



ON THE TUBE
NBA Playoffs
Houston vs. Houston
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SPORTS

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PAC-10 CHAMPIONSHIPS

UO men capture fourth

■ **MEN:** Chris Nelson won his second consecutive Pac-10 Championship in the high jump this weekend in Seattle

By Alex Pond
Sports Reporter

Three of its top distance runners — Matthew Davis, Greg James and Oliver Wirz — were already sidelined with injuries coming in. Its top steeplechaser, Daniel Das Neves, struggled to a sixth-place finish. And Jody Mortimore, its top long jumper, injured a hamstring during warmups and pulled out of the competition after one attempt.

Yet the Oregon men's track and field team was able to scratch and claw its way to a fourth-place finish at the Pacific-10 Conference Championships in Seattle over the weekend with 93 points, just three points behind third-place Washington.

"I thought we did well," Oregon head coach Bill Dellinger said. "For this team it was quite an accomplishment to be [fourth]. I think they competed very well."

"Of course our two Pac-10 champions were the highlight, but there were a lot of PRs for our team in this meet."

Chris Nelson in the high jump and Piotr Buciarski in the pole vault were the two champions for the Ducks.

Nelson successfully defended the title he won last year by clearing 7-0 1/2 and defeating California's Greg Walker, who has the conference's best mark of the season at 7-4 1/2.

"It was a big deal," Nelson said. "It's my senior year, and this is my last meet with the team. It feels awesome."

After Walker cleared 6-10 3/4, he missed his first attempt at 7-0 1/2 then moved the bar up hoping to surpass Nelson.

"He decided to go to 7-2, thinking that I might miss 7-2, he'd make it and win the competition," Nelson said.

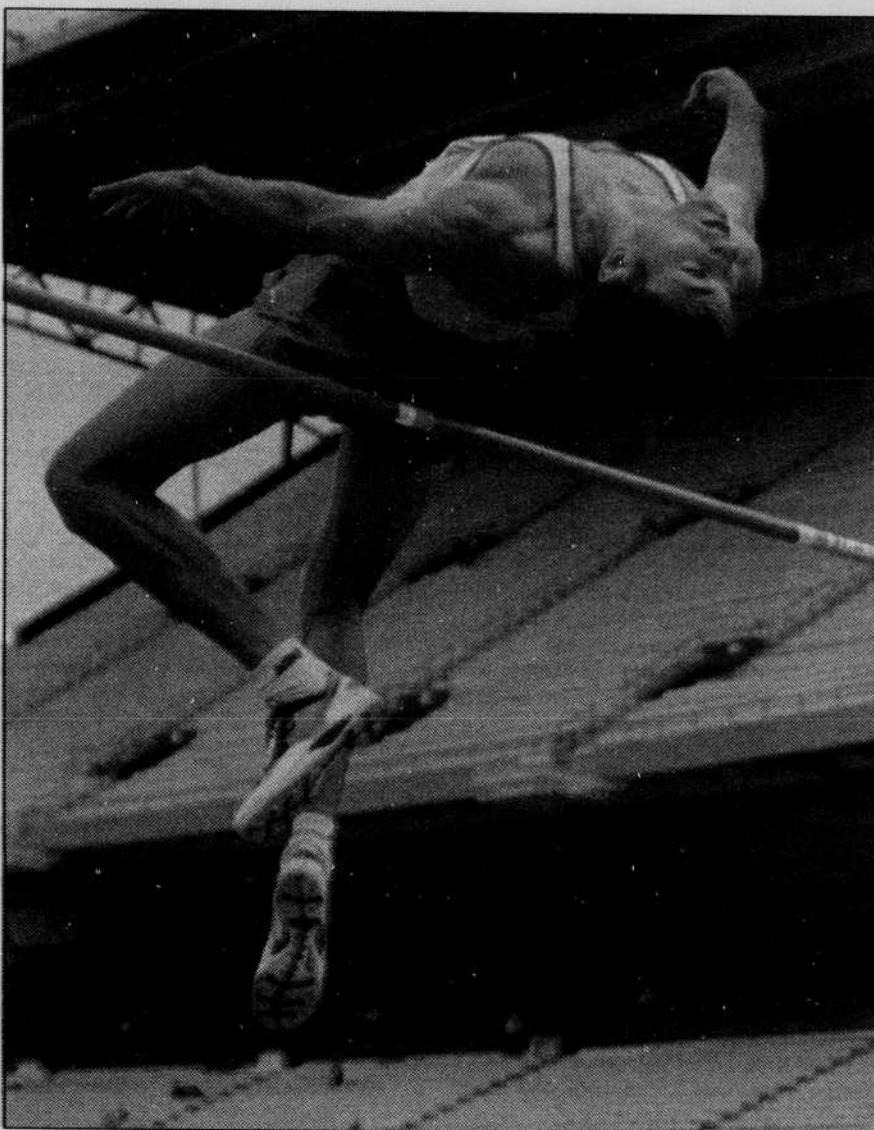
However, that plan backfired. Walker missed his two attempts at that height and Nelson had the title wrapped up.

"I've been nursing a sore calf, and I really had my doubts coming into the competition today, so my goal was just to win," he said.

In the pole vault, Buciarski not only had to battle the talented field but also the tricky wind at Husky stadium.

He successfully conquered them both with a jump of 17-8 1/2, which matched his season best.

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Oregon's Chris Nelson (top) won his second straight Pac-10 high jump title, while Micah Davis (left) clears the water barrier on his way to a third-place finish in the steeplechase.

Photos by
Chad Patteson

Ducks earn highest finish in history

■ **GOLF:** The Oregon women's golf team shot a final-round 298 to finish in seventh place at the NCAA Championships in Ohio

By Ryan Frank
Sports Editor

The Oregon women's golf team was hoping to make some noise this year, and with their showing at the NCAA Championships last weekend, they did just that.

The Ducks shot a four-round total of 1200 to take seventh place at the NCAA Championships in Columbus, Ohio, 22 strokes behind champion Arizona State.

With their seventh-place finish, the Ducks met their goal going into the tournament of earning the highest finish in school history. Oregon's previous best finish was 13th in 1995.

"I'm very excited for my team," Oregon head coach Renee Baumgartner said. "They worked so hard all year. We really accomplished all the goals we set out to accomplish."

The Ducks shot a 297 in the third round on Friday to stay in sixth place, but Tennessee shot a final-round 293 Saturday to jump past the Ducks into fifth place.

Arizona State took the team title by two strokes over San Jose State by shooting a final-round 291 to finish at 1178. Heather Bowie of Texas claimed the individual title with a 3-under-par 285.

Oregon's Karen Bristow was in sixth place in the individual scoring after three rounds but shot a final-round 77 that dropped her into a tie for 16th overall. However, Bristow's score still paced the Ducks with a four-round total of 8-over-par 296.

"Karen is our little diamond in the rough," Baumgartner said. "She shined when it counted. Her hard work paid off, and I'm really proud."

Anika Heuser recorded the Ducks' second-highest finish with a tie for 31st at 301. Paula Patterson and Pam Sowden tied for 40th place at 303, and Kylie Wilson tied for 56th with a 308 score.

The Pacific-10 Conference, which sent six teams to the championships, dominated the tournament by placing five teams in the nation's top seven.

Following Arizona State's first-place finish was Arizona in third, Stanford in fourth, UCLA in fifth and Oregon in seventh.

Rounding out the top 10 was Tennessee in sixth, Tulsa and Ohio State tied for eighth and Florida in 10th.

In addition to their seventh-place team finish at the NCAA Championships, Patterson, Bristow and Baumgartner were also honored individually.

Patterson, a first-team all-Pac-10 selection this year, was named first-team all-American on Sunday.

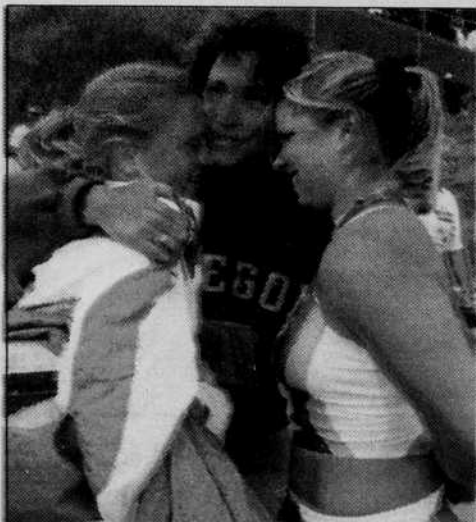
Bristow, who has a 3.88 GPA, was named to the academic all-American team, the third Duck given that honor in school history.

And Baumgartner, who was named Pac-10 Coach of the Year in 1997, earned the NCAA Division I Far West District Coach of the Year award.

Baumgartner said it was nice to get the recognition her team deserves.

Javelin effort propels Ducks to fifth place

Oregon throwing coach Sally Harmon (center) hugs javelin throwers Katie Pearmine (left) and Karis Howell after the duo went 2-3 in the javelin at the Pac-10 Championships Saturday.



■ **WOMEN:** Oregon's strength in the javelin helped a young team lead the bottom of the pack

By Ben Kwasney
Sports Reporter

The Oregon women's track and field team held off the bottom three teams in the Pacific-10 Conference Championships to claim fifth place Sunday at Husky Stadium in Seattle.

Every point counted as the Ducks beat Washington State by two, Cal by three and Washington by nine.

Coming into the Pac-10s,

head coach Tom Heinonen wasn't expecting more than a middle of the pack finish from his team.

"Clearly we don't have the firepower we had last year," Heinonen said about last year's second-place team. "We've known that from the start."

"It's not as much fun when you're not competing for the team title, but still we have athletes out there who train hard."

The only senior competing for the Ducks was 800-meter runner Vicky Fleschner, who placed third in what could be

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