



Moos interviews third track coaching candidate

Former Oregon distance champion Matt Centrowitz joined John Gillespie and Martin Smith as candidates to replace Bill Dellinger as head coach of the Oregon men

By Miriam Swanson
Freelance Reporter

The list of candidates for head coach of the Oregon men's track and field program has been lengthened to three names after Oregon athletic director Bill Moos interviewed former Duck runner Matt Centrowitz for the position on Saturday.

Centrowitz joins current Oregon assistant track and field coach John Gillespie and Martin Smith, head men's cross country coach and assistant track and field coach at Wisconsin, as possible picks for the job.

Centrowitz, a two-time Olympian, is currently the head cross country coach at American University in Washington, D.C., where he has coached for four seasons. He was also recently named head coach of American's inaugural track and field team,

which is set to begin competition next season.

The 43-year-old is also the middle distance and distance track coach for Reebok Enclave, for whom he is responsible for training young athletes hoping to make the 2000 Olympic team. Last year, Centrowitz, who is from New York, was inducted into the New York Athletic Club Hall of Fame for his running and coaching contributions to the program.

Before he began working at American, Centrowitz spent time coaching at St. John's University in New York City.

While at Oregon in the mid-1970s, Centrowitz was a four-time national champion in the 5,000 meters, and he was a part of

the 1976 and 1980 Olympic teams. He also competed in the 1979 Pan-American games. In 1982, he set the American record in the 5,000 meters with a time of 13 minutes, 12.7 seconds.

While Centrowitz has more competitive experience than Gillespie and Smith, the other two candidates have been coaching for a longer period of time.

Gillespie has been coaching Oregon track and field since 1983, and before that he was the head coach during a successful five-year stint at South Eugene High School. At Oregon he coached athletes to 13 Pacific-10 Conference titles.

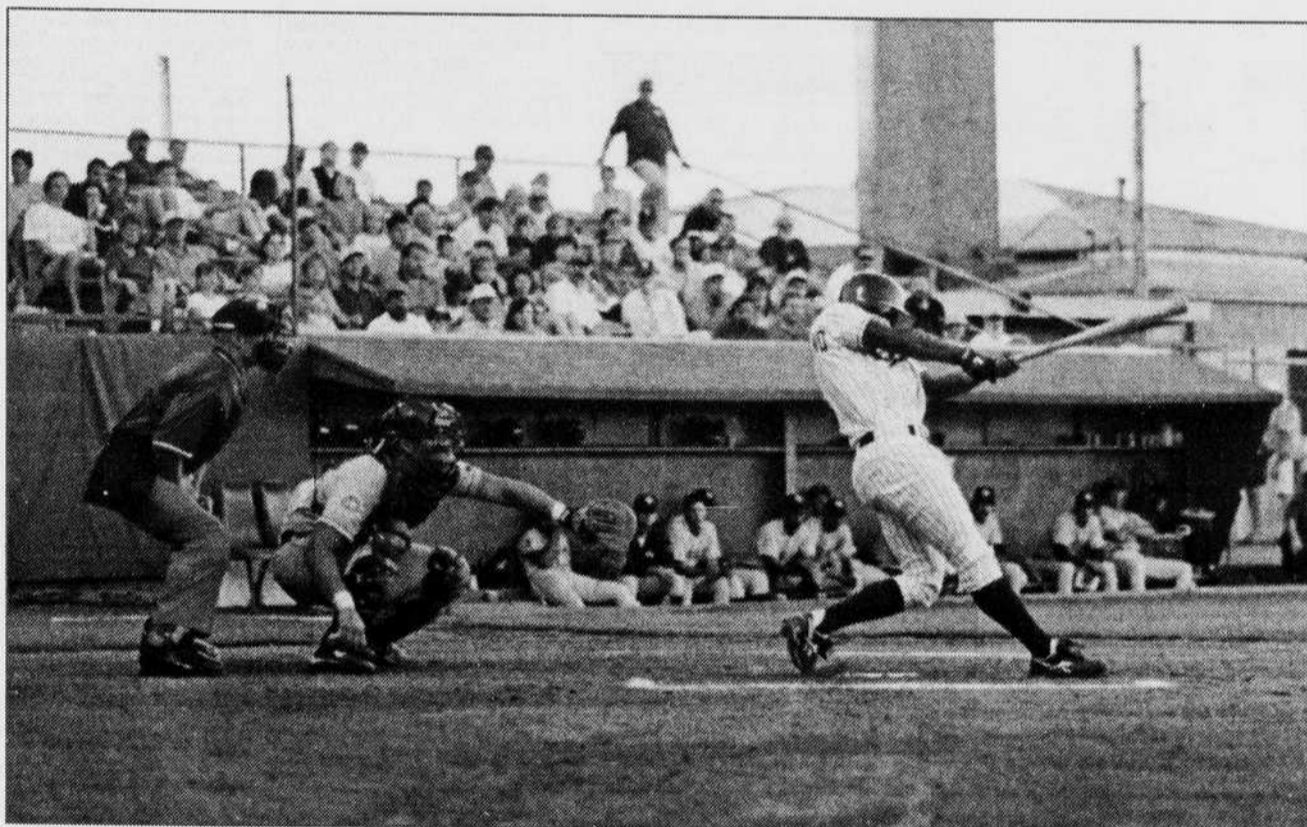
Smith has headed the Wisconsin cross country program for 15 years and was named NCAA coach of the year twice. His teams have won the national championship twice.



MOOS



EUGENE (11-16) vs. BOISE (18-9)



LAURA GOSS/Emerald

Eugene shortstop Al Castro swings for the fences against the Portland Rockies during the homestand.

Ems open series with defending champs

The Emeralds will battle Boise, continuing their up and down history against the team

By Rob Moseley
Associate Editor

The defending Northwest League champion Boise Hawks begin a five-game series against the Eugene Emeralds at Civic Stadium tonight and, if recent history is any indication, the Ems should send the Hawks home with at least three losses.

In 1995, the Ems won just one of six games in Idaho, but swept all six games against the Hawks at Civic. The Hawks managed to win three of the seven games played in Eugene in 1996, but again won just one of seven at home. And last year, the Ems finished 4-1 against Boise at home, but later saw that record reversed on the road.

Naturally, then, the Ems should be able to correct their 1-4 showing in Boise earlier this season when the Ems were outscored 24-12 and made 16 errors that collectively led to 12 unearned runs.

In fact, the Ems' 67 total errors over 27

games have led to 54 of their opponents' 146 runs on the season coming unearned. In contrast, although the Northern Division-leading Hawks have allowed 92 earned runs in 1998 as well, their 43 errors have led to just 30 unearned runs. Thus, Boise's team ERA of 3.50 is only .05 better than Eugene's.



The key to the Hawks' success, seems to be on offense, where Boise is hitting .263 with 25 home runs, as opposed to the Ems' .255 average and paltry 14 homers.

Boise is paced by the torrid hitting of catcher Jason Hill, shortstop Jason Huisman and third baseman Mike Christensen.

Hill is batting .375 with three homers in just 40 at bats while sharing catching duties with Brian Fox and John O'Neil. Huisman has collected three home runs and 25 RBI while hitting .327 in full-time duty. Christensen leads the team with five homers and has put together a .321

average to team with Huisman as one of the top left sides of the infield in the league.

The Ems are paced by right fielder Jerry Simmons, who is currently winning the team's triple crown with a .320 average, six home runs and 18 RBI, as well as leading the team in steals with 12.

Taking the mound for the Ems tonight will be 6-foot-5 left-hander Garret Lee, who carries a 2-1 record and 4.55 ERA in five starts this season. That Lee has allowed just three walks while striking out 24 batters in 29 innings is encouraging, as is the fact that just 15 of his 21 runs allowed are earned.

Lee's achilles heel has thus far proven to be the long ball, of which he has surrendered a team-leading five in 1998. Lee has also hit six batters, twice as many as any other pitcher on the staff.

Each of the first four games in the series begin at 7:05 p.m., followed by a 6:05 p.m. start on Sunday. The Ems finish off their season-long eight-game home stand with three games against Southern Oregon beginning Monday.

Basketball star may lose car after arrests

Allen Iverson of the 76ers loaned his car to two men later arrested after an alleged drug deal

The Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — Two men traveling away from an alleged drug deal were arrested last Friday in Philadelphia 76ers star Allen Iverson's car, police said Monday.

Iverson was not present and has not been charged, but had given the two men permission to use the new Mercedes Benz sedan, Norfolk police spokesman Larry Hill said.

Andre Steele, 27, and Michael Powell, 29, were arrested after police received complaints about drug dealing. Powell was charged with possession of cocaine with intent to distribute, a felony. Steele was charged with possession of marijuana.

Under Virginia law, cars used in drug activity may be confiscated permanently. Hill said police have filed papers to take possession of the car.

The relationship between Iverson and Steele and Powell was not clear.

Hill said residents called police and reported seeing the Mercedes pull alongside a BMW and drugs being dealt.

"Immediately following the transaction, the investigators stopped both vehicles and it was determined that in Iverson's vehicle there was some crack cocaine which belonged to Michael Powell," Hill said.

The man in the BMW, Nathaniel Motely, 29, was charged with possession of marijuana and carrying a concealed weapon. It was not clear whether he knows Iverson.

Powell was released on \$5,000 bond. Steele and Motely were released on their own recognizance.

The incident is the most recent of several scrapes Iverson and his acquaintances have had with the law:

— On Aug. 3, 1997, Iverson was a passenger in a car stopped for speeding near Richmond. The trooper smelled marijuana, searched the car and found a .45-caliber pistol on the floorboard. Iverson pleaded no contest to the gun charge, and a marijuana possession charge was dropped. He was sentenced to probation. The NBA suspended Iverson for one game as a result.

— In May 1997, Iverson testified in Hampton Circuit Court on behalf of a man he calls "dad." The man, three-time felon Michael Andre Freeman, was convicted of possession of cocaine with intent to distribute.

— In August 1993, Iverson was convicted on three counts of maiming by mob for his role in a Hampton bowling alley brawl. He was sentenced to five years in prison. Then-Gov. L. Douglas Wilder granted him clemency in December 1993.