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Duck heptathletes gather first points in Pac-10 meet

■ Jenny Kenyon and Ann Sullivan place fifth and sixth, respectively, at the Pac-10 heptathlon

By Peter Hockaday Oregon Daily Emerald

Jenny Kenyon took a slight step down from her personal best, Ann Sullivan took a slight step up, and the end result was that the Oregon athletes finished fifth and sixth, respectively, at the Pacific-10 Conference Heptathlon Championships Sunday.

The heptathlon, a seven-event meet over two days, marked the first chance for the Pac-10 schools to score marks in the conference meet, being held in Berkeley, Calif. The Ducks now have seven points in the meet, the second-most of any team. The rest of the Oregon athletes will take the trip to California for the expanded meet next weekend.

Kenyon struggled slightly over the weekend due to a tender knee, but scored 4,911 points to finish fifth in the nine-athlete field. The performance wasn't as strong as her fourth-place showing in Eugene last year, but bet-

tered her performance in 1999 by 500 points.

Kenyon's weakest events over the weekend were the 100 hurdles, high jump and long jump. Before the meet, Kenyon had

pointed to the shot put and 200meter race as her strengths, and she finished fifth and second in those events.

For Sullivan, the high points came in the 100 hurdles, 200 and long jump. Sullivan, primarily a runner, finished last in the high jump and second-to-last in the 800. The freshman said she knew she would have trouble in those events heading into the weekend. However, her 4,874 points were enough for a season and personal best.

Washington State's Ellannee Richardson and Whitney Evans finished first and second at the heptathlon, respectively, giving the Cougars 18 points and an early lead in the conference meet. Richardson scored 5,578 points, an NCAA automatic mark, and Evans scored a provisional mark of 5,546 points.

Julie Tinker of Stanford finished in third-place with an NCAA provisional mark. Stanford's Lillian Bush finished eighth, giving the Cardinal seven points in the meet.

Sullivan will return to Berkeley next weekend for the regular Pac-10 meet. She qualified for the Pac-10s in the 100 hurdles and the 400 hurdles.

Softball

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You don't have to worry about what might have been.

"I'm glad it wasn't a strikeout."

Custer finished 1-for-2 with a single in her last game in an Oregon uniform. The Ducks, on the other hand, finished a season to remember — for all the wrong reasons.

A 6-0 loss in Game 1 of the doubleheader and a 5-1 defeat in the afternoon game wrapped up a controversial and disappointing year that saw Oregon finish 1-20 in the Pacific-10 Conference (28-40 overall), the worst season in Gamez's five years as the head coach.

Gamez had led the Ducks to three straight NCAA Tournament appearances.

He said he expected the team to play more competitively against Stanford after the Ducks nearly upset No. 6 California on Friday in a 7-4 loss.

"I thought that after yesterday's performance that we would come out today and play a little harder and be more aggressive," Gamez said.

Sophomore pitcher Lisa Wangler gave up five earned runs and eight hits to take the loss in the first game. Offensively, the Ducks managed just two hits in five innings off Stanford starter Dana Sorensen, one of the top pitchers in the nation with a 0.41 ERA heading into the weekend.

Sorensen picked up the win to improve to 22-3 on the season, while Stanford improved to 47-13-1 overall and 10-10 in the conference.

"Obviously there's a reason Stanford's ranked No. 4 in the country," Gamez said. "[Sorensen] is just a great pitcher."

Freshman Anissa Meashintubby (4-3) pitched a complete game in the second contest, allowing nine hits and four earned runs to take the loss.

"I thought Anissa did a great job today; she threw the ball extremely well," Gamez said. "I was just really happy for her, and that's just typical with the type of kid she is and how hard she has worked all year long."

Wangler singled in the fifth inning to score junior Alicia Mickes, who started off the inning with a base-knock. It was the only run the Ducks had on the day and the only run they scored off Stanford in three games this season.

Against Cal Friday, sophomore second baseman Alyssa Laux hit her first home run of the season in the bottom of the first to put the Ducks ahead 2-1. Sparked by a two-out solo homer by Paige Bowie, the Bears scored three runs on one error in the fifth to take a 4-2 lead.

The Ducks rallied behind sophomore Andrea Vidlund's 11th home run of the season, a solo shot in the sixth. With Custer on third, Kristi Hall hit a sacrifice fly to center to tie to the game at 4.

Pac-10 Softball Final Standings

Arizo::a 19-2 57-4 UCLA 16-5 55-5 Washington 11-10 37-21

Stanford 10-10 47-13-1 **Oregon State** 10-10 43-22-1

Arizona State 9-12 34-20 California 6-14 49-15 Oregon 1-20 28-40

The Bears (49-15, 6-14), however, scored three runs in the top of the seventh to secure the win.

Oregon junior Connie McMurren (8-18) allowed six earned runs to take the loss.

Wangler nabs MVP honors

Wangler, a sophomore transfer from Mesa (Ariz.) Community College, was named the team MVP at the annual softball awards banquet Sunday. She was also awarded with the Rookie of the Year honor.

Meashintubby, a Monroe native who led the team with a 3.75 ERA, earned the Most Inspirational award.

In the leadoff spot, Wangler set a school record with 87 hits while leading the team with a .367 batting average. Additionally, Wangler scored 37 runs and led the team with 16 stolen bases and 93 total bases. She finished the season 5-11 in the circle, including four shutouts.

Pac-10

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cus, coupled with wins by Stanford's Jason Goff, kept the race tight between the two.

That left Lorenzo needing a solid performance in the final event—the 1,500 meters.

"I needed to stay within 35 seconds of [Goff]," Lorenzo said. "So that was not going to be a problem."

Although Goff won the 1,500, Lorenzo ran close, finishing fourth in 4:36. Lorenzo posted his second NCAA automatic qualifying mark of the season and now has the fourth best mark nationally. Lorenzo finished fifth at last years' NCAA Championships.

Oregon junior Billy Pappas also

&& Everything just felt right.

Santiago Lorenzo decathlon champion



had a strong weekend in Berkeley, placing third despite some nagging hip injuries. Pappas scored 7,428 points to provisionally qualify for nationals.

Pappas won the long jump and shot put on Saturday and added second-place finishes in the 110 hurdles and pole vault on Sunday for a 300-point personal best. Pappas' most impressive mark came from the 1,500 meters where he ran a blazing 15-second personal best in 4:35.

Duck sophomore Jason Slye just missed the scoring column with a ninth-place finish. Slye was only 46 points off his personal best and 65 points out of eighth-place. The Keizer native won the pole vault in 15-11.

Oregon enters next week's Pac-10 regular event competition as the conference leader with 16 points courtesy of Lorenzo and Pappas.