

Women

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Oregon Preview, then moved up the provisional list by throwing it 165-1 at the Willamette Open last week.

"Sarah is in the right place at the right time for us," Heinonen said. "She's making it happen."

The Ducks also have other javelin throwers coming through the ranks. Senior Sara Dinsmore threw a personal best at the Willamette and barely missed a Pac-10 qualifying mark, while sophomore Weingarten threw a Pac-10 qualifying distance at the Oregon Preview.

Looking ahead to the weekend

As the rain falls once more in the city of Eugene, Oregon is hoping for rain of another kind this weekend.

The Ducks are hoping to rain on the Huskies' parade.

Oregon will take on Washington in its only dual meet of the season Saturday at Hayward Field. For the Duck athletes, it is their first chance of the season to compete together instead of going for individual scores. Each team will notch points toward their overall scores depending on how they perform in each event.

"Last year, when we won, we did a victory lap around Hayward, and it really felt like a team," said sophomore long jumper Amanda Brown, referring to last season's 80-74 Oregon victory in the Washington Dual.

Of course, the team competition doesn't mean that the Ducks will lose sight of their everyday goals, which include qualifying for the Pac-10's and NCAA Championships.

"Everybody has to hold their own out there, and then we worry about the team," sophomore sprinter Lucretia Larkin said.

Oregon athletes have come close to qualifying for the NCAA Championships — which will be held at Hayward Field May 30-June 2 — but many have had to settle for provisional marks. Heinonen said many of those athletes with provisional marks should end up in the NCAA's.

The Washington Dual will take place Saturday, starting at noon.

Notes: Sophomore Jenny Brogdon qualified for the Pac-10's in the high jump by clearing 5-7 at the Willamette Open last weekend. Brogdon was the second Oregon athlete to clear that height; Racheal Kriz did it at the Bearcat Invitational. Sophomore Mary Etter, who scored three victories at the Willamette, scored a personal best in the hammer to add to her list of accomplishments.



Freshman javelin thrower Sarah Malone will continue as she has filling in nicely for two-time All-American Karis Howell, whose career was ended by injury.

Emerald

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third among collegians this season.

Stiegeler and Lorenzo join redshirt freshman Jason Hartmann in the NCAA automatic qualifying club. Hartmann qualified in the 10,000-meters.

In the polls

Following an impressive performance at the Texas Relays last weekend, Oregon joined the Trackwire.com top-25 poll.



STIEGELER

The Ducks came in at No. 11, scoring 11 points to tie with Mississippi and Ohio State. The rankings are based on personal bests, NCAA qualifying marks and a progression of marks of a select 15-20 athletes from each Division I school.

The Ducks were previously unranked in outdoor and indoor competition.

Ahead of the curve

With three NCAA automatic qualifiers, six provisional qualifiers and many Pac-10 qualifiers, the Ducks are leaps and bounds ahead of last year's track team. After three competitions last season, the 1999-2000 Ducks had only three provisional qualifiers and no automatic qualifiers.

"I've been pleased with what I've seen so far," Oregon head coach Martin Smith said. "We've had some marks that were some pleasant surprises and some we've expected. We expected a good mark from John Stiegeler ... Jason's run was unexpected."

If the season ended today ...

If the NCAA track and field championships, which will be held at Hayward Field from May 30 through June 2, were today, Oregon would score 19 points and finish in a tie for 13th place. This mark would be the Ducks' best since the 1992 season, when they placed fifth.

In the past four years, Oregon has scored no more than seven points at the national meet and placed no higher than 35th.

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