10-Monday, March 12, 2001 - Oregon Daily Emerald

## Crabb earns All-American honors in last race

Erabb and Boness both finish ninth at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships.

By Robbie McCallum
regon Daily Emerald
It was a bittersweet ending to a storied track and field career.
Senior Katie Crabb, who ended her career at Oregon at the NCAA Indoor Championships Saturday in Fayettville, Ark., was in position to

## NCAA

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Lindsey Dion said Sunday. "Ithought we had blown the opportunity to go to the NCAA Tournament, and the decision was out of our hands. But low and behold, we got in."
Dion said there was no formal team gathering, but that the Ducks did play "phone tag" after the anouncement.
If the Ducks advance from the
run a personal best, score points and walk away from the oval satisfied. A mid-race collision put an end to all of that.
"Coming in I was excited to have one last opportunity, but it didn't unfold like I would have hoped," Crabb said. "But that's the way things go sometimes, and you can't always prevent collisions."
Crabb was positioned in fifth place in the women's mile, when halfway through the race she collided with two runners, causing her to roll her ankle. The redshirt-senior
maintained pace until the final 200 meter lap, when the pain became too much for Crabb.
The Chico, Calif., native placed ninth in a time of four minutes, 46 seconds, good enough for AllAmerican honors.
"I'm really proud of Katie," women's track and field coach Tom Heinonen said. "I thought she raced really well in the championship setreally well in the championship set-
ting. Overall, she's had a great time ting. Overall, she's had a great time
at Oregon and we'll just never know what she could have been able to do [Saturday] because she didn't have
a fair run.
"The race got off to a good start," Crabb said. "And then when it slowed, I remained patient, thinking I could make a move in the second half. Just before that was going to happen, Irolled [the ankle]. Itried to hang on and not think about it, but it just wasn't thereat the end.
Arkansas' Tracy Robertson won Arkansas Tracy Rober
Redshirt sophomore Jason Boness had a more successful outing in Fayetville. The transfer from Northern Iowa placed ninth in the
men's high jump with a leap of six feet, 11-and-three-quarter inches. Boness' height tied him for sev enth place with Adrian Shears of Norfolk State and Michael Ponikvar of Stanford, but was awarded ninth due to more misses. Boness earned his fourth All-American honors, his second as a Duck.
Weber State's Charles Clinger won the competition with a leap of 7-5. The entire Oregon track and field team takes to the outdoors this Saturday for the season-opening Oregon Preview at Hawyard Field.
first round, they will face the winner of the Utah-Fairfield contest. Oregon lost to Utah, 63-48, in the preseason.
The two-time defending Pac-10 champion Ducks were plagued by injuries and illness throughout the season, which at one point included a five-game losing streak. But Saturday's victory capped off a four-game winning streak ending the season on a higher note.
The Ducks finished the season
fourth in the conference standings.
"I feel like we're playing really good basketball right now," junior guard Jamie Craighead said after Saturday's game. "There is no pressure on us."
A week ago, the Civil War preparation was overshadowed by a team meeting with Oregon Athletic Director Bill Moos.
Eight Oregon players met with Moos March 4 to discuss the team's relationship with Runge and to ask
that the eight-year coach be fired after the season. Moos and Runge have yet to discuss the issue and will not meet until the conclusion of the season.
"It's been a surreal experience this week," Runge said after Saturday's game. "It's not easy. My major concern is to make sure that they had a chance togo to the tournament."
Leading up to the Civil War contest, Runge forbade the team from speaking with the media.
"This week was very emotional,
and coach finally said that we needed to focus on the game," Craighead said. "And I think we've done a good job of not focusing on [the meeting]."
Three other Pac-10 teams - coconference champions Stanford, Washington and Arizona State earned automatic bids to the NCAA Tournament. Stanford is the 10th seed and Washington is sixth in the West Regional, while the slumping Sun Devils are the 11th seed in the Mideast.


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