



## Three football players test speed with track



Emerald  
Wesly Mallard prepares to tackle Arizona's Michael Jolivette. His tackle made highlights everywhere when he knocked Jolivette's helmet off.

■ Both football and track coaches form an arrangement to let a few speedsters pull double duty

By Jeff Smith  
Oregon Daily Emerald

At 6:30 p.m. Friday, Oregon football players Wesly Mallard, A.K. Keyes and Samie Parker walked off the practice field after participating in their team's second scrimmage of the spring.



Less than 24 hours later, the three were lined up in the lanes of Hayward Field and trying to help the Oregon track and field team beat the Huskies Saturday at the Washington Dual.

After four football practices in five days, the quick turnaround to the fast lanes provided more challenges than a few of the players were expecting.

"It was very tough on my legs," said Keyes, a cornerback from Los Alamitos, Calif. "It was tiring, but I had a lot of fun. I ran track in high school three years ago and I love it and miss it a lot."

Keyes, Mallard and Parker were three of the four members on the Ducks' 4x100 meter relay team that finished in 42.30 seconds, just behind the Huskies and their time of 41.54.

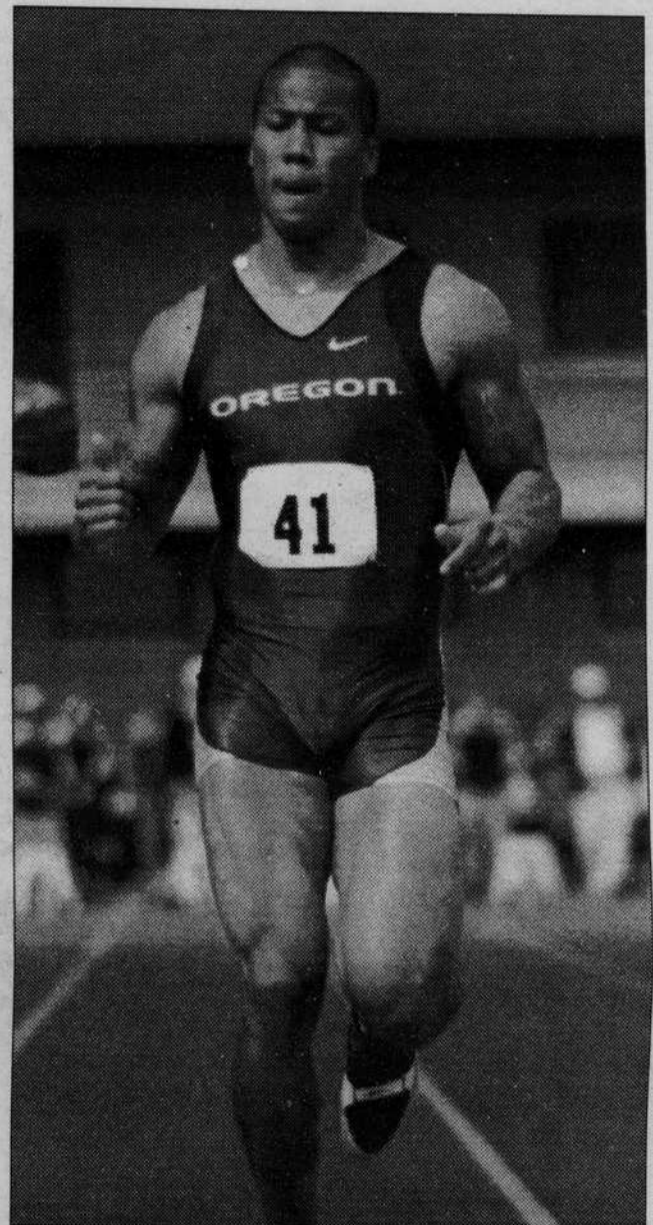
But considering that the relay team had only practiced twice together — once on football's day off Wednesday and the other just prior to the meet — the results were quite impressive.

"Hey, we got it around the track and there were no dropped batons, so you can't say anything bad about that," said Mallard, a soon-to-be senior linebacker.

Mallard and Keyes also were among the six competitors in the 100-meter dash. While the two looked the part and certainly ran fast, they were overshadowed by another football/track player. Washington's Ja'Warren Hooker, who has played two seasons on the gridiron as a wide receiver, showed off his world class speed and won the event with a time of 10.32.

Keyes finished third in the event at 11.08, while Mallard finished in 11.47 to beat out a Husky to take fifth-place.

"It was definitely a different experience and a different way of competing, but I had a blast," said Mal-



Tom Patterson Emerald  
Wesly Mallard, usually covered in pads and a helmet, tested out track Saturday for the first time since he ran it in high school five years ago.

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## Brutal schedule is beginning to frustrate Oregon



■ Despite struggles, the Oregon softball team is not giving up as No. 15 Washington and No. 1 UCLA come to town

By Adam Jude  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Almost exactly one year ago, the Oregon softball team was in almost the exact same situation as the team is in now.

Heading into a weekend series at California and Stanford on April 14, 2000, the Ducks had dropped five straight and were clinging to the hopes of a postseason berth.

Lo and behold, Oregon swept the then-No. 8 Bears and No. 9 Stanford, climbing back into the hunt with a 29-17 overall record.

This season, the Ducks (25-26 overall, 1-7 Pacific-10 Conference) have had their bumps and bruises, but they're not giving in just yet. A couple of wins against No. 1 UCLA and No. 15 Washington this weekend would do a lot for a shaken Oregon squad.

"We're not quitting," said sophomore Lisa Wangler, the team's top hitter with a .390 average. "We know we have it, it's just not coming together for us. Not everyone is on the same page."

“ We're not quitting. We know we have it.

Lisa Wangler  
Oregon sophomore



Jon House Emerald  
Senior catcher Kelly Planche watches as Oregon State's Shelly Prochaska slides in safely at the plate. Senior first baseman Triawn Custer (background) lies on the ground after committing an error. Oregon is hoping that its restful week will help it bounce back this weekend at Howe Field.

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