

Thomas Patterson Emerald

Junior Samie Parker is merely a blur as a football and track star for the Ducks.

Football

continued from page 9

holds the football program's record in the 20-yard shuttle (3.71).

Hanging in practice, though, has not been so easy for Amundson.

"The biggest challenge has been track practice itself. It's tough," Amundson said. "The kind of conditioning is completely different. We just ran and ran and ran. And the track coach even made it a little easier for me 'cause I wasn't in great shape, but I was still dying.

"But I thought it really helped me get in shape for football. When I see everyone else getting winded, I still have something in me. It's nice to know that all that hard work is paying off."

Although their main goal is to improve speed endurance for football — Silvey said football players tend to slow down after 30 or 40 yards of sprinting — Parker and

Amundson are still looking to be competitive while working with the track team.

"We haven't been able to use them that much," Silvey said. "It's not like high school where you can just show up and be successful. You can't expect to miss a month and the suddenly come back and kick butt."

But that doesn't mean they won't try.

Silvey said the two football standouts will participate in the Jesse Owens Classic at Ohio State next weekend and in the Pac-10s after that.

For the football-minded Parker and Amundson, the track will always finish second to the green grass. But they'll enjoy the race while they can.

"These kids will improve their chances of playing on Sunday if they improve their track credentials," Silvey said.

E-mail sports editor Adam Jude at adamjude@dailymerald.com.

Regionals await UO ultimate

■ The Oregon Club Sports men's and women's ultimate teams will compete in the Northwest Regionals

By Jesse Thomas
for the Emerald

It all comes down to this.

After eight months of training, the Oregon Club Sports men's and women's ultimate teams are set for the Northwest Regionals in Santa Cruz, Calif., this weekend.

The men's and women's teams recently won their sectional tournaments to advance to regionals. The men enter ranked second — behind Stanford — out of 16 teams. The women are also the No. 2 seed out of 13 teams.

"We have a really tough region," senior coordinator Matt Guy said. "The toughest in college ultimate. It is going to take a strong effort to get out of regionals."

The Oregon men face double elimination bracket play on Saturday and Sunday. The women will compete in pool play on Saturday and then double elimination Sunday. Both teams will vie for the top two positions for the chance to compete at nationals.

"This is the best time for us to peak," women's captain Izzy

Stohler said. "We have an incredible shot of making nationals."

The national tournament will be held in Spokane, Wash., beginning May 24. Last year the men took third in the final of the national tournament. The women did not advance to the national tournament.

UO dance team to appear on CBS

Call them trend-setters.

For the first time in school history, the Oregon Club Sports women's dance team competed in a nationally televised tournament in Daytona Beach, Fla.

The Ducks left the preliminaries in eighth place and finished ninth out of 30 teams two weeks ago at nationals. The national tournament will be broadcast on CBS at 11 a.m. Saturday.

"We still have so much time to grow and do the best we can to keep giving a good name to Oregon," senior co-captain Edith Sumaqual said.

Oregon's dance team was created four years ago and Sumaqual has competed for the last three years for the Ducks. Now with the experience from this year's national tournament, the women are setting high goals already for next year.

"I knew by the level of competition that it would be a building

year," Oregon head coach Karl Mundt said. "But I was definitely happy with how they did."

Women's rugby

It ended as a learning experience for the Oregon Club Sports women's rugby team as they finished 10th in last weekend's Sweet 16 national tournament last weekend.

The Ducks entered Orlando, Fla., ranked 15th out of an experienced and competitive field.

"We were playing very high-caliber teams," junior coordinator Erica Kelly said. "They play the type of rugby that we don't see on the West Coast."

Oregon participated in bracket play, so in Saturday's first round, the Ducks had to face Penn State, ranked No. 2. Oregon lost that game and then came back to give a valiant effort in Sunday's play.

The women were disappointed in Sunday's 18-10 loss to UMass, as they thought they should have won.

After their first trip to the national tournament, the women have a positive outlook on the future.

"We have been there now," Kelly said. "We know if we work hard and practice fundamentals we can get there again."

Jesse Thomas is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

Track

continued from page 9

onships steeplechase. Nye holds the second-fastest American steeplechase time ever.

Amid the chaos of post-collegiate talent, the Oregon athletes will also try to make an impact at one of their few home meets of the season. On the women's side, the

most interesting spectacle could be the javelin unit, which starts competition at 6:05 p.m.

"We're looking to go one-two-three-four" this weekend, stand-out Sarah Malone said of the four-person Oregon javelin squad. "That's always our goal."

Other women to watch include Eri Macdonald, an NCAA provisional qualifier in the 800, and Becky Holliday, who recently set

the school record in the pole vault.

On the men's side, pole vaulter Trevor Woods and sprinter Micah Harris will represent the NCAA qualifiers from the squad. Harris recently set the school record in the 110 hurdles, while Woods is six inches short of the school record in the vault.

E-mail sports reporter Peter Hockaday at peterhockaday@dailymerald.com.

Sports briefs

Golfers seventh after ay one

The Oregon men's golf team had a rough first round in the first 18 holes of the Pacific-10 Conference Championships, but rallied back in the second round on a windy day at Trysting Tee Golf Course.

After shooting a 373 on the par-72 course in Corvallis the men were tied with Arizona State for ninth place. But fighting back, Oregon shot eight strokes better to sit in a tie for seventh heading into today's third round.

Their second round 365 was the third-lowest score carded in the last 18 holes. They are in a tie with California and Arizona State.

"We drove the ball into the rough too much today," Oregon head coach Steve Nosler said. "You're not going to make too many pars or any birdies when you drive the ball in the rough out here."

Junior John Ellis was Oregon's lead golfer in both rounds and shot a 71 then a 69 for 140 total to tie for third at four-under. Senior Aaron Byers sits in a tie for 16th with 10 other golfers at plus-one 145. Senior Branden Harnden finished one stroke behind Byers with a 146 and is tied for 26th.

USC and Oregon State are leading the way in a tie for first after 36 holes at 716 and finished four strokes ahead of Stanford who lead after the first round.

"We're not so far back that we can't make a run," Nosler said. "We still have a chance to work our way back up and achieve a respectable finish."

— Jesse Thomas
for the Emerald

UO softball heads to desert

It's back to Pacific-10 Conference play for the Oregon softball team

this weekend as it travels to Arizona to take on No. 2 Arizona and No. 5 Arizona State.

The Ducks are coming off a four-game week against Portland State in which Oregon won three of four, improving its record to 20-22 overall (0-12 Pac-10). Prior to the games against the Vikings, the Ducks had lost 12 consecutive contests — all against teams in their conference and many of the games were decided by slim margins.

"We have a tough road trip coming up," head coach Brent Rincon said. "We've proven we can compete in the Pac-10, but we have got to take the next step and go out and win in the Pac-10."

In the last four games against Portland State, Rincon was pleased with his team's play and the pitching trio of Connie McMurren, Anissa Meashintubby and, in particular, Lindsey Kontra, but he said the team needs to do a better job focusing on the defensive end.

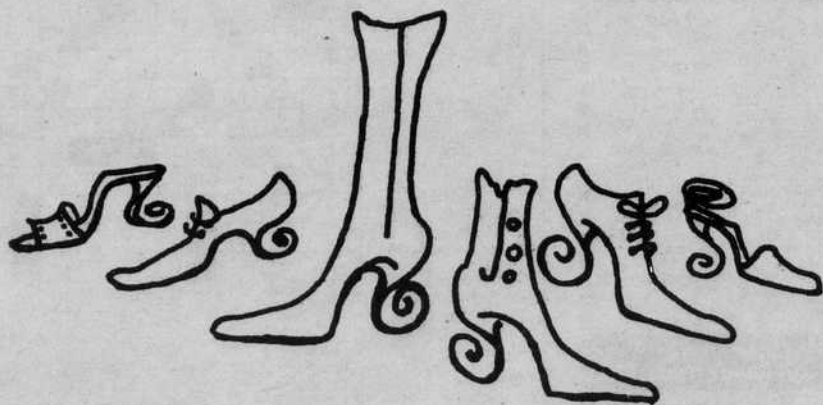
"In the Pac-10, hits are hard to come by, pitching is a little more difficult, so the one area that we have to be more focused in is defense as we go to the end of the year here," he said. "That is what we are looking for — to grow as a team, especially defensively, to play with intensity defensively, and that help will create intensity offensively and also help give our pitchers confidence."

If the Ducks can continue to receive timely hits from players like Mari Lyn Petrick, Rachel Tommasini and Amber Hutchison, they could break out of the Pac-10 winless-slump they have been entrenched in.

Oregon faces Arizona in Tucson on Friday at 7 p.m. and then plays the Sun Devils in Tempe on Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 1 p.m.

— Chris Cabot

Shoes



IPNOSI . 1022 WILLAMETTE . EUGENE, OR . 541.345.7028