

# Women

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one of 11 seniors on the Oregon women's track and field team who will compete in their final Pac-10 meet today and Saturday in Tempe, Ariz.

Oregon head coach Tom Heinonen calls the Pac-10s "the most important meet of the season" because only a handful of Ducks move on to the NCAA Championships at Boise, Idaho, in early June.

"This is a culminating event — it's what we have been aiming for," Heinonen said. "It's the biggest meet of the year."

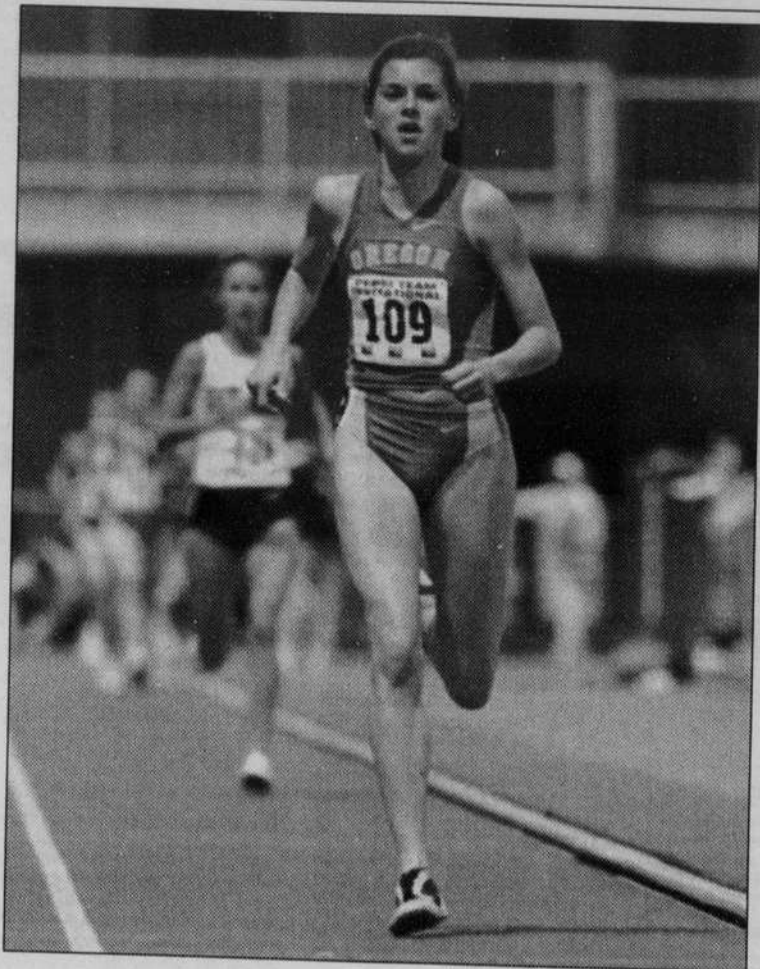
Kaarin Knudson is on track to give her best-ever performance in the 800 after posting a lifetime best of 4:20.51 in the 1,500 last Saturday at the Oregon Twilight. Knudson may compete in both events at the NCAAs, but will only run the 800 during Saturday's competition.

In the throws, Heidi Fisk paces Oregon with the potential to earn qualifying marks in the discus and hammer. Fisk set a personal best in the discus last weekend with a 164-foot, 11-inch throw, nine inches short of an NCAA-provisional mark.

"I know I haven't peaked yet because I've got a lot left in me," she said. "I'm feeling really fresh going down there. My shoulder is feeling better, so, all in all, I think it's going to be a good weekend."

Hurdler Tish Henes is also searching for an NCAA mark. The senior has qualified for the NCAAs for the past three years in the 400 hurdles and should have two chances this weekend to capture her fourth championship appearance.

The meet should also be inter-



Senior Marie Davis wants to capture her first Pac-10 title today in the 3,000 meters. *Nick Medley/Emerald*

esting for the Ducks' pole vaulters. Karina Elstrom and Niki Reed have been vaulting strongly in recent weeks, and Heinonen said the duo could easily finish with scoring marks.

Taryn Tarver and Aisha Wal-

lace travel to Arizona to compete in the 100 and 400, respectively. Neither received a Pac-10 qualifying mark this season, but Tarver was chosen as the right-of-entry pick. Wallace was one of four Oregon wild cards.

# Men

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fying was a bit more complicated. Although Davis qualified in the 1,500 on March 13, his qualifying mark for the steeplechase didn't happen until last weekend at the Oregon Adidas Classic.

And three-time All-American Steve Fein, a first-year Duck but veteran of championship meets, failed to qualify in the 5,000 at the Oregon Invitational on May 1. The following week — just two weeks before the Pac-10 meet — Fein traveled to California for the Cardinal Invitational and qualified for both postseason meets.

"Now you concentrate on racing and your workouts are more intense," Fein said. "At Pac-10s, you're measured against everyone else."

But for Kyle Johnson (high jump), Davis and Buciariski, it will be the other athletes who are trying to

measure up. Johnson and Davis are defending champions in their events, and Buciariski is the top-ranked pole vaulter and was the 1997 champion in Seattle.

"I'd like to see us place well," Buciariski said. "I know we're not the deepest team, but we are capable."

Oregon's distance corps is one of the best in the nation — Fein ranks second in the 5,000 and senior Oliver Wirz is 11th in the event. But the Ducks are going to be without Matthew Davis, their top athlete in the 5,000 and 10,000. Davis is ranked sixth in the nation in the 10,000 and is currently third on Oregon's all-time list (28:38.86). Oregon head coach Martin Smith said a hip injury that has hampered Davis all season is the reason for his absence.

Last season, Oregon finished fifth in the Pac-10 meet at Stanford.

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