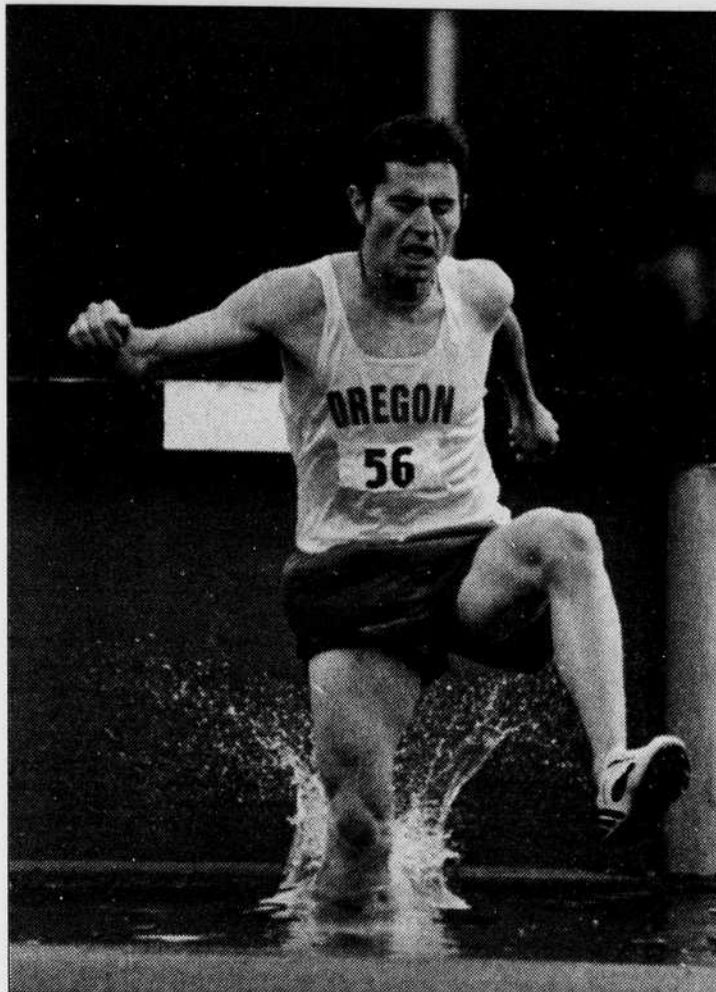




Konrad Knutsen will go after an NCAA provisional qualifying mark in the steeplechase Saturday afternoon.

Men: Cole faces Olympian in hammer

Continued from Page 9A
Bill Dellinger said.

"I think it's a good time to have this kind of a meet, where we can hope for momentum on an individual basis without having to worry about the team points," said Dellinger, who is in his 26th and final season leading the Oregon men. "Hopefully, it's just a meet that we will have an opportunity to get some guys closer to qualifying or qualified for the NCAAs."

"Guys are not having to worry about scoring, so they're not going to be in two or three events. They get to compete, basically, in their primary event and try and get a good mark. That's what we're looking at."

The Ducks currently have 26 Pac-10 qualifying marks nailed down, and they have six NCAA provisional qualifying marks secured. Ryan Cole (ranked 27th in the discus) and Micah Davis (29th in the 5,000 meters) will likely need to improve their marks, however, in order to get in to the NCAAs.

Several Ducks have been on the edge of qualifying and hope to get over the hump Saturday.

Konrad Knutsen's eight-minute, 54.37-second steeplechase in the dual meet against Washington State missed a provi-

sional mark by just .37 seconds. Without having to score points, Knutsen said he can focus all his energy into going after that NCAA mark Saturday.

"I think it's going to be good for all of us not to have to worry about having that extra pressure of having to score points, for a change," the junior said. "I'd like to definitely PR, but I kind of want to get in there and compete and see how I do there first before I really focus on my time. Ultimately, I'd like to qualify automatically [for the NCAAs]."

In the 1,500 meters, Greg James, Laird Prosser and Todd Humcke are all less than two and a half seconds away from the provisional qualifying mark of 3:45.50.

Richard Girvan needs to cut about two seconds off his best time in the 800 meters in order to get the provisional mark of 1:49.

In the field events, Jody Mortimore's season best of 25 feet, 2 3/4 inches has him 1/2 inch away from a provisional mark in the long jump.

"We're hoping that the winds will be favorable for Jody to get a good long jump," Dellinger said.

Damian Olson will be looking for a provisional mark of 7-1 3/4 in the high jump after clearing 7-0 1/2 earlier in the season, and Cole will look to improve his

"I think it's going to be good for all of us not to have to worry about having that extra pressure of having to score points, for a change."

Konrad Knutsen
UO runner

ranking on the NCAA list in the discus.

Cole also needs to add 10 feet to provisionally qualify in the hammer. He will get some stiff competition when he tries against 1996 Olympic silver medalist Lance Deal, who will be competing at Hayward Field for the second time this season.

One of the more exciting events could be the pole vault, where Oregon's Piotr Buciarski, who has cleared 18-0 1/2, will square off against three competitors who have cleared the 18-foot barrier, including post collegian Garth Willard, who has gone 18-6 1/2.

The Invitational will include athletes from 24 colleges and universities.



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