

Tuesday
May 18, 1999

Oregon Emerald SPORTS

Best Bet
NBA Playoffs
Portland vs. Utah
7:30 p.m., TNT



TRACK AND FIELD NOTES



Scott Barnett/Emerald

Oregon's seniors finish the regular season at Saturday's Oregon Twilight with a final victory lap at Hayward Field. Next up is the postseason with the Pac-10 Championships beginning Friday in Tempe, Ariz., and the NCAAAs following in Boise, Idaho, on June 2-5.

Oregon seniors bound for final postseason

Women's Track Notes



Scott Pesznecker

Minutes before the home crowd roared with approval as Colorado's Adam Goucher blustered his competition with a sub-four-minute mile, the same Hayward Field audience was brought to its feet.

But the fans were not going crazy about an athlete who was breaking a speed record or setting a new mark. The applause was directed toward a group of athletes, who undoubtedly clocked the slowest 400-meter time at the Oregon Twilight.

It was the final victory lap

for the Ducks' seniors — and a well-deserved one.

Among the green uniforms making their way around the track was Kaarin Knudson, fresh from a lifetime best of 4 minutes, 20.51 seconds in the 1,500 and a victory lap of her own.

Marie Davis was also in the mix. She did not finish as strong as Knudson did in the 1,500, but her second-place finish signified the success of her season after recovering from an injury.

Together, Knudson and Davis combined last season as

Turn to **WOMEN'S TRACK**, Page 8

Santiago Lorenzo was ready to compete. The freshman from Buenos Aires, Argentina, arrived in Oregon via a track scholarship spring term, but he had yet to compete — until last Friday.

Lorenzo had planned to redshirt in order to come back next season as a freshman in eligibility. But he gave up his redshirt year to compete at the Pacific-10 Conference Championships in Tempe, Ariz., last weekend.

And he did his decision justice.

After four events Friday,

Lorenzo ranked fourth in the decathlon with 3,633 points. On Saturday, he was solid, finishing four events with 700 points or more, including a win in the javelin (189 feet, 11 inches) and the 1,500 (4 minutes, 35.83 seconds).

"It's always difficult to make the adjustment when you come from another country," Oregon head coach Martin Smith said. "He really maximized his performance, and for his first performance, that's good stuff."

Turn to **MEN'S TRACK**, Page 8

Men's Track Notes



Allison Ross

Blazers' mission blunt — turn off that annoying old Jazz

The Portland Trail Blazers nearly got their wish.

But the Sacramento Kings weren't playing horse shoes or hand grenades, so now the Blazers have to face probably their least favorite opponent starting tonight in the quarterfinals of the NBA Playoffs — the plodding, paralyzing Utah Jazz.

Portland can repeatedly pound the ball into the post in the half-court game, but point guard Damon Stoudamire makes it no secret that he prefers catching outlet passes on the run, zipping through opposing defenses and lobbing alley-oops in the general direction of Rasheed Wallace.

Not only do the Jazz just simplify the game down to pick-and-rolls, but, in doing so, they torture their opponents like an unsympathetic dentist pulling teeth.

The dissimilarities don't stop there.

The young, energetic Blazers are like the Wu-Tang Clan to Utah's classical, Duke Ellington style.

Tim Pyle

Portland flaunts perhaps the most tattoos per body in the NBA — average approximately three, at least from what the casual observer can see

— while some of the Jazz, notably John Stockton and Jeff Hornacek, still wear their shorts tight, à la Bob Cousy and other erstwhile hoopsters.

It's almost like you, complete with your baggy Nike shorts and quick crossover dribble, vs. your dad, decked out in his Champion ensemble and wielding his fundamental bank shot.

However, the presences of ancient Arvydas Sabonis on the Blazers and athletic youngsters like Bryon Russell and Shandon Anderson on Utah narrow the generation gap somewhat.

Despite those inconsistencies, the Jazz is perhaps the most hated team in the league.

It seems like the only students in Eugene who root for Utah, or at least will publicly reveal it, are from Utah.

Everybody else apparently hates the Jazz.

While watching John Stockton keep Utah, which looked like it was on its death bed with cardiac arrest, alive and kicking with his game-winning jump shot at Sacramento on Friday night, a crowd of about 15 students or so was vehemently backing the Kings at my house.

Only one person in the room was happy with the Jazz's win, and he has lived in Salt Lake City.

Turn to **PYLE**, Page 9