

Men's Track

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In three years at the helm of the Oregon men's track and field team, head coach Martin Smith has helped make the transition from a traditional team into one that scores many points at the NCAA Championships, which will take place at Hayward Field from May 30-June 2.

Smith has a bright outlook for the 2001 campaign with a strong group of returning NCAA qualifiers, Pacific-10 Conference meet placers and the nation's top recruiting class.

"We're excited to get started," Smith said. "We had a very fine recruiting year, a good fall of training and I think across the board were very complete, with quality at both the national level and at the conference level."

The returning cast

With two returning All-Americans, 11 Pac-10 placers and 28 returning athletes, the 2001 Ducks will have experience in addition to

one of the best recruiting classes in school history.

Juniors Jason Boness and Santiago Lorenzo return after scoring at the NCAA meet a year ago.

Boness is the school record holder in the high jump at 7-feet, 5-inches, and is the defending Pac-10 Champion.

Since placing seventh at the NCAA outdoor championships, Boness competed in the U.S. Olympic Trials and earned his third All-American honors last weekend at the NCAA indoor championships.

Lorenzo was one of Oregon's biggest surprises last season, improving from a would-be nationals qualifier to an NCAA placer in the decathlon. The Buenos Aires, Argentina, native offers a balanced attack, with his strengths in the pole vault, javelin, 400 meters and 1,500 meters.



SMITH

Stepping out of the shadow of graduated Steve Fein in the long distances is redshirt freshman Jason Hartmann. The 5,000-10,000-meter specialist enters his first outdoor track season after two successful cross country and indoor campaigns.

"I'm very excited about outdoors because I redshirted last year," Hartmann said. "Indoors gave me a good feel of where I was at, now I just want to keep improving and finish the season better than I started."

Filling the holes

Athletes who will be looking to make the next step from Pac-10 caliber to NCAA qualifier will make a big difference in Oregon's season.

"We think it's a much more improved team from an athletic perspective," Smith said. "We feel we've been able to fill a lot of holes we had last year and the kids are excited and looking forward to being an improved team at the conference and national level."

Across the Pac-10 form chart, several Ducks who placed at the conference meet a year ago look to

move up and score big points.

One of Oregon's few multi-event scorers was junior John Bello in the throws. The former football player placed sixth in the shot put and fifth in the discus. Bello will be looking for Pac-10 and NCAA qualifying marks this season.

Sophomore Foluso Akinradewo is Oregon's top returning jumper and has already earned a Pac-10 qualifying mark in the triple jump (48-10 1/4) from the indoor season.

Junior Ross Krempley was one of Oregon's more exciting athletes in 2000. The 800-meter specialist's personal best is less than a second off of the school top-10 list at 1:49.7 and two seconds shy of an automatic NCAA berth.

Senior's Michael Kasahun in the distances and Ryan Keith in the javelin are other keys to Oregon's success.

No. 1 recruiting class

Track and Field News magazine rated Oregon's 2001 recruiting class the best in the nation.

"We went after the best possible athletes we could find, regardless of the event," Smith said. "Some

people are very blue-chip oriented. We'll see a very strong hurdle crew and we recruited well in the distances."

Two freshmen come in with the top prep marks nationally. Adam Jenkins, a freshman from Gladstone, owns the nation's best javelin mark (229 feet, 2 inches) while Canby's Eric Logsdon ran the fastest prep 3,000 in recent years (8:10).

Trevor Woods should make an immediate impact in the pole vault with a career best 17-1.

Jake Garlick, a freshman from Salt Lake City, is the top incoming hurdler. He joins junior transfer Micah Harris and freshman Paul Moorhead with the hurdle crew.

Junior college transfer Simon Kimata ran a 1:47 800 meters in 1999 before suffering an Achilles injury. Smith expects Kimata to be at full strength by the Washington dual meet on April 14.

Oregon's All-Americans, Pac-10 placers and blue chips will take to Hayward Field this weekend for the Oregon Preview, the first of six premier home meets this season.

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 14). Your travels could lead to new hope and new challenges. Find a place where opportunities abound in March. The truth sets you free in April, and it could bring a bonus as well. Give up an old habit, but not your high standards, in May. Hold onto your vision of prosperity, rather than your nagging doubts, in June. To win in July, face whatever you like least. Support from a loved one helps. Make it clear how much you care with a promise in November. You'd like to hide out, but you get to go public in December. Chart your next course at home in February.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 6 — Help a friend solve a problem, even if it throws you off schedule. But call if it makes you late for another appointment. That person would not be amused if you didn't.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 6 — You can make a good deal and a good impression on an important person at the same time. This could take a little planning, though; don't go for the short-term gain.

EMINI (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 6 — get a job done on time, find a partner to help. It don't select one who will be a diversion. Choose one who will stick to the job and help you do the same.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) — Today is an 8 — Looks like a loved one of yours, maybe a child, is having trouble with authority figures. Rather than lecturing on compliance, help them out with the assignment. The anger may be frustration over not seeing a solution to the puzzle.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 6 — You can schedule a date for tomorrow, but get back to work. You may decide to pass on a meeting

with friends later. Get to bed early tonight; you may need more rest than you realize.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 6 — Your boss's indecision in a technical breakdown could lead to an interesting day at work. Hide out in the manuals to avoid an argument. You might actually solve the problem yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct 22) — Today is a 6 — There may still be more you need to learn. Unfortunately, a lesson today could be one of those learn-the-hard-way things, and it might involve your money.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 6 — You might be right, but is it worth hammering your point if it's going to cost you? Why not modify your position slightly, and make a lot of money, instead.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 6 — You're getting stronger as the day goes on, and more willing to take action. A partner may advise against it, but that's OK. You can do just fine by yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 6 — Hold off on a purchasing decision. Tell the salesperson you need to think it over. If it still looks like a great deal by tomorrow, go for it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 6 — Don't keep the latest facts and figures to yourself; give them to people who need to know. Your input could make a big difference in a decision, and they'll appreciate you for it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 7 — Stand up straight — the boss may be watching. You'll draw some attention. This may not bring more money immediately, but it's swaying the boss in that direction. Meanwhile, finish a difficult task you've promised.

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