



SPORTS

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Pepsi Invite to showcase some of nation's best

Marie Davis leads a strong Oregon team that will challenge 1996 Olympian Aretha Hill and the Huskies for the title

By Rob Moseley
Sports Reporter

A cast of stars will be showcased at the Pepsi Team Invitational on Saturday when Arizona State, Colorado and Washington join the Oregon women's track and field team for one of 21 U.S. Collegiate Track and Field Series meets to be run through May 10.

On tap

- **WHO:** UO track and field vs. Washington, ASU and Colorado
- **WHAT:** Pepsi Invitational
- **WHERE:** Hayward Field
- **WHEN:** Sat., 11:45 a.m.

The series, organized by the U.S. Track Coaches Association and USA Track and Field, is designed "to cultivate excitement and interest in collegiate competition," and Saturday's meet at Hayward Field should do just that.

Joining Oregon's Marie Davis, who leads the nation in the 3,000 meters with a time of nine minutes, 20 seconds, will be a 1996 Olympian in the discus, the top two 10,000-meter runners in the nation and the runner-up in last year's 1,500-meter race at the NCAA Championships.

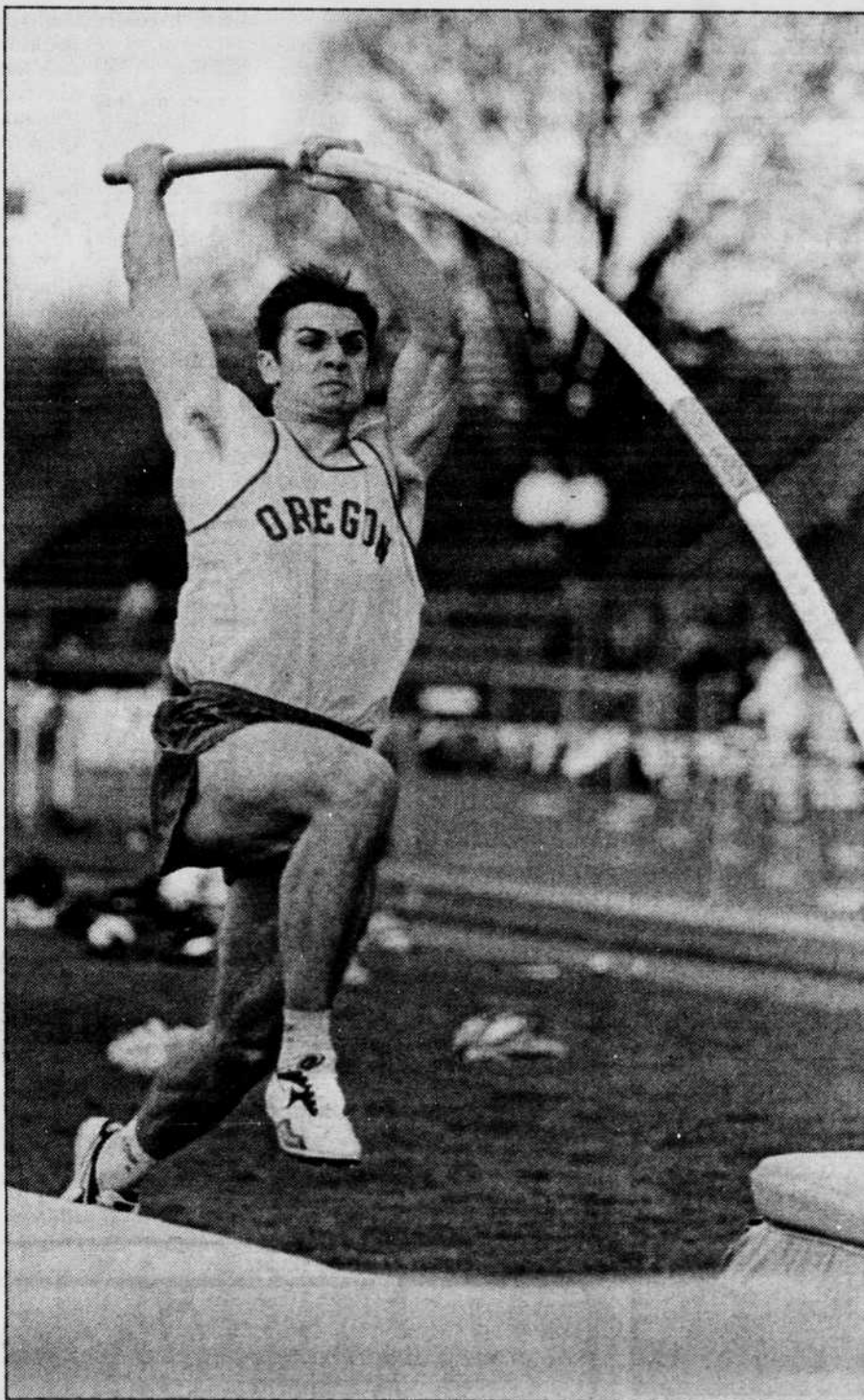
Equally intriguing will be the matchup in the team scoring, with the Ducks and Huskies competing for the title.

Headlining the individual competitions will be Washington's Aretha Hill, who holds the American collegiate record in the discus and was in Atlanta for the '96 Olympics. Hill, who set the record two weeks ago with a throw of 215 feet, eight inches in San Diego, should win the title by a fair margin, but the battle for second and third should be intense. Oregon's Heidi Fisk and Maureen Morrison and Colorado's Janet Vlsosky have all bested 160 feet this season.

In the running events, Oregon's Tish Henes will be tested mightily by Washington's Keisha Griffis in the 400-meter hurdles, although Henes beat Griffis by more than two seconds in a dual meet at Hayward Field last season.

"Last year we kind of battled back and

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Piotr BuciarSKI will look to raise his season best of 17 feet, 10 1/2 inches in the pole vault at the Pepsi Team Invitational at Hayward Field on Saturday.

Head coach Bill Dellinger kept two top athletes out of last week's meet in Berkeley, where Oregon finished second

By Alex Pond
Sports Editor

Last week, they could have won. This week, they want to win.

The Oregon men began preparing for the four-team Pepsi Invitational, which begins at 11:45 a.m. Saturday at Hayward Field, about two weeks ago, shortly after their dual meet win over Washington State on April 4.

The Ducks sent a reduced squad to the Brutus Hamilton Memorial in Berkeley, Calif., last Saturday and even held out a couple of key athletes, Piotr BuciarSKI and Micah Davis, so they could rest up for Saturday's meet, which is part of the 21-meet U.S. Collegiate Track and Field Series.

Nonetheless, the Ducks just about pulled off a win in Berkeley, finishing second to California.

"We had a real fine effort down there," said Oregon head coach Bill Dellinger. "We actually could have won the meet if we had pole vaulted BuciarSKI or if we'd run Micah in the steeple."

Rather than worry about last week's meet, the Ducks have had their sights set on what should be a competitive Pepsi Invitational field for some time.

The field includes Pacific-10 Conference rivals Washington and Arizona State, as well as Colorado.

"I think the Pepsi meet's going to be the best scoring meet here this year," Dellinger said. "It should be a dandy. Every event will have some really good people in it."

The meet will feature several of the nation's top athletes, including Colorado's Adam Goucher, who highlights what Dellinger said should be a terrific 5,000-meter race.

Goucher is a two-time NCAA Indoor 3,000-meter champion who ran the 5,000 in 13 minutes, 38 seconds indoors in February — 12 seconds better than the NCAA automatic qualifying time of 13:50. Colorado's Adam Batliner will be going after his first sub-14:00 effort in the 5,000 after running the nation's third-fastest steeplechase three weeks ago in Tempe, Ariz.

Washington freshman Ja'Warren Hooker,

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Ducks end seasons at home

The men look to finish their season with a winning record, while the women will try to break an 11-game losing streak

By Tim Pyle
Sports Reporter

Similar to people at the end of a long day at work, the Oregon tennis teams are happy to be ending long regular seasons at home this weekend.

The teams will be looking to finish seasons that have unraveled in very different ways on the same note — with victories against Northwest opponents.

The men's tennis team (11-11 overall, 0-6 Pacific-10 Conference) will be trying for two firsts since head coach Chris Russell took over the program in 1995 in its dual match against Washington at the 15th Street Courts at 2 p.m. Saturday.

If the Ducks can beat the Huskies, which is something they haven't done in 22 years, they will hand Russell his first winning season in Eugene.

"Our two goals at the beginning of the season were to one, get some Pac-10 wins," Russell said. "The second one was to go

from a challenger to a winner status. Basically, [the Ducks] are in position to do it this weekend."

When Oregon began its five-match home-stand April 3 against Arizona State, it needed one win to reach those goals. Four losses later — all to ranked conference opponents — the Ducks still need that elusive win.

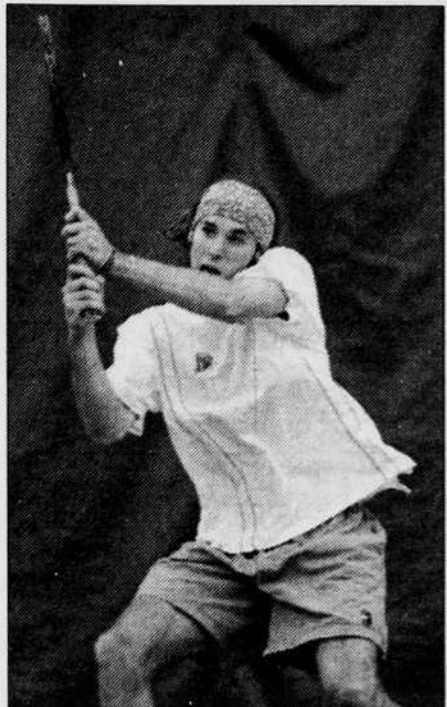
To get it, Oregon must beat the No. 29 Huskies, who beat them 7-0 in a nonconference match in Seattle on Feb. 27.

"[The Huskies] tend to come at us pretty hard out of the pack in doubles," Russell said. "We've got to be able to counter that. In singles, we basically just have to stay in our game [plan] longer and get in it quicker."

In Seattle, Oregon's doubles team of Erwan Kergroach and Guillermo Carter recorded the only Ducks win. However, it did not give Oregon a team point because the three doubles matches are only worth one point, and Washington won two of the three.

The Kergroach-Carter duo, which is

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NICK MEDLEY/Emerald

Guillermo Carter hopes to lead the Ducks to a winning season in Saturday's dual match against Washington at the 15th Street Courts.

Attitude key to weekend road trip

Oregon travels to Los Angeles on Saturday to face UCLA, then to Washington on Sunday to battle the No. 4 Huskies

By Joel Hood
Sports Reporter

Three losses in a row. A two-game sweep by rival Oregon State last weekend that dropped it to No. 23 in the country.

Why is the Oregon softball team smiling?

Because head coach Rick Gamez knows that attitude will be the key for

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