



Major League Baseball  
Kansas City at Seattle,  
FSNW (23) 7:30 p.m.

# BACK ON TRACK

*Nicole Commissiong missed the entire 1997 season as a medical redshirt but has since returned as Oregon's top 400-meter runner this season*

**W**ithout exception, the 400 meters is a race with clearly defined parameters. The race begins slowly out of the blocks as the runner attempts to find her stride. As the sprint develops in the second 100 meters, the athlete nears her peak, which she hits in the third quarter of the oval before ending with the strongest, but most difficult, 100 meters of all.

And then it is done. The race is over. There is no overtime. There are no extra innings.

When Oregon's Nicole Commissiong settled into the blocks for the 400-meter dash at Saturday's Pepsi Team Invitational, her goal was simple: "I just wanted to breathe and relax and just think, 'It's time to go,'" the 5-foot-10 senior says.

Commissiong flew out of the blocks on Saturday intent on shocking the world, just as the 25-year-old law student did when she came to Eugene as a freshman in 1993.

As a freshman, the Montreal native attempted to prove that a runner with just three years of experience could make an impact at the collegiate level. On Saturday, she was trying to prove that a fifth-year athlete coming off a year of rehabilitation for an injured knee could do the same.

When Commissiong entered the backstretch of Saturday's race, her strategy was coming to fruition, just as her career goals began to during her sophomore campaign.

"I blasted the first turn, which I needed to do, and I relaxed down the back straight, which I needed to do," Commissiong says.

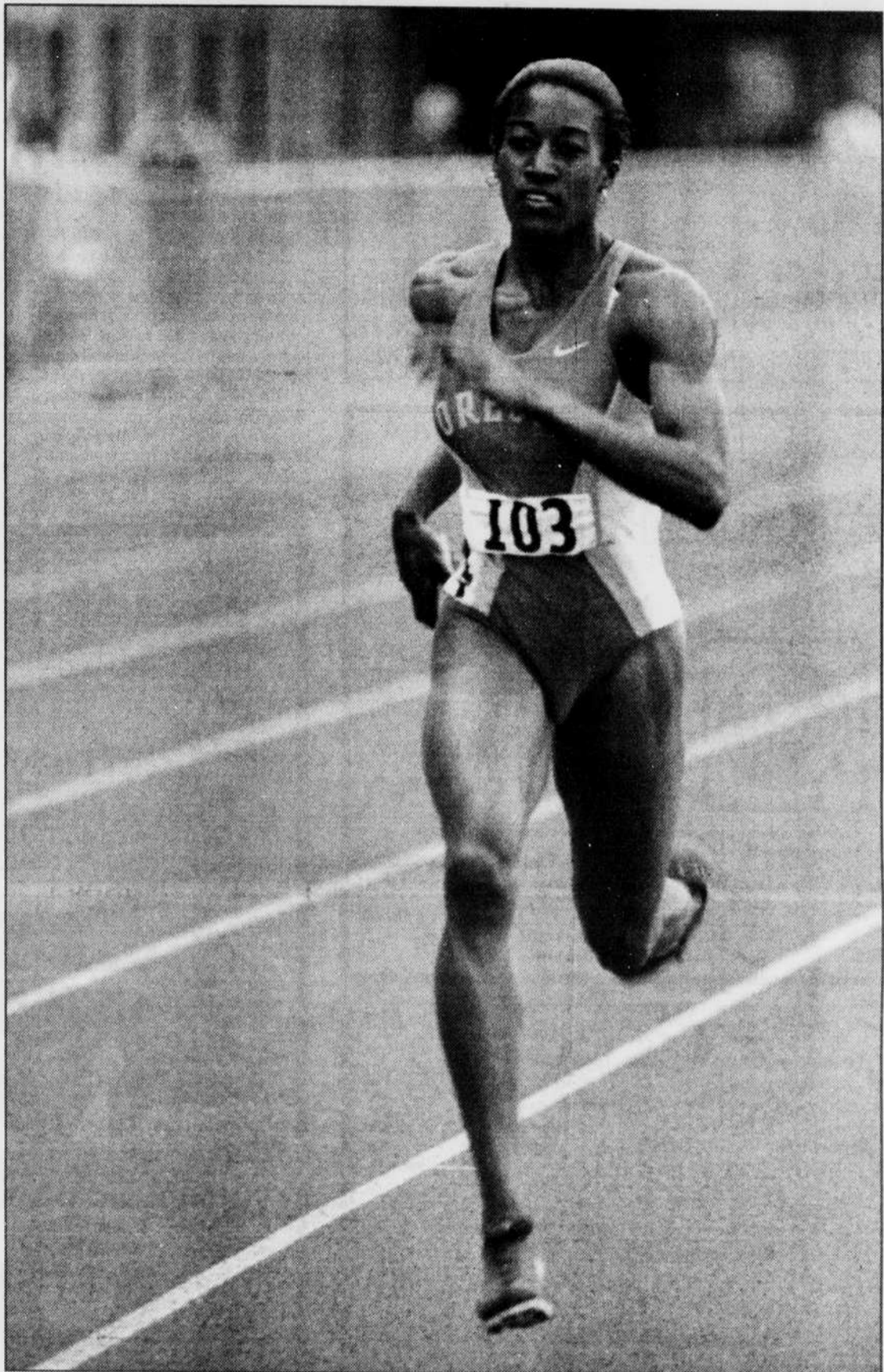
The first turn of her Oregon career came in 1994, when she recorded a personal best of 54.54 seconds in the 400 and captured first team Pacific-10 Conference all-academic honors. She hit the backstretch as a sophomore, but she did anything but relax.

Commissiong led the Oregon 4x100-meter relay squad to a second-place finish at the Pac-10s in 1995, and she earned All-American honors that same year for anchoring the Oregon 4x400-meter relay team to a fifth-place finish at the NCAA Championships. Add to that

*"A lot of people remember that I had a good year in 1996, and then I vanished."*

**Nicole Commissiong**  
UO sprinter

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NICK MEDLEY/Emerald

Senior Nicole Commissiong provides leadership on and off the track for the Oregon women.

## Ducks improve score, not standing at Pac-10s

*Anika Heuser led the Oregon women to an eight-stroke improvement with a second-round 74*

By **Tim Pyle**  
Sports Reporter

On a day when eight of the 10 teams at the Pacific-10 Championships shot a lower score than in the first round, the Oregon women's golf team shaved eight strokes off its Day One total with a second round 301 at Tijeras Creek Golf Club on Tuesday.

However, the Ducks still found themselves in the same fifth-place spot in the standings.

"[All the teams] know the golf course a little bit better," Oregon head coach Renee Baumgartner said. "And if you play the course more often, you have an advantage."

Anika Heuser shot a second-round 74 for the Ducks in Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif., to raise from a tie for 17th to a tie for 11th in the individual standings. Heuser, who has a two-day total of 150, is tied with six others for 11th and is only one stroke

out of the top-10.

"She has a lot of confidence," Baumgartner said. "Golf is ups and downs. Right now she has a lot of experience and is a really good player. She's coming to play in the bigger tournaments."



Heuser, who won the individual title at the Peg Barnard Invitational on April 12, said she has had success recently because she is focused. "I think I've worked on my mental game a lot," Heuser said. "I knew that I had the skills, but somehow my brain was in the way. I think I've gotten that under control a little bit."

Arizona tightened its grasp on first place in the team standings with a second-round 285 that leaves it at 575, one under par, through 36 holes. Second-place Arizona

State shot a 291 to fall 12 strokes behind the Wildcats.

Jenna Daniels followed her first-round 69, which was the low score of that round, with a 68, which is the lowest score of the tournament. Overall, Daniels is seven under par and has a seven-stroke lead on teammate Heather Graff.

Grace Park, who is No. 1 in the MasterCard Collegiate Golf Rankings, rose to third place after being tied for 13th at the end of the first round by shooting a 70. Her total is a one-over-par 145.

Oregon senior Paula Patterson, who was tied with Park for 13th after Round 1, suffered through an 83 in the second round to drop into a tie for 37th. Patterson, who finished tied for ninth at the Pac-10s last year, has a 158 total through 36 holes.

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### Results

■ <b>TOP DUCK:</b>	
Heuser	150
■ <b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>	
Daniels, Ariz.,	137
■ <b>TOP 5 TEAMS:</b>	
1. Arizona	575
2. ASU	587
3. USC	602
4. UW	608
5. Oregon	610