

Three Ducks earn All-American honors in indoor

■ Woods, Parker, Kimata each receive All-American nods at the indoor track championships

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon men's track and field team ended its indoor season Saturday at the NCAA championship in Fayetteville, Ark., with its best ever showing—a ninth place finish with three Ducks earning All-American honors.

Sophomore Trevor Woods finished third in the pole vault with a personal best 17 feet, 11-3/4 inches—the same mark as the top five finishers. Top seed Jeff Hansen of Brigham Young won the pole vault with fewer overall misses.

"I was the ninth seed coming in, but I vaulted like I was one of the favorites and attacked all my attempts," Woods said. "I'm stoked to be an All-American and third overall even though I'm only a sophomore."

Woods opened the competition by clearing the 17-foot mark on his

third attempt, and followed that with a first-attempt clearance of 17-3 3/4. He missed his three attempts at 18-3 3/4.

Junior Samie Parker won the Ducks' first ever All-American honor in the 60-meter dash, placing fourth with a time of 6.67 seconds.

Tennessee's Justin Gatlin won the 60-meter dash with a time of 6.59 seconds.

"The All-American award is nice," Parker said, "but I was hoping to be in there fighting for the win, so there's still more to work on. My start was OK, but I need more in my middle phase to put me in better position for the finish."

The last Duck to earn an All-American nod was Pat Johnson, now a wide receiver with the NFL's Baltimore Ravens, in 1995. Johnson tied the school record in the 200-meter outdoor event with a time of 20.39 seconds.

Parker, a wide receiver on the Oregon football team, will split time with the two sports during the spring.

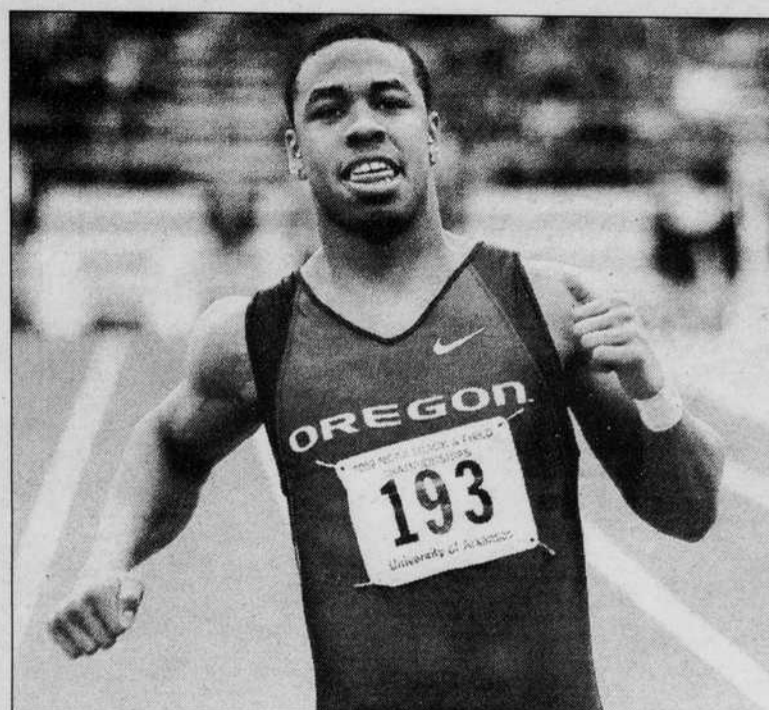
"I'm not worried about splitting my concentration between the two," Parker said. "Whichever sport I'm doing at that time, I'm concentrating full on. They've worked well together so far."

Simon Kimata received Oregon's third All-American honor at the NCAA championships. Competing in his first indoor championships, the Nyeri, Kenya, native finished fifth in the 800-meter run with a time of 1:49.56. Last year's NCAA outdoor champion, Otukile Lekote of South Carolina, finished first with a time of 1:46.88.

"I came in hoping to go top three," Kimata said, "but indoors is a new thing for me, especially on such a small track when I'm fairly big compared to the rest of the guys."

"I ran out of gas at the end so I know I gave it my all."

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Geoff Thurner Oregon Media Services

Samie Parker became the first Oregon sprinter to garner All-American status since 1995. Parker placed fourth in the 60-meter dash at the track indoor championships.

Holliday battles injury, places seventh in NCAA championships

■ Two Ducks leave lasting impressions at the NCAA Indoor Championships in Arkansas

By Hank Hager
Oregon Daily Emerald

Becky Holliday is making her presence known to the rest of the country.

The transfer from Clackamas Community College in Oregon City finished seventh on Friday in the pole vault at the NCAA Indoor Championships in Fayetteville, Ark. Her mark of 13-7 feet and 1/4 inches was one foot behind Amy

Linnen of Arizona (14-10.25), who took first place.

The junior cleared her opening height of 12-11 1/2 and did the same at 13-3 1/2. She missed her first jump at her final height, but was able to clear it on a second try.

Holliday was unable to practice for two weeks prior to the meet due to an injury suffered in practice, making her final mark even more impressive. She required seven stitches, snapped a

pole and suffered bruises to her hand and shoulder.

"Physically, the injuries from the accident didn't affect me today, although I got some stomach cramps in warm-ups that were a minor distraction," Holliday said. "But there weren't enough to affect me, and I was happy with my technique. I finally rocked back and stayed with the pole. Once I do that more often, I'll get 14 feet easy, so I'm looking forward to outdoors and utilizing more of those techniques."

With her mark, Holliday garnered Oregon's fourth All-America honor in the event's five-year histo-

ry. She tied Oregon's best mark in the event, but because it was on her second try, she is considered to have missed the school's record.

"Becky is doing OK transitioning into a new system and has picked up a lot of new things, but more importantly is setting the stage for higher marks," Oregon assistant coach Mark Vanderville said.

Oregon's other pole vaulter, senior Niki Reed, placed 10th in the competition at a height of 13-3 1/2. She missed three tries at 13-7 1/4 that would have matched Holliday's mark.

Reed, who is planning on red-

shirting during the outdoor season, just missed her third All-America honor. In the 2000 season, she finished fourth with a mark of 13-5 1/4.

"Niki has been using bigger poles more and more in practice, so we knew how she responded to them today would influence her finish," Vanderville said.

Holliday and the rest of the Ducks will compete in their first meet of the season on Eugene soil when they participate in the Montana-Weber State Triangular at Hayward Field on Saturday.

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