

# Pappas

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With so much talent in one generation of Pappases, you'd think that athletic prowess runs in the family, right?

"I honestly don't know where it came from," said Nick Pappas, father of the three. "I had polio when I was younger and didn't have the chance to do athletics. Their mother's athletic career ended in junior high school with the low hurdles."

The foundations for the great decathlon careers were laid by the eldest son, Paul.

"Paul did track because he couldn't see a baseball real well," Nick said. "So he picked up a pole vault bar and the next thing you know, he's a state champ. That's what started the whole track thing going."

Despite poor vision, Paul excelled in multi-events, including the pole vault, high jump, long jump, shot put and hurdles — five of the 10 decathlon events.

"Paul knew he was going to do the decathlon in high school," said

former Glendale High School track and field coach Jeff Hess. "I didn't push them into [the decathlon], but I certainly knew it was something they could excel at."

Tommy and Billy followed suit, setting up a great multi-event tradition for Glendale track.

"I'm doing the decathlon mainly because of my brothers," Billy said. "If they hadn't have done track I still would have done it, but watching them do the decathlon encouraged me to do it."

For many years, the athletic focus for the Pappases was on the mat, not around the oval.

"They were all exceptional wrestlers," Nick said. "Their grandpa was a professional wrestler so he encouraged them into that more than anything. Tommy and Billy were 98-pounders for most of high school."

"Wrestling was my main sport for a while," Billy said. "I started when I was in third grade. We even had our own wrestling ring in our gym at home. I just always remember doing it. It was pretty big in our family."

Two years after walking on at Ore-

gon, Paul was the Ducks' top decathlete. Around the same time, Tommy was competing for Lane Community College exclusively as a high jumper.

"Tommy's old coach at Lane had everyone on the team do an hour decathlon to get into shape," Nick said. "In one hour, Tommy scored more points than their official decathlete had done in a real competition. At their first meet he broke the school record."

By the time Billy was a senior at Glendale, both of his brothers were collegiate decathletes.

"We could see the decathlon in him," Hess said. "We didn't push him into it. We have an end-of-the-year decathlon every year just for fun, and he did well in that."

"I knew I was going to do it by my senior year," Billy said. "My main event was the hurdles, but I also did the 4x4 and long jump. I played a bit with a javelin and shot. Then, mostly I was just having fun."

Billy followed the same path Tommy did by beginning his college career at LCC. After a successful stint at the junior college level, Pappas was

heavily recruited by the new Oregon head coach, Martin Smith.

The previous Oregon coaching staff had chosen to pass on Tommy, who later went on to win an NCAA Championship for Tennessee.

"Martin came to us and said, 'We don't want to make the same mistake twice,'" Nick said. "They were real enthusiastic about recruiting Billy."

"The reason why we went after Billy is because he fit the mold of the type of athlete we wanted," Oregon multi-events coach Bill Lawson said. "I think the thing that was really attractive about trying to get Billy Pappas to the University of Oregon was not only his athletic capabilities but his competitive attitude."

Pappas considers his strengths to be in the 110-meter hurdles and the long jump.

"I like all of the explosive events," Pappas said. "The high jump, shot put, 100. That's where the weight room comes in well."

In his first complete season of competition for Oregon last season, Pappas finished fourth at the Pac-10 Championships and earned an NCAA provisional mark in the process with his total of 7,184 points. This year,

## THE PAPPAS BROTHERS FILE

**Billy:** Oregon decathlete. Ranked second in Pac-10 among returnees. Placed fourth at last year's Pac-10 meet with a personal best 7,184 points. Placed second with 6,742 points at the junior college level while at Lane Community College. Won 2A state titles in 110 and 300 hurdles at Glendale HS. Also played football and wrestled.

**Tommy:** Collegiate record-holder in the decathlon with 8,463 points. Won the NCAA title for Tennessee in 1999. Placed fifth at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney.

**Paul:** Ranks ninth on the Oregon all-time decathlon list with 7,303 points. Four-year letter-winner and former walk-on. Placed fourth at Pac-10s with NCAA provisional qualifying mark in 1997.

Pappas is hungry for even more.

"I'd obviously like to qualify for nationals," he said. "The main goal at Pac-10s is to beat people and score points for the team."

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Applications are available at Suite 300, EMU.

Applications due by 5 p.m. Monday, May 14, 2001

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## Horoscope by Linda C. Black

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 10).** Don't save because you need the money; do it for a better reason, like taking the vacation of your dreams. Look ahead in May, and pick a destination. In June, don't spend as if you were rich. Save so that you will be. There's more to learn in July. Find out what it is. Watch your pennies and make plans through the summer and fall. By December you can count your winnings. January is for travel and for dreams coming true. In February, get the raise you've earned.

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 — You've got a good chance to make progress. The path has been blocked, but now it's clear. Don't whine, even if this comes at an inconvenient time. Your quick action can make the sale, as well as a fabulous impression on the boss. Save the socializing for Sunday.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** — Today is a 6 — The good news is that you can increase your savings. The bad news is that this will take work. Research a new purchase carefully, for quality as well as price. If you're seeking a raise, ask for more than you're likely to get.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21)** — Today is a 7 — You're chugging right along without a care in the world. Then, suddenly, you have to get serious. Plans that you and a friend make go flat, even though it seemed like such a great idea. Your timing is off, that's all. Try again on Sunday.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22)** — Today is a 7 — Take your head out of your work long enough to set a few goals. Unrealistic goals are fine. They won't come true today or tomorrow, but it's nice to know which direction you want to take. It makes the climb more fun.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** — Today is a 7 — Your memories of precious moments with the one you love keep you going when times get tough. That's great, because memories are all you'll have time for today. They'll whet your appetite for the good times to come this weekend.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** — Today is a 7 — Use your wits to make sure others prosper. The happier they are, the better off you'll be. You won't have to wait forever to get your reward. You can schedule that for tomorrow night.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** — Today is a 7 — You start out curious, and your curiosity only intensifies. Each question raises new questions, not answers. You're sure there's a rhyme or reason, but it may still elude you. Spend tonight thinking about it and talking it over with your mate. You won't find the answer then, either, but it'll be fun.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** — Today is a 6 — Call in a debt. It will help you get something you want for your home. You should be able to visualize the item even if you can't afford it yet. You'll be able to afford it eventually, because you're not the type to give up.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** — Today is a 7 — Plans that you and your sweetheart make today may take longer to materialize than you'd hoped. Costs will be higher than you anticipated. Don't despair if it takes a while to get to Tahiti. Keep on scheming and dreaming.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** — Today is a 7 — It's time to follow through on an idea you've been keeping to yourself. One warning: Even though you've given this a lot of thought, you'll have to make some changes.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** — Today is a 6 — If you move quickly, and early, on a friend's suggestion, you might get away with it. The longer the day goes on, the less likely your chances. Although you think you've got it made tonight, you're apt to lose the bet. Proceed with caution.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)** — Today is a 6 — Orders from a nervous person may be annoying, but don't make too big a fuss. Don't take on a new job without getting the terms in writing. Lofty promises won't be worth much if the check doesn't clear the bank.

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