

Sports brief

Women's discus thrower ends Championships early

For Oregon sophomore Mary Etter, the NCAA Championships were over almost as soon as they began.

The Duck discus thrower finished third-to-last in the discus final Wednesday afternoon, ending an up-and-down season for the Everett, Wash., native. Her best toss of 139 feet, two inches was well short of her season best and personal record of 175-9.

Etter threw that distance in April, a week after she raised her personal record. Since then, the sophomore has struggled to regain her early-season form.

However, Etter never sunk as low as Wednesday's mark. As recently

as two weeks ago, she threw 168-8 at the Pacific-10 Conference Championships to finish fourth in the conference.

Last season, Etter achieved All-American status in the discus with a throw of 166-11, good enough for eighth place nationally. This season, Etter's throw of 139-2 was 29 feet short of eighth-place Andrea Thornton of Washington State. Etter finished 19th overall.

Idaho's Katja Schreiber won the discus final with a toss of 197-11.

Etter was one of four Oregon women competing in the NCAA Championships. Pole vaulter Niki Reed will compete in the finals of her event Friday, as will javelin throwers Sarah Malone and Niki Reed.

The pole vault competition starts at 5 p.m. Friday, and the javelin begins at 6 p.m. — *Peter Hockaday*

Freshman experiences defeat

■ Oregon freshman Trevor Woods fails to clear a height in the pole vault at the NCAA's

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

The scene exemplified what the NCAA Track and Field Championships are all about, but this was not a picturesque moment of an athlete exulting in celebration from a job well done.

Rather, the image of Oregon freshman pole vaulter Trevor Woods lying on the ground motionless with a black shirt over his face provided a clear example of how much these athletes work toward this one precious moment.

And when their time comes and they don't succeed, the reality of it all can be overwhelming.

Woods' successful freshman campaign came to a close Wednesday as he no-heighted in the men's pole vault after missing on all three of his attempts.

"I haven't felt this disappointed in so long," said Woods, who finished fourth at the Pacific-10 Conference Championships earlier this month. "I won't ever forget the no-height at Hayward."

What made the day all the more frustrating for Woods was that many of his family and friends were on hand from his hometown of Coos Bay.

"That's what's weighing on me

the most," he said. "Usually the disappointment only lasts 20 minutes or so, but the fact that this was at Hayward in front of a lot of people from Coos Bay... man..."

"There's a lot of things I know I could have accomplished."

The bright side is, of course, that Woods is young and has three more years to get back to the NCAA's and redeem himself.

"This is part of the development and maturity process," Oregon head coach Martin Smith said. "In respect to Trevor, what a tremendous accomplishment to get to nationals as a freshman. Clearly he's disappointed as an athlete, but what a learning experience this was for him."

Britney Spears leads sports news from around the world

The Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Pop star Britney Spears will encourage NASCAR racers to drive to victory at the upcoming Pepsi 400.

Spears, 19, will serve as grand marshal for the race at Daytona International Speedway on July 7.

At her command, the field's 43 drivers will start their engines in front of more than 200,000 race fans at the Speedway and millions of fans watching the televised broadcast.

"Britney has captured the hearts of fans around the world with her musical and performance talents, and I'm sure she'll capture the attention of NASCAR fans and competitors as part of the Pepsi 400 at Daytona," Speedway president John Graham said.

SYDNEY, Australia — Olympic track champion Cathy Freeman will work with homeless people in

the western part of the United States as part of her year off from training, according to the Sydney Morning Herald.

The newspaper said the Australian 400-meter gold medalist plans to spend 4-to-5 hours a day working with tent dwellers in Portland, Ore., which is the home of her husband, Alexander Bodecker.

She was motivated to help the Portland homeless after buying a publication written by them, she said.

"I bought one off a vendor, and inside the front page was a plea for volunteers — and I was very excited," she told the newspaper Thursday. "I went in to see the managing director straight away, and now I am doing a mix of different things for them."

"I like the idea of helping people. I get tired of myself."

SALT LAKE CITY — Put on an

Olympics, and suddenly everyone wants to be your friend.

Salt Lake City already has a half-dozen sister cities, and more are lining up.

Emissaries from the Chinese cities of Yinchuan and Mianyang have met with City Councilman Roger Thompson and Mayor Rocky Anderson to begin talks about economic development.

European immigrants have suggested Sarajevo, Bosnia, and Turin, Italy, former and future Winter Games host cities. A representative of the National Tongan American Society added Nuku'alofa, Tonga, to the mix.

There was even a request to link Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, to Utah's capital.

Salt Lake City's six relationships are the most of any Utah city, but pale in comparison to Los Angeles' 21 sister cities and New York City, which has dozens.

Salt Lake City adopted a policy last year that future sister cities must have a local group willing to foster the relationship.

An unofficial committee has suggested putting a hold on all sister-city requests until the Olympic hype dies down.

"We're not seeking requests. But we're not refusing them either," sister city coordinator Sandi Marler said. "We'll consider all of them."

TOKYO — Exactly one year before the 2002 World Cup soccer tournament, stamps commemorating the sport's showcase event went on sale at post offices across

Japan.

Appearing on the 1.4 inch-by-1.1 inch stamps are the games' colorful mascots, Ato, Nik and Kaz — grinning creatures from a fantasy world called Atmozone.

The stamps will sell for about 75 cents, with about 8 cents of that going to the Japan World Cup Organizing Committee, said postal official Hideo Sakamoto. South Korea, which is co-hosting the 2002 games, has already issued its own commemorative stamps.

The Japanese post office said in a press release that it expects to sell some 30 million stamps, raising approximately \$2.5 million for JAWOC.

O.K., we're a little late, but humor us.

So, the poll question this week may be a little ironic, don'tcha think?

We posted a question on Sunday, asking you which Oregon athlete had the best shot at a national championship. We gave you five options: Santiago Lorenzo (decathlon), John Stiegeler (javelin), Jason Hartmann (10,000 meters), Sarah Malone (javelin) or Niki Reed (pole vault).

Well, Stiegeler had to go and spoil the fun, didn't he? The sophomore sensation won the national title before 4,325 adoring fans at Hayward Field Wednesday night, and therefore nullified the poll competition. Hartmann also finished third in the 10,000 and heightened our misery.

But wait! The other three athletes still have to compete! So go ahead and vote for the remaining Duck you feel

has the best chance at a national title. Go, go, go!

Oh yeah, there was a poll last week, too.

We asked which track meet you were most likely to attend of the "big four" remaining meets (we are, obviously, all about track here at the Emerald).

The results: 35.3 percent said the Prefontaine Classic, 32.4 percent said the current event — the NCAA Championships, 26.5 said the Oregon state high school championships and a measly 5.9 percent of you said June's U.S.A. Championships. You obviously didn't realize that the U.S.A. Championships is the championships for the entire country.

But we still love you. Please go vote in our poll. Then we will love you even more.

This brief is over.

Go vote.

Stiegeler

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throw. "I enjoy watching people succeed, especially if they're on our team. The throw spoke for itself."

Stiegeler entered the competition as the man to beat with a mark of 245-9.

"I was nervous coming in," he said. "But I had a big throw in warm-ups and that was a pretty easy throw. And then after the throw, the pressure was off. I was just trying to nail a big one after that."

None of the 18 other competitors even came close to threatening Stiegeler's mammoth mark. Vesa Jappinen, a junior at Texas-El Paso, was second in the javelin at 239-7. Nathan Junius of powerhouse Tennessee was third at 233-11.

"We, as coaches, get nervous when it's expected to just be automatic and it doesn't work that way," Smith said. "And I think that's the strongest part of John's

character — he didn't get trapped into thinking that way. He knew it was going to require a great competitive effort and great concentration."

Oregon decathlete Santiago Lorenzo, who is in second place after five events, said Stiegeler's performance motivated him.

"He's one of my best friends on the team and his throw really pumped me up," Lorenzo said. "He always tells me, 'I'm going to win the national championship.' And I'm happy for him. He definitely deserves it."

Stiegeler said the hometown crowd helped him, as did his experience with the field.

"This is the best place to compete in the nation," Stiegeler said. "This is one of the few places where people appreciate competition. Most of them had never thrown at Hayward, so I definitely had an advantage."

Stiegeler will receive his championship trophy today at 4:15 p.m. at Hayward Field.

Romania Rocks Campus



Thursday, May 31st

12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

15th Street (Kincaid & Alder)

Free Block Party Featuring:

Strange Folks
Zapp Dancers



Mo Jam
Bunk Lumbo

FREE PRIZES! CONTESTS! FOOD!

Benefits Looking Glass Shelter