



**Best Bet**  
NBA Playoffs: Knicks vs. Pacers  
6 p.m., NBC

# Sports

## Fein is ready to rock and UO ready to roll

■ Steve Fein wants to overcome adversity and cap a brilliant collegiate career with a top finish in the 1,500 at Thursday's NCAA Championship

By Scott Pesznecker  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Before the start of the outdoor season, before finishing first among collegians and 14th overall at the World Cross Country Championships, before his third-place finish at the NCAA cross country meet and possibly before he knew he'd ever don a Duck uniform, Steve Fein knew he wanted to be the best. Not just one of the best. Not just another All-American, because he has already done that six times.

Fein never wanted just a piece of it — he wanted the whole thing.

After putting the finishing touches on a stellar

cross country season, it looked as if the whole thing was in reach.

It would have been storybook. Fein finishes third at the cross country NCAAs, ducking under Bob Kennedy's course



record. Fein gains strength and wins the NCAA 5,000-meter title. Then, in his first move as a post-collegian, Fein makes a strong showing in July's 2000 Olympic Trials.

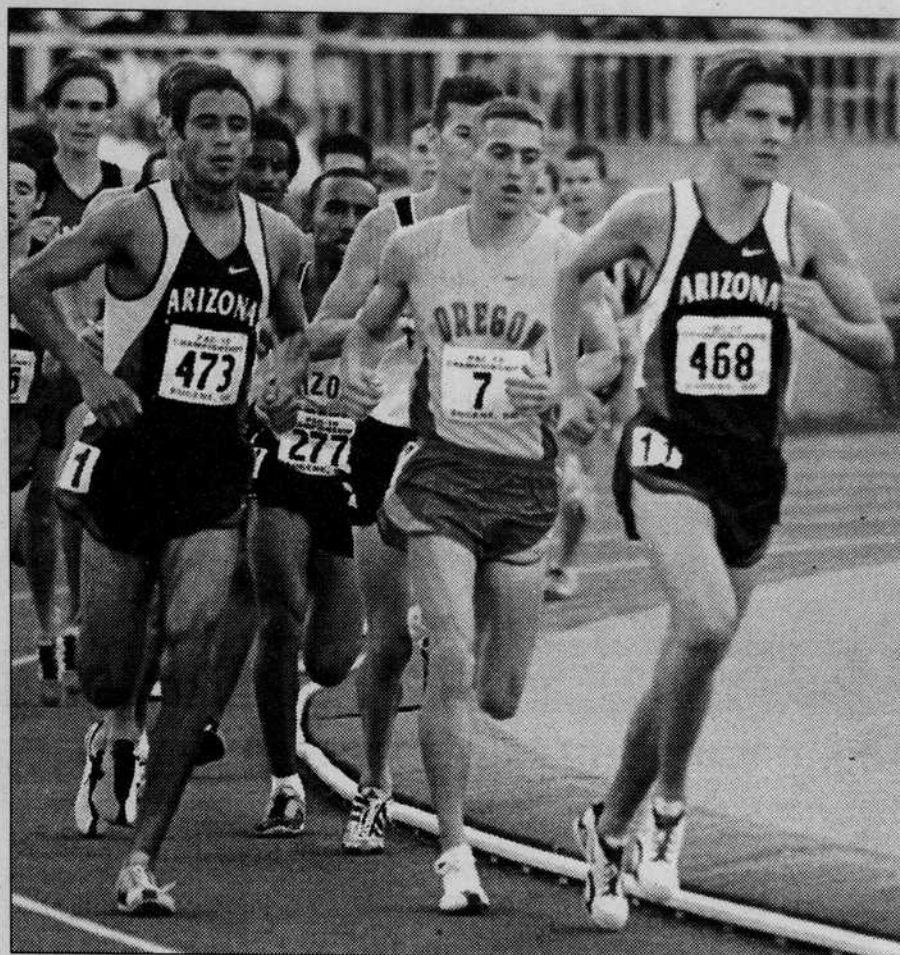
Fein's career thus far is, without a doubt, storied. But heading into Thurs-

day's NCAA Championship competition, what lies ahead for the Oregon senior cannot be so easily read.

Three Ducks extend their season to this week's NCAA meet. Jason Boness competes in the high jump, still fresh from leaping a school-record height of 7 feet, 5 inches, and his first Pacific-10 Conference title. Santiago Lorenzo represents Oregon in the decathlon after finishing as conference runner-up three weeks ago.

And Fein, who took second place in the Pac-10 5,000, his signature event, will also compete at the NCAAs — but in the 1,500, at 7:45 p.m. Saturday. "I'm not a miler by nature," Fein said. "The mile's kind of an interesting little race, especially at

Turn to Fein, page 12



Steve Fein (7) runs to a second-place finish at the Pac-10 Championships but hopes for more at the NCAAs.

## Four Ducks are hoping to fulfill potential at NCAAs



Karis Howell is hoping to put a tough Pac-10 Championships behind her by shining at the NCAA Championships.

■ Karis Howell is one of four Oregon women who take on the nation at this week's NCAA Championships in North Carolina

By Mirjam Swanson  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Javelin thrower Karis Howell wasn't trying to deal with the media last week.

Fair enough. Howell likely wants to focus on the task at hand and avoid distraction or added pressure to an already intense situation this week at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships beginning today in Durham, N.C.

Howell claimed All-American status as a freshman with her 10th-place finish at the NCAAs in 1997. Last season shoulder surgery caused her to red-shirt. And now she is coming off a woeful Pacific-10 Conference Championships on May 20 in which she entered the meet as the conference's leading thrower — her best mark of 166 feet, 4 inches was five feet farther than any of her opponents' best — but finished seventh with a below-par throw of 139-6.

It seems logical then, that Howell wasn't trying to feed the hype now.

"We're trying to go incognito," throws coach Sally Harmon said. "She would rather slip through the back door and do her thing and be done with it, instead of having huge hype, because then she's gonna be all concerned about not letting other

people down. And we don't want that."

Especially after an up-and-down season in which she set her seasonal best early on March 26 but then struggled to return to her true, pre-injury form.

Actually, it wasn't the smoothest season for any of the four Oregon women — one freshman, one sophomore, one junior and one senior — who compete in North Carolina this week.

Katie Crabb spent almost all of her senior season as the Pac-10's leading 1,500-meter runner, with her best time (4 minutes, 19.88 seconds) coming at the Mt. SAC Relays on April 15.

But Crabb finished third at the conference championships on May 21 after not winning a 1,500 race this spring.

Sophomore pole vaulter Niki Reed was a fourth-place finisher at this year's NCAA Indoor Championships, an All-American last season for her fifth-place finish at the NCAAs and is Oregon's all-time leading vaulter with her 13-foot, 1 1/2-inch effort on April 22.

“She does very well when she's in face-to-face competition. She puts the cap on real tight, and she gets ready to fight the big kids.”

Sally Harmon throws coach about freshman Mary Etter



Turn to Women, page 12