

Oregon Daily Emerald

Weather forecast

Today
Partly Cloudy
High 77, Low 52

Wednesday
Partly Cloudy
High 73, Low 55

Summer senate in session

The Oregon Health Plan and the Women's Center are the main topics at the inaugural Student Senate meeting/PAGE 3

Ems keep cruising

Following an 0-6 start, Eugene wins its fourth in five games Monday night at Civic Stadium/PAGE 5

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American champs embrace Tracktown

Despite some disappointment, Hayward Field fans enjoy the U.S.A. Track and Field Championships

By Jack Clifford
Oregon Daily Emerald

Like a splashy Fourth of July fireworks show, the U.S.A. Outdoor Track and Field Championships at Hayward Field had to endure a couple of duds. Yet, one week before America celebrates its final birthday of the millennium, the nation's top athletes gave fans a bash to remember.

Some of the crowd's "oohs" came when sprinter Gail Devers delivered a triumphant return to the track after several injuries, then wowed autograph-seekers by signing everything from T-shirts to dollar bills.

A lot of the "ahs" were for distance runner Regina Jacobs, who trounced her competition in the 1,500-meter run Saturday and then closed out the four-day meet with another convincing win in the 5,000. Jacobs was the meet's only double winner.

Even the smallest of rooters applauded, especially when the athlete had a familiar face. Rick Mestler, a former Oregon Duck, ran Friday in the 3,000 steeplechase, while his 18-month-old son, Jackson, encouraged him from the sideline.

"He's a veteran now, with this being his second track season," said the elder Mestler, after he finished seventh in his preliminary and missed out on the final. "He loves to clap and cheer for everybody."

The weekend's biggest bummer came Sunday. The highly-anticipated race in the 200 between Michael Johnson and Maurice Greene, the world-record holders in the 200 and 100, respectively, failed to take place. Johnson strained his right quadriceps muscle in a Friday afternoon practice and had to pull out.

At least two fans wondered about Johnson's fortitude.

"My wife Sandy and I came down here from Seattle, primarily to watch Michael Johnson run," Dave Ward said. "When you have a marquee event like this and someone like him signs up but bails on it ... well, it's upsetting."

Then again, consider the alternative.

"I wouldn't want to race against Maurice



Catherine Kendall/Emerald

"I love all sports, but I like to come out here and see these athletes who are nationally known."

Cythia van Zelm
Tracktown fan

Turn to USTAF, Page 4

In her first 100-meter hurdles competition since the 1996 Olympics, Gail Devers comes away with the victory.

State aims to cut student health coverage

The proposal would reduce government spending, but some students may suffer financially

By Sara Lieberth
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Republican-led state Legislature released its proposed 1999-2000 budget last week, which, among other amendments, would remove approximately 1,700 college students from the Oregon Health Plan.

Under the current law, students in Oregon higher education who are eligible for the Pell Grant, a federal need-based program, are also eligible for medical and dental care under the state health plan.

The criterion already eliminates administrative work and expense, according to opponents of the budget cut, because the federal government rather than the state determines eligibility.

This provision was mandated during the 1997-99 legislative session, which proponents of the cut cite as a rationale for eliminating it.

In a June 26 Statesman Journal article, Ways and Means Committee co-chair Leslie Lewis, R-Newberg said, "We chose to trim this because it was just added last session. We took a first-in, first-out approach."

Larry Badger, communications director for the House majority office in Salem, said the Republican budget was drafted in response to Gov. Kitzhaber's initial budget recommendation for the coming biennium.

"It reduces the Oregon Health Plan by \$3.4 million," he said. "That's out of \$47 million slated for the program in total."

In an official statement released by the Oregon Student Association, a coalition of 10 Oregon colleges and universities, the group argues that the proposal would drastically affect low-income students who have no other affordable health care available to them.

"I've talked to many people who said if this goes through, they'll have to drop out," said Matt Swanson of OSA. "They don't have low-income students in mind."

University senior Christine Scott, an eco-

nomics major and single parent, agreed.

"This is big-government mentality," she said. "We do not need to remove programs that promote self-sufficiency, and that's exactly what the OHP does for students in my situation."

Although the University has not released an official position, director of legislative relations Kirk Bailey likewise acknowledged the "pretty dramatic impact" this legislation would have on students.

"We're very concerned with what's going to happen," he said. "Our hope would be to maintain the status quo and not take a step back."

According to a 1998 survey conducted by OSA, of the 21 percent of students who do not currently have health insurance in Oregon, 70 percent said this was because they couldn't afford it.

The average family income of a dependent student, who must be younger than 24, eligible for a Pell Grant is \$22,000, while the average income of independent students is \$11,000 per year.

War just 'Civil' no longer

A deal reached Monday in Portland between the Northwest Dodge Dealers, Beaver Sports Properties, ESPN Regional/Oregon Sports Network, Oregon and Oregon State changed the name of the Civil War for the next four years.

Under the agreement, competition between the Ducks and Beavers in nine varsity sports will be referred to as the "Civil War presented by your Northwest Dodge Dealers" through the 2002-03 academic year.

The pact is expected to generate in excess of \$1.4 million between the schools.

"[The Northwest Dodge Dealers] desire to promote athletic competition between Oregon and Oregon State will not only help the exposure of the great rivalry but also the many accomplishments of our fine universities," Ducks athletic director Bill Moos said in a released statement.

As the oldest football rivalry west of the Rocky Mountains, Oregon and Oregon State play for the 103rd time Nov. 20 in Eugene.