



Angelina Wolvert in action against California this past season.

Wolvert: Illness hurt freshman's chances

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ing than high school ball.

"In high school," Wolvert told the Register-Guard last year, "you could go through the motions. You can't do that [at Oregon]. Here, you can't not give 100 percent all the time."

The USA Basketball tryouts were just another challenge, and Wolvert gladly accepted. Even though Runge served on the committee, it was up to Wolvert to determine what she needed to improve.

"The coaches there weren't very responsive," Wolvert said. "They weren't telling you what you were doing wrong. They didn't say, 'you need to start rebounding more' or 'you need to score more.' They were just trying to teach [techniques], rather than individuals."

It's a lesson that will only strengthen an already sturdy player. After playing on the same court as players like Lynn Pride from Kansas, who scored 18 points in a game against Oregon last season, and Chanel Wright from North Carolina, Wolvert knows what she needs to do to

take her game to the next level. Although she wasn't selected to the team, she has another high-pressure competition under her belt.

"It was a great experience," she said. "It showed me what I needed to do."

She already has some changes planned. Next year she will play a lot more at small forward rather than her usual post position. She has seen the best, seen what it takes to be selected to a national team and now sees her future, which even Runge is looking forward to.

"She had a great experience at the USA Basketball Trials, and I expect her to have an excellent sophomore year," Runge said.

The Pac-10 didn't fail to show its prestige. Erica Gomez, UCLA's 1996 Pac-10 Freshman of the Year, was selected to the William Jones Cup Team. The 5-foot-9 guard will tour North Korea from Aug. 9 through Aug. 18 and then will participate in the Williams Jones Cup in Taiwan Aug. 23 through Aug. 27. Under head coach Nell Fortner, a member of the 1996 U.S. Women's Olympic

Team staff, Gomez and the team are expected to do well. In 18 previous Jones Cup appearances, the United States has won seven gold medals, four silver medals and four bronze medals, with an overall record of 104-23.

Gomez wasn't the only Pac-10 player who will be playing this summer. Washington's Jamie Redd was named to the Select Team. The 1998 Women's Select Team will be used to prepare collegians internationally for the 1999 World University Games. Redd will compete against teams from Puerto Rico, Poland and Spain. Florida head coach Carol Ross was named as the Select Team's head coach.

There's little doubt Wolvert will be watching to see what could have been. One can only wonder what her performance would've been like if she was in top shape. No matter, she already has plans to begin training this summer at the small forward position, focusing on ball-handling and outside shooting.

Her experience at the USA tryouts will only help in her quest to improve her game.

Track: Moos' decision expected soon

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served the University very well. His achievements speak for themselves. He'll be sorely missed."

If Gillespie gets the job, it won't be the first time he has inherited such a situation.

"Ironically, it happened to me once before," he said. "When I went to South Eugene, the coach there before me was the best high school coach in the state. That previous time I took on that challenge and I think I did a better job than that coach who was before me. That's what athletics is about. About pressure and how you're going to deal with that pressure. I look forward to that challenge. That's what it's about."

Gillespie and Smith are both enthusiastic about being considered for the position, which Moos said is "one of the top jobs in the country."

"There's not much to think

about when it comes to getting a chance to lead the track program at the University of Oregon," Smith told the Register-Guard. "This is still the track capital of the country. The good athletes still know that. I've devoted a large part of my life to putting myself in position to be a viable candidate for something like this, and I'm excited and flattered by the opportunity."

Like Smith, Gillespie said he has spent a good deal of his career working to have the opportunity to head the program.

"I've been thinking about this for a long time," he said. "I knew sooner or later that Bill Dellinger would retire. I didn't know if it

would be sooner or later."

The Oregon assistant compared himself to Oregon men's head basketball coach Ernie Kent.

"I'm like Ernie. He loves Mac Court and Oregon," Gillespie said. "I like Hayward Field and

Eugene and track. [Kent] was a great pick, and I think I would be a good pick for the track job. Oregon track is all I know. I think I have a lot of pride in what I do. I think I

will get some good assistants that will be like me, that will invest a lot in the program. It is harder and harder these days to win a national championship or a Pac-10 title, but we'll be good. We'll be darn good."

"This is the track capital of the country... I'm excited and flattered by the opportunity."

Martin Smith
Coaching candidate



John Gillespie File

Oregon assistant men's track and field coach

Main coaching responsibilities with Oregon are the Ducks' jumpers and sprinters...his athletes have won 13 Pacific-10 Conference titles in the last 10 years...they've set new records in the high jump, long jump, and triple jump... at 1997 Pac-10 meet, his athletes claimed first in the high jump, long jump and triple jump... three of his hurdlers also scored... At 1997

NCAA meet, Oregon individuals qualified in high jump and triple jump... coached South Eugene High track and field teams to four consecutive state championships (1979-82)... only lost six meets in five seasons... South's cross country teams won four state titles...worst finish was second in state competition... Maintains Oregon's records and coordinates recruiting



Martin Smith File

Wisconsin men's cross country coach, assistant men's track and field coach

Two-time NCAA National Coach of the Year (1985, 1988)... Six-time Big Ten Coach of the Year (1989, 1991-1996)... Led Wisconsin to two cross country national championships (1985, 88)... 10 District IV team championships (1983, 1985-92, 1994-96)... Four individual cross country champions... Nine top-five NCAA

finishes in 15 years at Wisconsin... 33 cross country All-Americans... 39 All-Big ten selections... since 1984, Wisconsin distance runners have been named track All-Americans 44 times... 51 academic All-Big-10 honorees...

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