by 142 points, Livingston was in the driver's seat to win the 10-event contest going into the final event: the 1,500-meter run.

Livingston only had to finish the race within 22 seconds of then second-place Ross Bomben of California, but a cramp in his

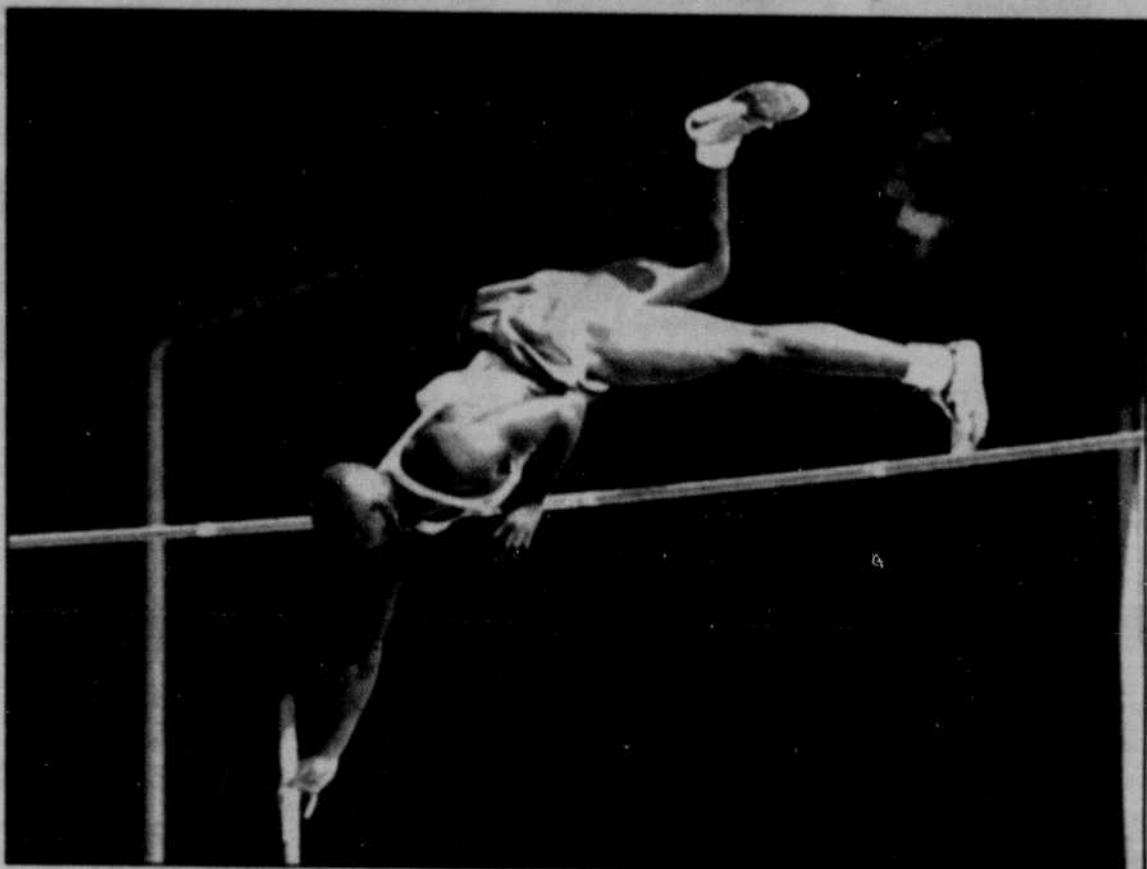
left leg forced him to a 5-minute, 23.82 second finish — 47 seconds behind Bomben.

The 10,268 in attendance at Hayward Field saw that there was something wrong when Livingston began running the 1,500 and quickly faded to the back of the pack. Even with most of Track Town on its feet, cheering him on loudly, Livingston finished dead last in the race and ended up fourth in the final decathlon standings.

"I just cramped up," Livingston said. He could only smile and shrug his shoulders after the national decathlon title slipped through his fingers. "I was basically running the last part of the race on one leg. I'm happy because I feel like I left it all out on the track today, and I still feel like this was my best track experience so far."

Livingston finished with a

Turn to NCAA MEN, Page 12



Senior Ray Livingston couldn't hold on to the decathlon title on Saturday, but set a meet decathlon record in the pole vault with a 17-05 performance.



Sophomore Milena Glusac finishes sixth in the 3,000-meter run on Friday. Glusac's performance was the Ducks' best at the meet.

Glusac top Duck at NCAA meet

■ **WOMEN:** The Oregon distance runner finished sixth in the 3,000-meter run on Wednesday

By Andrea De Young
Assistant Sports Editor

The 1996 NCAA Track and Field Championships are now inked into the history books, and the names of 14 Oregon women are written in as being part of the meet.

Although only two Ducks ended up on the awards podium throughout the weekend, the team qualified the largest number of athletes in the nation. Sophomore Milena Glusac was very impressed with Oregon's performances.

"I think the Ducks have done great," she said. "I'm so proud of everybody and what they have done. Everyone out here is a winner. The overall emphasis out here is on who wins. I think it's great that so many Oregon athletes were even here."

With so much attention focused on how the Ducks performed, it was easy to see why the meet was not perceived as a good one for the Oregon women. The team ended the weekend with only five points in the team standings, but there were still some spectacular performances.

Glusac was the top finisher for the Ducks. After finishing first in the semifinals of the 3,000-meter run Wednesday, she was set for the finals Friday night.

It was a different type of race than Oregon fans had seen Glusac run in the past. In the semifinals, Glusac decided that the pace was too slow and ran most of the race by herself in front of the pack. The pace was also slow in the finals, and when it eventually sped up, Glusac was caught off guard.

"It was a kickers race," she said. "I was surprised when it got faster. I had to turn it on with one lap to go."

When Glusac found herself being left behind with 400 meters to go, she quickened her pace and eventually passed several runners in order to finish sixth. Her time of 9-minutes,

Turn to OREGON, Page 12

LSU sprinters clinch Tigers' 10th-straight title

■ **CHAMPIONS:** D'Andre Hill, Zundra Feagin and Kim Carson won championship races

By Trevor Kearney
Sports Editor

Success has its price. Just ask D'Andre Hill and Zundra Feagin, senior sprinters for the NCAA women's track and field champion Louisiana State Tigers.

Sure, Hill won the 100-meter dash in 11.03 seconds, just below the old Hayward Field record of 11.08 and better than Feagin's second-place clocking of 11.20. And nearly a half hour later, it was Feagin's turn, as she notched a field record in the 200-meter dash with a 22.44-second performance, edging out the old record of 22.56 and Hill, who took second with a 22.49.

But mobbed with photographers and meet officials immediately after the 200, Hill and Feagin were rushed off to the awaiting media before getting a chance to take the customary victory jog around the track.

"We are going to celebrate tonight. We didn't even get to do our victory laps," Hill said Saturday.

"I was telling Dee, we have to take our victory laps — we didn't get to take our victory laps," Feagin added.

That's okay, though, because the Tigers' 10th-straight women's team title made up for it.

Coming into the fourth and final day of the NCAA Track and Field Championships on Saturday, LSU was behind by 10 points in the team race. But Saturday was

the time for the Tigers' big guns — their sprinters — to put the icing on the championship cake.

And they did. Kwajalein Butler added a fifth place finish in the 100 with an 11.41-second performance, and senior Kim Carson won the 100-meter hurdles in 12.82 seconds, tying a Hayward Field record.

But it was the 200 that clinched the victory. The Tigers swept the event, as sophomore Astia Walker took third in 22.80 seconds. All three performances were personal records.

But all hype about the streak aside, LSU coach Pat Henry was confident that his team could make the record books.

"Our girls were intent on being the team to win the 10th one," Henry said. "Coming into [Saturday] we held our destiny in our own hands."

But that in itself got to some Tigers.

"We were nervous getting into the van, we were nervous down in the warmup area. It was pre-meet jitters definitely, but we overcame it and we really did a great job today as a group," Hill said. "It is so nice to have it done. We can breathe now. We can relax and enjoy Oregon."

"I haven't slept the last four days. I have been so nervous; I have been shaking," Feagin said. "I am so happy to be through running. Coming to the track these four days, I could not sit down."

After her race, Carson donned an "LSU National Champions" T-shirt.



LSU sprinter Zundra Feagin edges out teammate D'Andre Hill in the 200-meter dash, giving the Tigers the team title.

"This is last year's," said Carson, about an hour and a half before the Tigers clinched the title, "but we have a new one for y'all this year."

And they broke those out at the awards ceremony after the meet — just before Hill, Feagin and the rest of the team took a long-awaited and much-deserved victory lap.