

Monday
June 7, 1999

Oregon Emerald SPORTS

Best Bet
NBA Basketball
Indiana vs. New York
6 p.m., NBC



Programs wrestle with rule changes

Oregon was the only program to suspend wrestlers because of rule violations last season

By Joel Hood
for the Emerald

A year and a half after they instituted sweeping rule changes to control the way college wrestlers can lose weight, NCAA officials say coaches and athletes have been compliant and called the changes "positive" and "necessary" to ensure the safety of competitors.

Sparked by the deaths of three college wrestlers trying to cut weight two years ago, the NCAA implemented rule changes in January 1998 to protect wrestlers from unsafe weight-loss practices and excessive dehydration.

These changes have worked, said Mike Moyer, NCAA wrestling committee chair.

"The coaches I talked to at the NCAA Championships all said the rule changes have been very successful and that their wrestlers had more fun this year than in

years past."

But not all coaches think the new rules — which include the outlawing of rubber suits, diuretics and saunas for weight loss — benefit the wrestlers.

"It completely changes the sport and affects performance," said Minnesota head coach J. Robinson. "Cutting weight makes wrestlers tough. There are benefits to using saunas. The NCAA is doing to wrestling what a lot of people are doing to society: taking responsibility away from the individual."

In February, Oregon wrestlers Doug Lee and Kenny Cox were suspended for one match after voluntarily admitting they had used illegal methods to lose weight. The one-match suspension was in accordance to the NCAA Wrestling Committee's policies.



Oregon was the only school to suspend wrestlers for using illegal methods to cut weight last season, Moyer said.

The suspensions led to separate investigations headed by Gary Gray, associate athletic director, and Dave Hubin, executive assistant to University President Dave Frohnmaier. Gray's report is complete, but Hubin is still investigating.

Both Gray and Hubin said they found no evidence that head coach Chuck Kearney knew of the weight-loss rules violations before they were made public in January. They also said they do not expect any dramatic changes.

Kearney was out of town and could not be reached for comment.

The Championship Cabinet, an extension of the NCAA's governing body, will decide this summer whether to approve a rule

Turn to **WRESTLING**, Page 18



KEARNEY

SEASON REVIEWS

Men can't find happy ending at NCAAs

In season of transition, three All-Americans suffer disappointing finishes at the national championships

By Allison Ross
Oregon Daily Emerald

With just three members of the Oregon men's track and field team competing at the NCAA Championships in Boise, Idaho, during the weekend, a team victory was clearly out of reach.

But all three competitors — seniors Micah Davis and Piotr Buciarski and junior Steve Fein — were All-Americans in their respective events. And Davis and

Turn to **MEN**, Page 20

Women end season with tough losses

Freshman Niki Reed wins All-American honors in an otherwise disappointing meet

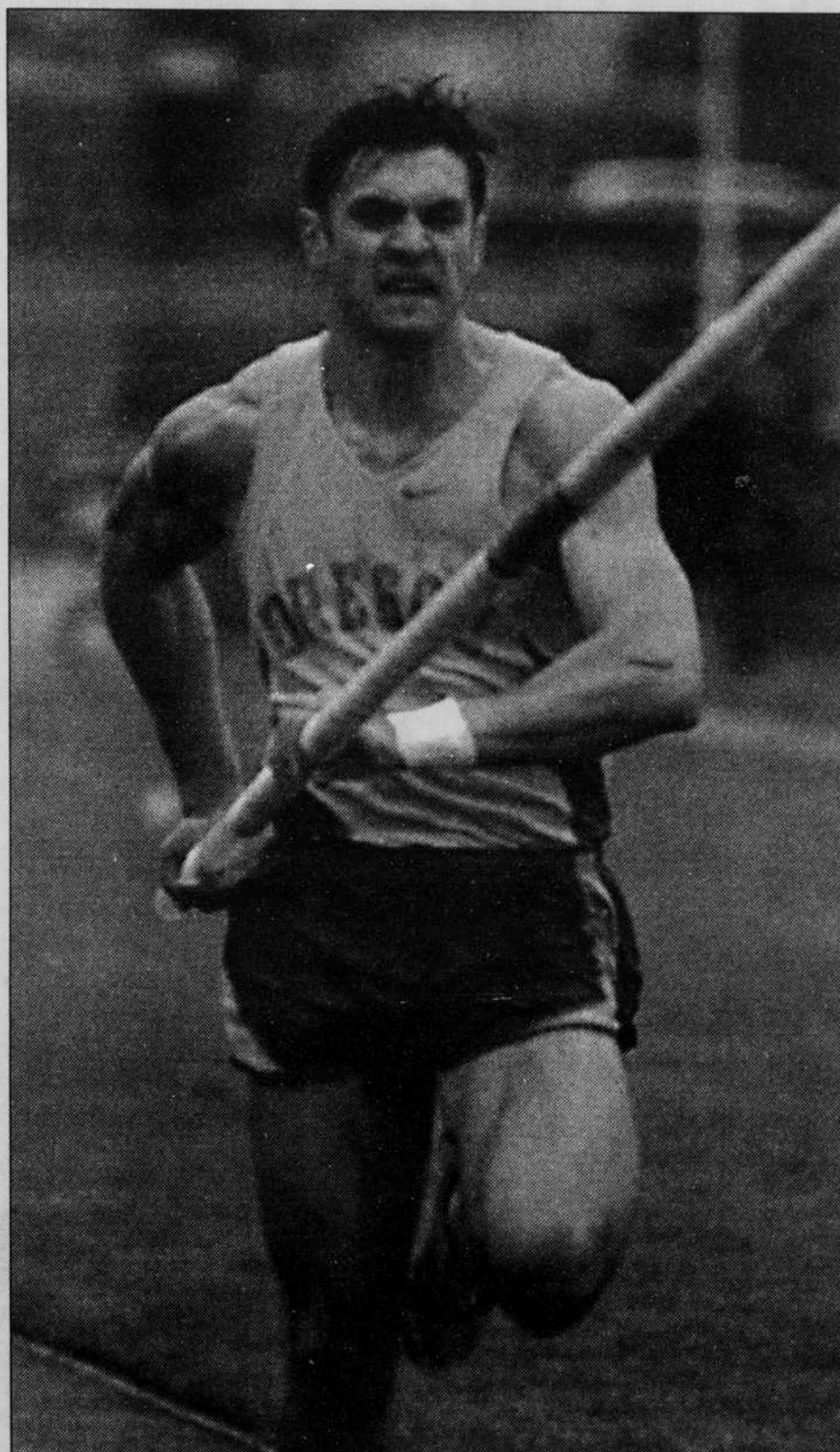
By Scott Pesznecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

More than anything else, this season of Oregon women's track and field may be remembered as the last go-round for seniors Marie Davis and Kaarin Knudson.

The distance-running duo found success at the Pacific-10 Conference Championships in Tempe, Ariz., on May 21-22. Davis took home her first Pac-10 title in the 3,000 meters, and Knudson finished fourth in the 800.

Heading into the NCAA Championships in Boise, Idaho, last Wednesday, it seemed almost certain that Davis and Knudson — both previous All-American

Turn to **WOMEN**, Page 19



Nick Medley/Emerald
Piotr Buciarski was ranked No. 4 in the pole vault going into the NCAA Championships, but strong winds kept the All-American senior from pulling off a clean attempt at any height.

Oregon on upswing with Nosler

Despite the loss of four seniors, the men's golf team is confident it can build on recent success

By Brett Williams
for the Emerald

The Oregon men's golf team capped off one of the most successful seasons in program history Friday, when Ryan Lavoie finished tied for 23rd in the individual standings at the NCAA Championships in Chaska, Minn.

The Ducks couldn't advance as a team into the second half of the tournament, settling for 18th place at Hazeltine National Golf Club, previously host to two U.S. Opens. Oregon hasn't finished as high as 18th at nationals since 1986, when the Ducks matched that mark.

Lavoie, who described his own advancing while his teammates were disqualified as "like kissing my sister," was pleased with his performance at nationals.

"I think I played well," said Lavoie, who will return for his senior season along with teammate Andrew Tredway. "With the tough course and the conditions, I was pleased with how it worked out."

Oregon head coach Steve Nosler believes that Lavoie's mind set factored into his success.

"The thought process he put into his game was very good," said Nosler, who directed Oregon to its second straight national appearance. "He hit good golf shots on a very difficult course."

In a season that started off slow, Oregon ultimately proved it was worthy of the No. 15 ranking with which it finished.

But at nationals, the Ducks suffered a let down when they failed to make the team cut by dropping to 18th after finishing 14th the first day. Only the top 15 teams advanced to the second half of nationals.

While Nosler calls the performance at nationals "very disappointing," he is pleased with the success the Ducks had just to make it to that point.

"It was a highlight that we played well at regionals and had that [nationals] opportunity," Nosler said.

Next season, Nosler will have to revamp

Turn to **GOLF**, Page 20

