



NBA Playoffs: Philadelphia vs. Indiana  
5 p.m., TBS

# Sports

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## Softball will see familiar foe in first game

■ No. 19 Oregon will play Southern Mississippi for the second time this season in its first game of the regional tournament

By Matt O'Neill  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Feelings of anticipation, nervousness and anxiety were all going through the minds of the No. 19 Oregon (34-27 overall, 6-12 Pacific-10 Conference) softball team Sunday.

Again the Ducks had to wait to hear

their name called by the NCAA selection committee. But, unlike last year the Ducks did not have to wait until the very last invites to see their name appear.

"Yeah, I was really nervous," senior centerfielder Jill Robinson said. "I don't really know how the selection

committee works, and we had a bad weekend so I didn't know if that would be the final determining factor for us."

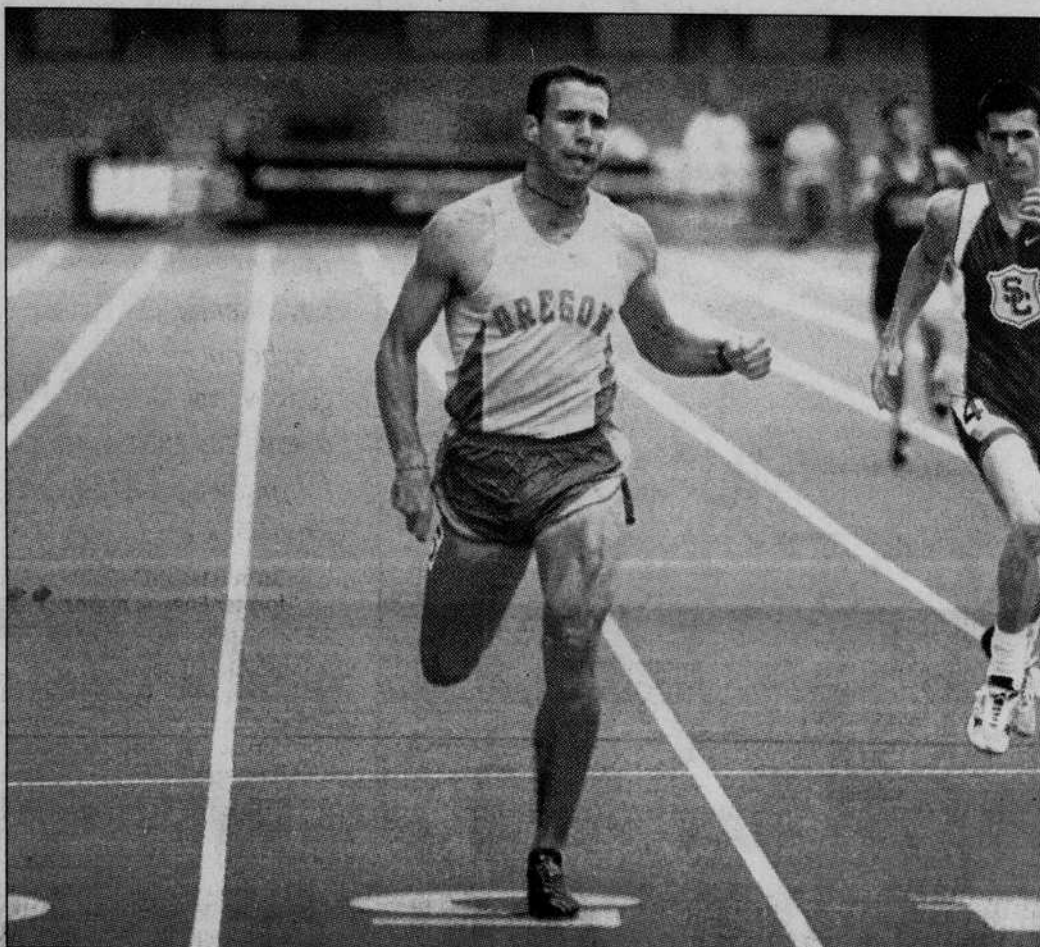
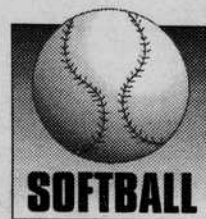
One thing that Robinson and the Ducks do know is their first opponent.

Fifth-seeded Oregon will travel to Baton Rouge, La., to face a familiar foe in No. 2 seeded Southern Mississippi (56-10). The Ducks lost to the

Golden Eagles in their first tournament of the year in the championship round. Southern Mississippi defeated Oregon, 3-0, behind the strong pitching of Courtney Blades, the all-time NCAA strikeout leader.

"This time of the year is always a stressful time of the year for us," head coach Rick Gamez said. "Not only for the pairings, but also playing in the

Turn to **Softball**, page 11



Junior Santiago Lorenzo picks up 873 of his second-place 7,649 points in the 400 at the end of day one of the Oregon Twilight. Kevin Calame Emerald

## Lorenzo wins second in Pac-10 decathlon

■ California's Bevan Hart defends his title and wins with a score of 7,890, just missing the standard for the U.S. Olympic Trials

By Scott Pesznecker  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Gripping the pole with both hands and locking his eyes onto his target, Bevan Hart crouched down, rocked back and forth and prepared himself to vault the bar at 15 feet, 1 inch.

The crowd, in true Tracktown fashion, rhythmically began clapping and stomping, urging the defending Pacific-10 Conference champion to once again go the distance.

But Hart needed to concentrate. He silenced the crowd with a few, short waves of his left hand, not once taking his eyes off of the end of the runway. Again, he rocked back and forth, and shouted some words of encouragement to himself.

Then he took off, and smashed the height. Several minutes later, Hart was the only competitor remaining in the pole vault portion of the Pac-10 decathlon championships, and he was still obliterating heights.

He didn't fail until 17-8 1/2. A new personal best for the soon-to-be champion.

Hart won the Pac-10 title on Sunday with a score of 7,890, just missing the United States

Turn to **Decathlon**, page 12



“I'm so happy. After the first day, I wasn't very pleased. But the hurdles came out very well, and I did my best three throws ever.”

Santiago Lorenzo  
decathlete

## Oregon men, women make the most of their last shot

■ The Oregon men's track team closes its regular season with four personal bests at the Oregon Twilight

By Scott Pesznecker  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Steve Fein is back on track, literally.

The Oregon senior who missed most of the outdoor season because of sinus problems competed in the Bill McChesney Jr. Memorial Twilight Mile — reputedly one of the fastest mile races in the nation.

And he finished third.

The mile marked the end of the three-hour Oregon Twilight meet, which is annually designed to take advantage of dusk's ideal track and field conditions. It worked, as three Ducks including Fein, sophomore John Bello and sophomore Cody Howell achieved personal bests. Sophomore Jason Boness notched a seasonal best in the high jump.

"I was really happy for Steve," head coach Martin Smith said. "He broke four minutes, qualified for NCAAs and quite candidly, it's good to see him running and running well again.

"The focus right now is on the decathletes, that's the Pac-10 Championships," he said. "That's really where we need to

put our energy and really focus in on things."

Fein hung with a pack of post-collegians, Olympic trial, Olympic and NCAA qualifiers en route to a third-place finish in 3 minutes, 59 seconds. It was the distance runner's first-ever sub-4:00 mile, ranking him 21st among the 27 Ducks who have cracked the mark.



"That was as good a mile race as you can come by," Fein said. "The field was great. The talent level was incredible, and obviously, that's what got us under four was the field."

Post-collegian Jason Pyrah won the mile with a time of 3:57.63.

Before Fein thrilled the crowd with his electrifying run, it was Boness who was trying to break records in the high jump.

The sophomore transfer from Northern Iowa set a seasonal best in the high jump, clearing the bar at 7 feet, 3 1/4 inches. On that jump, he clearly had a couple of inches to spare between himself and the bar.

"I should peak next week, and that 7-5

Turn to **Men's track**, page 16

■ Several non-Oregon stars shine at the Duck-dominated Twilight, the final regular meet of the season

By Mirjam Swanson  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Marla Runyan, Elva Dryer and Cheri Kenah punctuated Saturday's Oregon Twilight by running the second-, third- and fourth-fastest 5,000-meter races in the world this year, smashing Annette Peter's nine-year-old meet record in the process. Runyan won with a time of 15 minutes, 7.66 seconds.

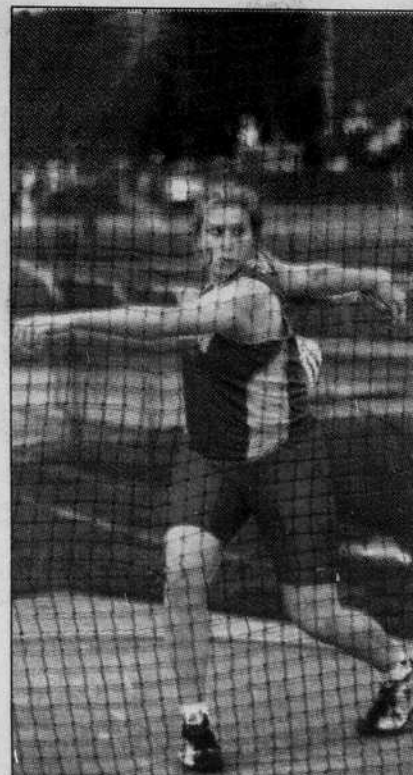
Former Oregon great Marie Davis rode the pace, finishing 13th with a personal record of 16:5.84.

Also, Katy Polansky, a current South Eugene High School student and future Oregon student, produced an Olympic Trials qualifying mark (165-03) in winning the javelin event.

But beyond that, Saturday's last regular season meet at Hayward Field was all about the Ducks of now.

It was quite the sight for the 3,210 on hand to see eight teammates dressed in bright green-and-gold take their places in the blocks for the 100 meters. Freshman Heather Murtaugh won the race (12.41). Endia

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Mary Etter earned her third Pac-10 mark in the hammer and earned marks in the shot put and discus. Kevin Calame Emerald