

## SPORTS

Sports Editor:  
Adam Jude  
adamjude@dailymerald.com

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## Looking forward to an April in Oregon

So there's caricatures of Shaquille O'Neal everywhere, a battle between Jason Fife and Kellen Clemens for Oregon's starting quarterback, and Mel Kiper Jr. and his hair have become accepted as an American icon.

Well, at least for the time being.

All of these things mean one thing:

It's April, the most entertaining month of the year in American sports.

First off, the National Hockey League playoffs start tonight. The most intense two months of the season is arguably the strongest playoff system in all of sports. When the No. 8 seed



Hank

Hager

Behind the Dish

Vancouver Canucks are actually favored by some to defeat the Detroit Red Wings in the first round, there's definitely something right.

And the playoff MVP should already go to Saku Koivu. What he did, to come back after defeating a cancer that kills 50 percent of the people it infects within five years, is unfathomable. Just his ability to step on the ice and play competitive hockey is an inspiration.

By the way, the Colorado Avalanche defeat Boston in five games. Just a guess...

So who's the Oregon QB? That question marks the start of the second most popular sport in the state of Oregon.

Spring football rivals basketball as one of the most watched sports, just behind fall football. With a No. 2 ranking in tow, the Ducks are getting more attention than ever before. Add the possibility of Joey Harrington, Rashad Bauman and Co. becoming personalities in this weekend's draft, and Oregon football has finally gotten on the map.

Speaking of the draft, isn't Mel Kiper Jr. one of the most overrated personalities on television today? If it wasn't for his signature haircut, he wouldn't even be recognizable.

I know he's been doing his draft stuff since before most of us were born, but more often than not, his predictions go for naught. Besides, unless you're an executive from one of the NFL squads, predicting the draft is purely hearsay anyway.

On the other end of the spectrum, the most entertaining personality, on radio or television, has got to be Dan Patrick. The "Dan Patrick Show," syndicated on ESPN radio nationwide (KSCR radio in Eugene), is a quasi-serious three-hour look every weekday into the sporting world.

Coupled with former Cincinnati Red Rob Dibble, the two have got great chemistry and bolster a strong ESPN radio lineup.

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## Up for grabs

Oregon's quarterback duties fall on the shoulders of Jason Fife and Kellen Clemens — but who will start?

By Adam Jude  
Oregon Daily Emerald

There's no Joey Harrington. That much is clear.

Everything else, well — check back in the fall.

After a school-record 11 wins, a Fiesta Bowl victory and a season-ending No. 2 ranking, Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti is now charged with finding the one guy to replace the irreplaceable.

The biggest question that looms like a rain cloud over Oregon's spring drills: Who will replace Harrington at quarterback?

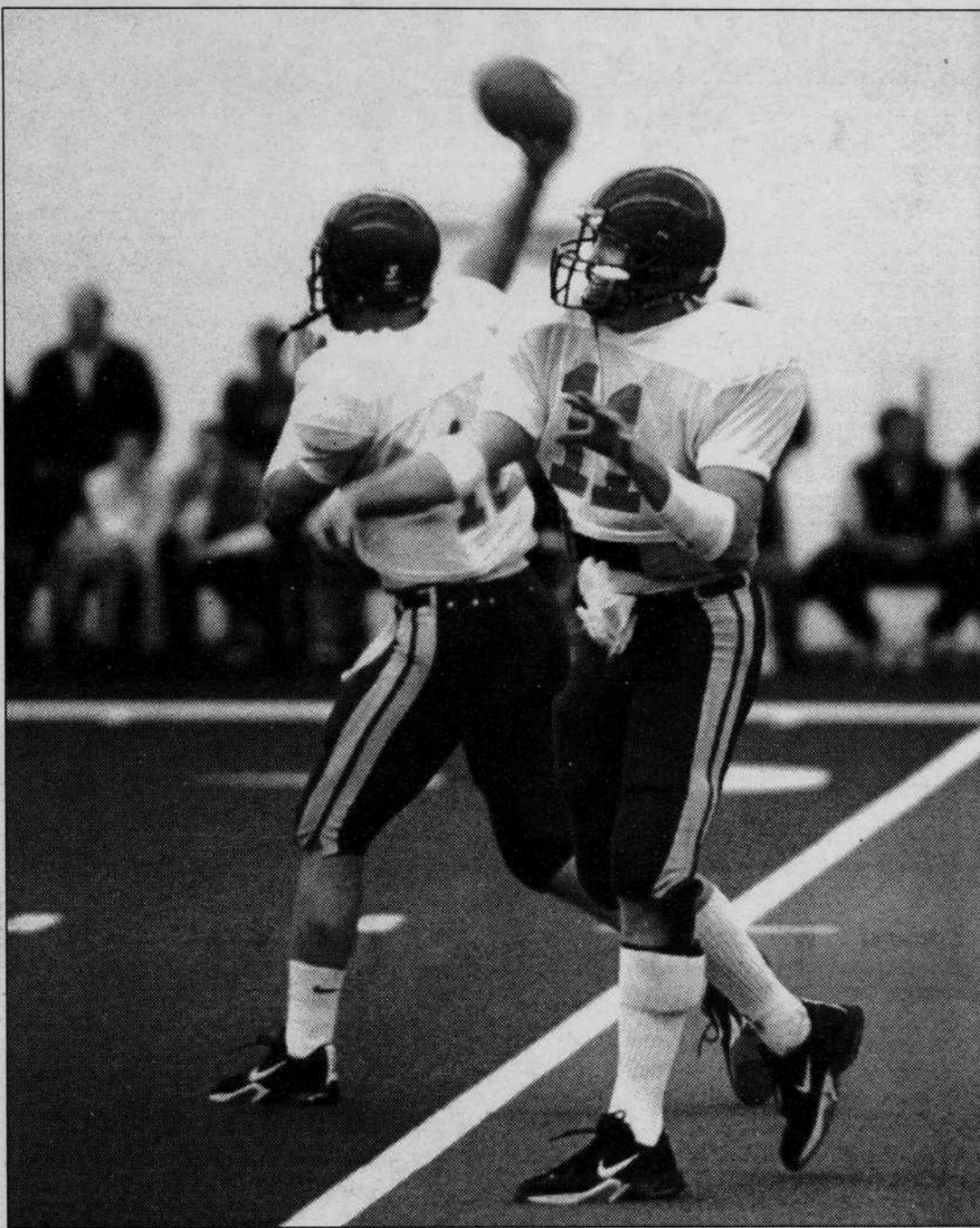
The decision, so far, is not readily available. Jason Fife, the backup this past year who completed six of nine passes for 71 yards, has not stood out this spring like many thought — or hoped — he would.

Kellen Clemens, a redshirt freshman, has already jumped a spot in the depth chart to No. 2. Is more movement to come?

Scott Vossmeier, the third-string last year, sprained his left (non-throwing) shoulder during a scrimmage Saturday. He will likely miss the rest of spring drills.

"It's a two-man rotation now," said

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Thomas Patterson Emerald

Oregon quarterbacks Kellen Clemens (11) and Jason Fife (left) are battling for the starting job, but neither has been impressive so far this spring. Fife, a junior, is the only quarterback with game experience.



Adam Jones Emerald

Billy Pappas, who finished eighth in the NCAA decathlon last season, hopes to return from an injury to repeat his performance this season.

## Pappas, Slye trying to fill Lorenzo's decathlon shoes

Decathletes Billy Pappas and Jason Slye head to Mt. SAC without star Santiago Lorenzo

By Peter Hockaday  
Oregon Daily Emerald

With the Pacific-10 Conference decathlon championships less than a month away and star Santiago Lorenzo still injured, the Oregon men's track and field team is scrambling for decathletes.

But that doesn't mean the future is entirely dim.

Billy Pappas, who finished eighth at last season's NCAA decathlon championships, will head to the Mt. San Antonio College relays in Walnut, Calif., this week with another rising athlete, Jason Slye, at his side. The two will compete in different flights of the Mt. SAC decathlon, but both will have the same goal: points.

"It's important to get in one (decathlon) before the Pac-10s," Slye said. "It's a huge meet to go to."

Slye is an interesting story. The junior from Keizer came to Oregon as a pole vaulter but started pulling double-duty as a decathlete last season by accident.

"We were fooling around after a meet,

and I ran a hurdles race," Slye said. Field coach Bill Lawson "saw me and said, 'You're doing the decathlon.'"

After being discovered, Slye made his decathlon debut at the Baldy Castillo Invitational in late March and notched a career-best 6,677 points, then placed ninth at the Pac-10s with a score of 6,631 points.

"I enjoy pole vaulting, but decathlon is more fun because it keeps you spread out," Slye said. "There's always something to work on."

His goal now, he said, is to break the 7,000-point barrier.

Pappas, the experienced Duck decathlete, sees Slye slowly improving.

"His speed's really come around," Pappas said. "I've seen him develop strength in track events like the 400. Some of the technical field events, like the discus, tend to be tougher, but he works hard at them."

Pappas is almost like a first-time decathlete heading to Mt. SAC, despite his experience. The senior is still recovering from a preseason injury that kept

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