

Blustery winds affect Thomas' performance

Jennifer Thomas earned All-American honors for the second straight year by finishing sixth in the heptathlon

By Rob Moseley
Sports Reporter

For the second consecutive year Oregon senior Jennifer Thomas earned All-American honors in the heptathlon at the NCAA Championships, where she finished sixth in this year's version of the event with 5,385 points.

BYU's Tiffany Lott successfully defended her title in Buffalo, N.Y., on Thursday by accumulating 5,982 points in the seven-event competition, while Thomas improved on her 11th-place finish of a year ago, when she scored 5,306 points.

"I'm really happy with the way I placed," Thomas said. "I would have liked to score more points, if not for the

weather conditions."

Thursday was the second straight blustery Buffalo day, and Thomas said the wind gauge often passed seven meters per second, five mps stronger than the acceptable level. Because of the wind, any records set in the championships will likely be disallowed.

Two of the three events held Thursday were the javelin and long jump, usually two of Thomas' strengths. It was not to be in Buffalo, however, as Thomas jumped just 19 feet, 1/2 inch and threw the javelin

137 feet, seven inches.

"I don't know what my wind was [during the long jump]," Thomas said. "I don't know if that's what went wrong, and I didn't feel like I threw very well."

She did say the wind affected performances the most adversely in the throws. "Everybody had to deal with the conditions," Thomas said, "but there's a lot of frustration."

Lott's point total was 229 less than her winning score from last year.

However, Thomas said she was impressed with the championship effort, even though the rest of the field had to contend with the intrusive presence of

Turn to WOMEN, Page 16A

UO Women

THOMAS:

100 Hurdles	14.31
High Jump	5-5 3/4
Shot Put	35-5 1/2
200	25.79
Long Jump	19-1/2
Javelin	137-7
800	2:28.64

CRABB:

1,500	4:28.02
-------	---------

DAVIS:

3,000	9:29.17
-------	---------

Two Ducks have titles in their sights

After missing the cut at last season's NCAA meet, junior Micah Davis competes in today's steeplechase final

By Alex Pond
Sports Editor

It all comes down to this.

Two Oregon men will be chasing dreams of a national title when the NCAA Track and Field Championships conclude today and Saturday in Buffalo, N.Y.

Junior Micah Davis will compete in today's final of the steeplechase after posting the third-fastest time in his heat during Wednesday's preliminary.

On Saturday, senior Gregg Bleakney will showcase his talents for the final time in an Oregon uniform when the triple jump competition unfolds.

Davis, who ran Wednesday's qualifying race in eight minutes, 46.28 seconds, will be competing in the final of the NCAA meet for the first time after narrowly missing the cut last season.

He said he feels strong after being allowed to conserve some energy Wednesday.

Turn to MEN, Page 16A

NCAA Track & Field Championship



NICK MEDLEY/Emerald

Gregg Bleakney's triple jump of 53-9 3/4 at the Oregon Twilight ranks fifth heading into Saturday's competition at the NCAA Track and Field Championships in Buffalo, N.Y. Bleakney finished eighth at last season's NCAA meet.

Malone will continue to shoot; Jordan eyes Hornacek matchup

Utah's Karl Malone had trouble sinking jump shots in Game 1 but says he's made a minor adjustment for tonight's game

By Bob Baum
The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — There's a lot more to the Utah Jazz than Karl Malone.

If anyone hadn't figured that by now, Utah's 88-85 overtime victory over Chicago in Game 1 of the NBA Finals removed all doubt.

"We can pick him up and carry him sometimes," Utah's Bryon Russell said. "He doesn't always have to carry all the load. That's something you guys don't know about yet. You think it's all about Karl Malone."

On Wednesday night, it was all about John Stockton and a Utah bench that has gained momentum through the playoffs. And it was all about an obviously weary Chicago team falling apart at crunch time.

Even Michael Jordan made mistakes, most notably failing to notice the 24-second shot clock was about to expire in the final minute of overtime.

"I thought we were very fatigued last night," Chicago coach Phil Jackson said on Thursday. "I actually tried to get Michael out of the game in the third quarter and he bargained his way back in. I watched in the video and our hands were on their knees in a defensive posture."

They have only two days off before tonight's Game 2.

They will hope for a second consecutive off night for Malone, who settled for, and almost always missed, jump shots against the defense of the bigger Luc Longley in Game 1.

Malone hinted he might be taking it to the hoop more tonight.

"I had opportunities," he said. "Let's just say that Luc was a great defensive player and I didn't do the things I was capable of maybe doing. I made a minor adjustment for tomorrow night's game. I'm not going to tell you what it is. But I'm not going to

stop shooting, if that's what you're asking."

Utah coach Jerry Sloan said Malone's misfiring was the least of his concerns.

"It's no big deal," Sloan said. "I'm not going to lose any sleep over it. He'll either make shots or miss them. That's not a brilliant statement but that's all this game is. He's liable to have those same shots and make them the next time. It wasn't like he was having to take shots that were totally strange to him."

"The positions he goes to, the ball on the floor were almost identical positions where he's had the ball the last four or five years."

Malone was bailed out by his old partner, John Stockton, who had 24 points and eight assists, including seven of Utah's nine points in overtime.

The ever-mild-mannered Stockton shrugged off the performance. About the

Turn to NBA, Page 12A

"I thought we were very fatigued [in Game 1]. ... I watched the video and our hands were on their knees in a defensive posture."

Phil Jackson
Chicago head coach