



Best Bet

NBA: Sacramento vs. Lakers
7:30 p.m., TNT

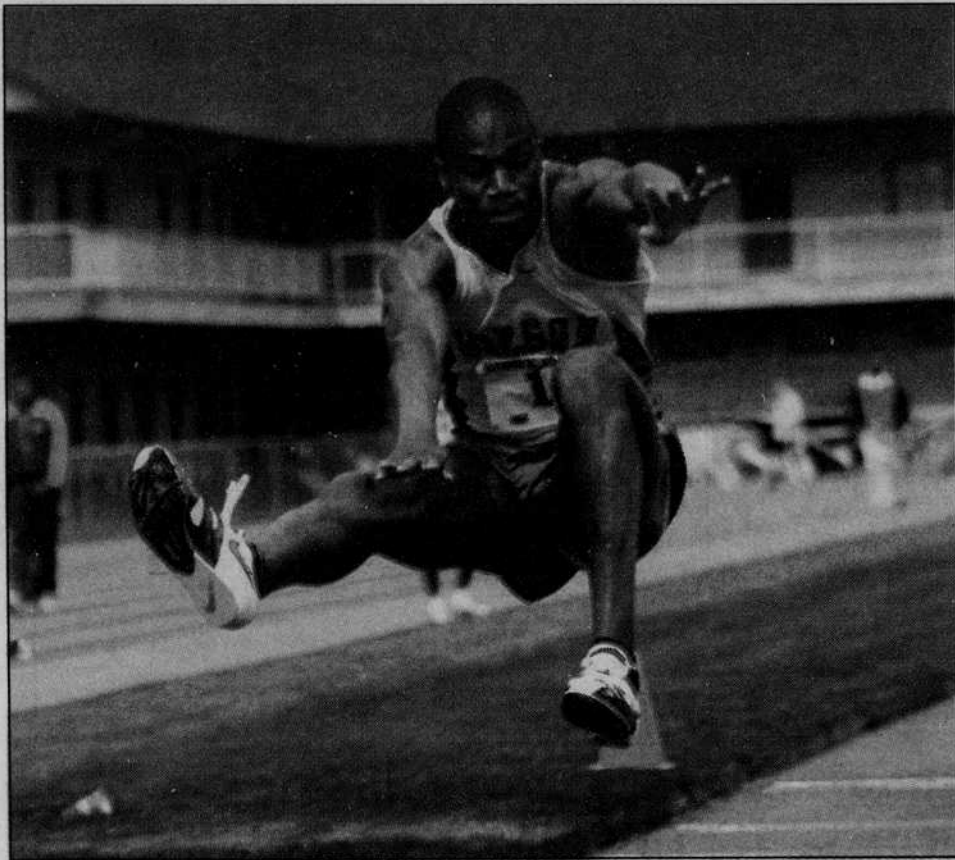
Sports

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Ducks chase the NCAA marks at SAC



Catharine Kendall Emerald

Sophomore Thomas Schneider's strong play this season has had a lot to do with his team's newfound success; the Ducks hope for more of the same today.

Preps, collegians and superstars continue their annual assault in Walnut, Calif., at the prestigious Mount SAC Relays

By Scott Pezneckner and Mirjam Swanson
Oregon Daily Emerald

Jermaine Hanspard won't be competing at the Mount San Antonio College Relays.

"Negative," said the Oregon sprinter as he left football practice Tuesday.

Unfortunately, the senior must stay in Eugene to play in Saturday's football scrimmage even though he said he would rather travel with the Oregon track and field team, because Mount SAC is "the biggest track meet of the season ... it's where all the competition is."

He's right.

The relays, held annually in Walnut, Calif., host 26 collegiate teams and six international

teams. Because of the high level of competition at the meet, it is a place where many athletes earn NCAA-qualifying marks.

Oregon should be familiar with many of its competitors.

Just last week, the Ducks faced Stanford, Colorado, Colorado State and Air Force at the Hayward Relays. Each of those teams will also be in Walnut.

The men compete exclusively at the relays. However, most of the women will split paths and compete in other area meets, the Pomona Pitzer Invitational and possibly the Long Beach State Invitational.

Distance runner Steve Fein has not fully recovered from illness and is questionable to compete at Mount SAC. Representing Oregon in the distances will be seniors Andrew Bliss and Todd Humcke, and sophomore Adam Bergquist.

Sophomore Santiago Lorenzo, who received Pacific-10 Conference Men's Field Athlete of the Week honors for his third-place finish at the Texas Relays decathlon, plans to compete in the 4x400-meter relay.

"I don't like the 400-meter dash — but the relay is different," Lorenzo said. "It's like a group event, I really like running that. I use it as part of a workout because decathlon is pretty long. When I don't do the

decathlon, I try to do as many events as I can."

Decathlon coach Bill Lawson said a break from multi-event competitions will give Lorenzo a chance to recover for later in the season.

"I think Santiago, provided he stays healthy going into the Pac-10 meet, if we rest him and train him correctly, should be able to score a little bit more and he has a real chance at being Pac-10 Champion," Lawson said.

The spotlight on Mount SAC is usually focused on the track, but the success of Oregon's jumpers could draw attention to the field.

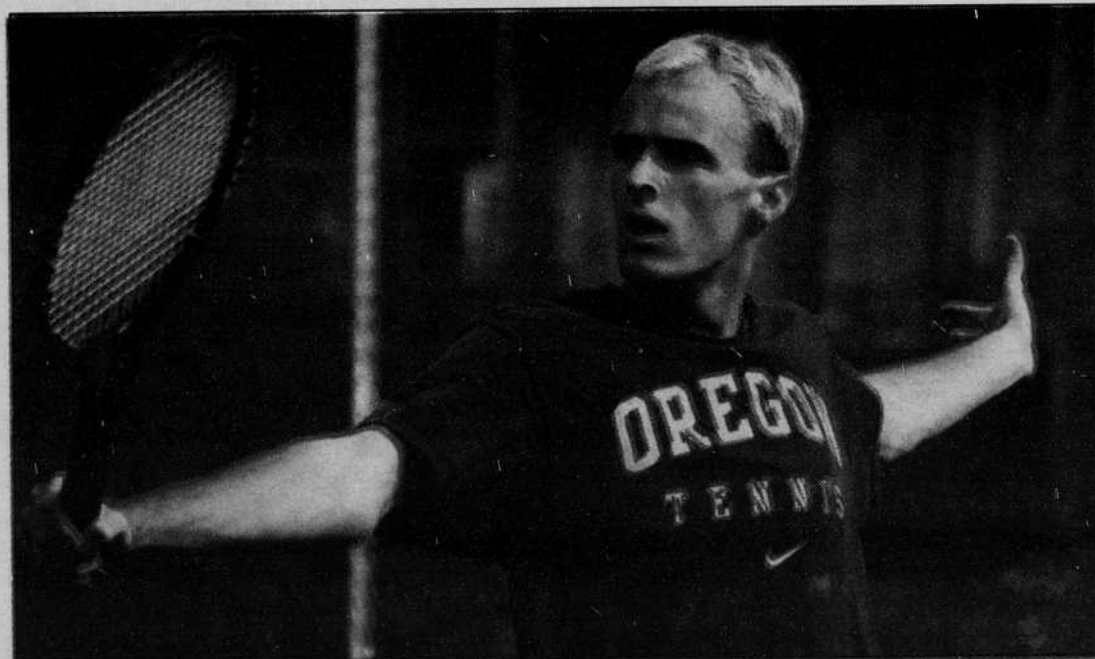
Foluso Akinradewo, one of the Ducks' youngest talents,

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«Last year we learned how to minimize the chaos and maximize the performances.»

Tom Heinonen
UO head coach

Ducks aim for their third straight upset in Pac-10



Catharine Kendall Emerald

Sophomore Thomas Schneider's strong play this season has had a lot to do with his team's newfound success; the Ducks hope for more of the same today.

■ The Oregon women wrap up the regular season in Southern California while the men hope to secure an NCAA bid

By Robbie McCallum
for the Emerald

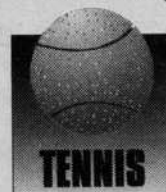
Just as the men's tennis team cleared one major Pacific-10 Conference hurdle, another larger hurdle appears on the horizon.

After earning their first Pac-10 win in five years, the Ducks still need one more Pac-10 win to be considered for the NCAA tournament in May. A win will not come easy, as it's No. 2 UCLA and No. 19 Southern California coming to Eugene this weekend.

The No. 55 Ducks, winners of eight of their last ten matches, has momentum on their side. Last weekend, head coach Chris Russell earned his first two Pac-10 wins ever as the Ducks upset Arizona and Arizona State.

"It will be an exciting weekend of tennis," Russell said. "[The LA schools] will not take us lightly. They know we can win at a higher level."

The Los Angeles schools will provide a much tougher challenge for the Ducks. UCLA is 17-3 on the



On tap

What: Men's tennis

Who: No. 2 UCLA vs. Oregon

When: 1:30 p.m.

Where: Eugene Swim and Tennis Club (or at the 15th Avenue courts, on account of pleasant weather)

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