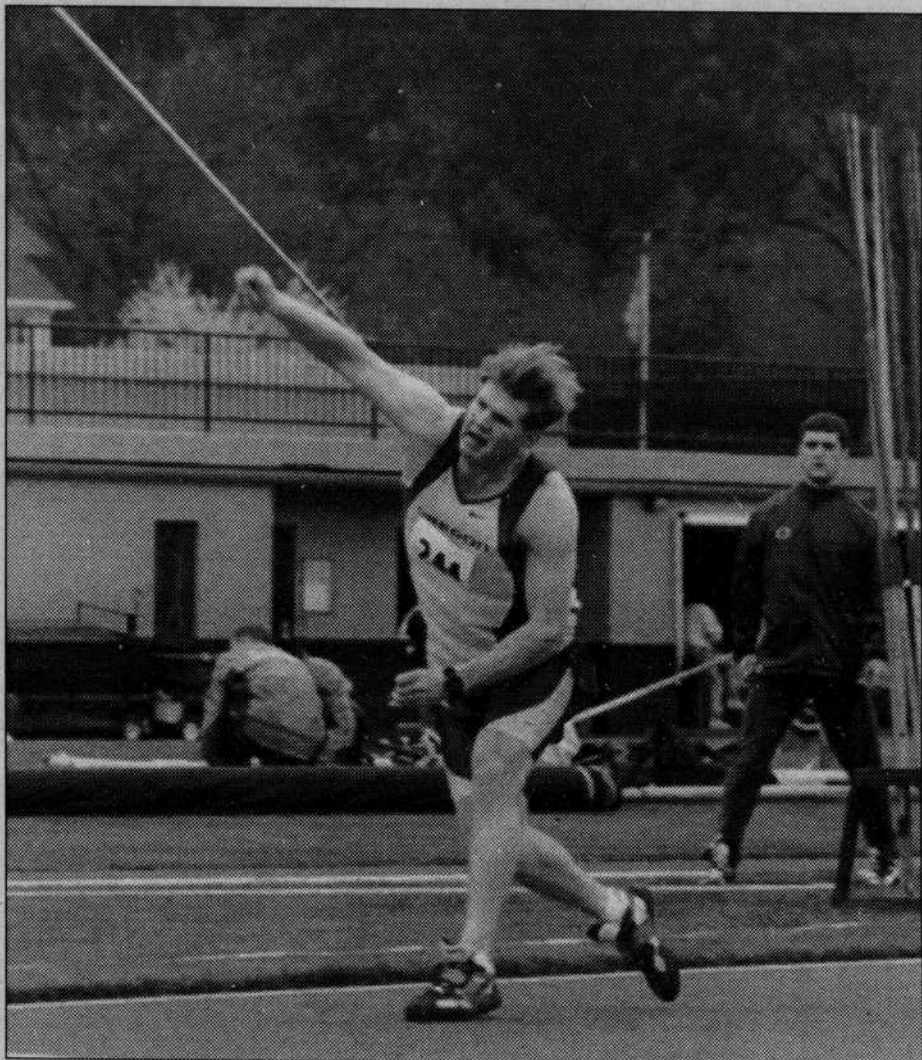


Best Bet
MLB: New York at Seattle
7 p.m., Fox Sports Net

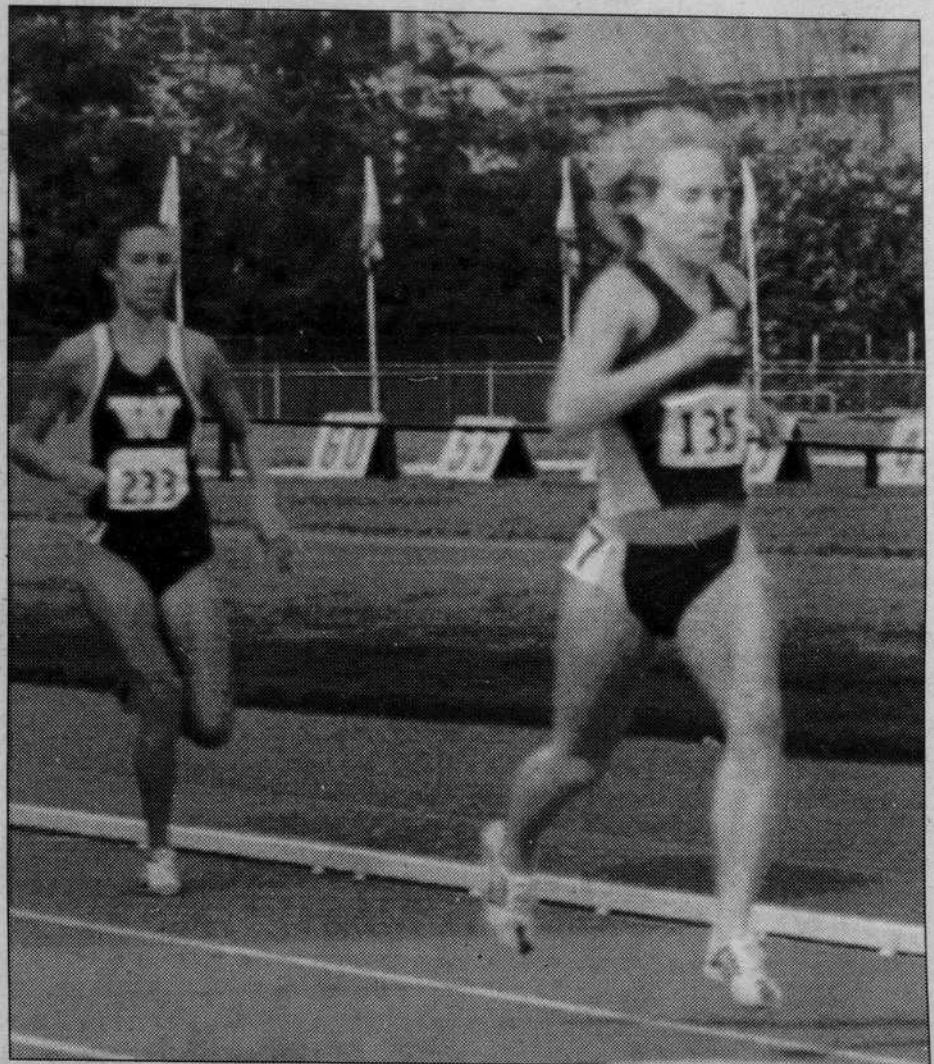


SPORTS EDITOR: JEFF SMITH Smittside@aol.com



Emerald

Oregon sophomore John Stiegeler is the favorite to win the Pac-10 and NCAA javelin titles.



Tom Patterson Emerald

Senior transfer Hanna Smedstad qualified for the Pac-10s in the 5,000 and 1,500-meter races.

California Dreamin': track heads to Pac-10s

■ The Ducks should make noise at the Pac-10 Championships after a disappointing showing in 2000

By Robbie McCallum
Oregon Daily Emerald

A lot can change in a year. A year ago this weekend, the Oregon men's track and field team finished seventh out of nine teams at the Pacific-10 Conference Championships, its worst fin-

ish ever. What was even worse was that the conference meet was held at Hayward Field in Tracktown, U.S.A.



The Ducks hope to put up a better showing this year in Berkeley, Calif., and they have seven big reasons why they should.

1. Returning are All-Americans Jason

Turn to Men, page 12A

■ The Oregon women will try to improve on last year's disappointing last-place finish

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

Last year, the Oregon women's track and field team finished ninth at its conference championships.

Normally that wouldn't be that bad, but this happened at the Pacific-10 Conference

Championships. There are only nine teams in Pac-10 track.

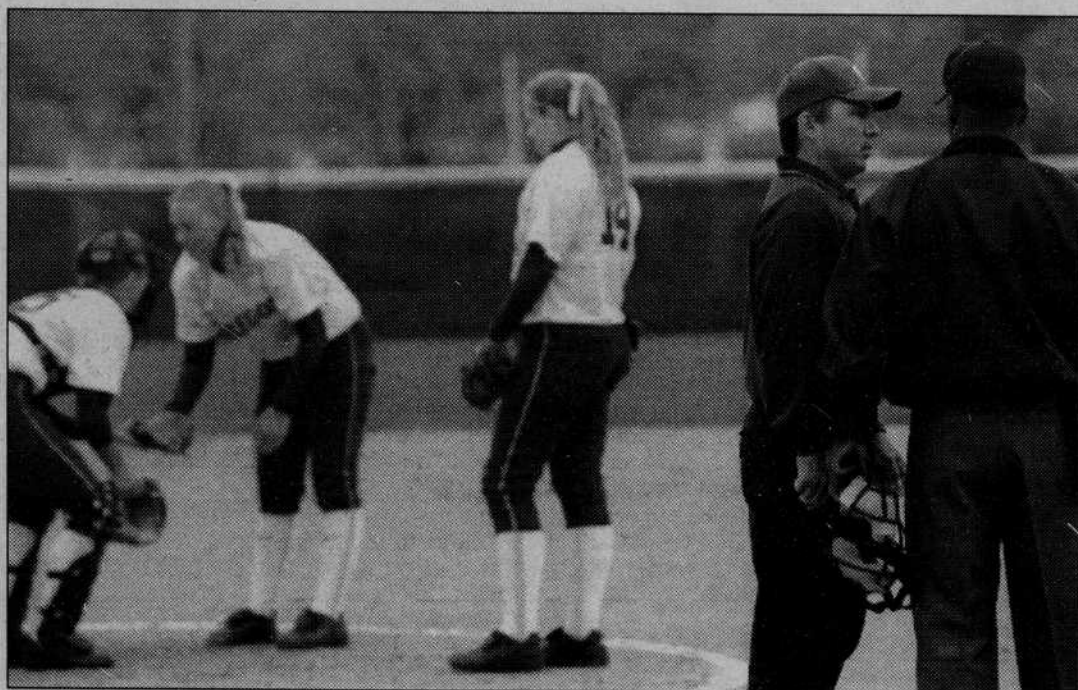


It was made even worse by the fact that the championship was held at the Ducks' own Hayward Field.

This season, Oregon will need to improve in a hurry to avoid a second

Turn to Women, page 9A

Oregon looks to move forward after brutal season



Jon House Emerald

Head coach Rick Gamez and the Ducks struggled through a season that saw them lose 40 games overall, the most in the program's 25-year existence. The Ducks lose only one senior and have high expectations for next year.

■ The Oregon softball team will use its 1-20 season as a learning experience and focus on building team chemistry

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

An Oregon fan — a student with close ties to the team — aired his frustrations with one out remaining in the Oregon softball team's season finale Saturday against Stanford.

"Way to get your team to play for you, coach!" the fan roared sarcastically from the Howe Field stands as the Ducks ended their season 1-20 in the Pacific-10 Conference.

The comment, along with other not-to-be repeated phrases, was of course directed at fifth-year head coach Rick Gamez, who is taking much of the heat after his team lost 40 games, the most in the program's 25-year history.

But, to Gamez's credit, the problems seemed to stretch beyond coaching styles, beyond strategies and beyond penciled-in starting lineup cards. In

essence, nothing seemed to go right for the Oregon softball team this season — on or off the field.

To start, the list of ailments and misfortunes was extensive during the four-month season.

Junior Holly Ray missed the final six weeks of the season because of a torn rotator cuff in her right arm, for which she had surgery April 12.

Perhaps the most shocking news of the year came with three weeks remaining in the season, when just minutes before an April 20 game against

Washington, starting catcher Kelly Planche — one of two seniors on the team — unexpectedly quit the team for personal reasons.

Gamez would not comment on the specifics of Planche's decision.

"I have a lot of respect for Kelly and what's she done for this program in the last four years," Gamez said. "She's a class act."



Turn to Softball, page 8A