

SPORTS

Sports Editor:
Adam Jude
adamjude@dailymerald.com

Best Bet
NHL playoffs:
Ottawa at Philadelphia
4 p.m., ESPN



Friday, April 26, 2002

Athletes to fill Hayward for Invitational

■ Nearly 900 track athletes will compete in Oregon's third home meet of the 2002 season

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

Eugene will earn its "Track Town" nickname Saturday.

Almost 900 athletes will descend on the city for more than 10 hours of competition in the Oregon Invitational, the biggest meet at Hayward Field this year.

The headlining event will be the Bill McChesney Jr. Memorial Mile, which was moved from its original meet, the Oregon Twilight. The mile will feature at least four athletes with sub-four-minute personal bests and one former Olympian, Jason Pyrah. Two more events — the men's hammer and the women's 1,500 — will feature former Olympians or U.S. champions.

All three of those events will take place in Saturday's evening session, which starts at 5 p.m. and requires a ticket. The day session starts at 10 a.m. and is free.

The men's mile, which is scheduled to start at 7:05 p.m., has the most lucrative field of Saturday's events. Along with Pyrah, an Olympian in the 1,500 in 1996 and 2000, the field also includes 2001 Twilight-mile champion Mike Miller and Ray Hughes, who ran the mile in 3:59.78 earlier this year.

In the men's hammer, Kevin McMahon will take on challengers including James Parker, who finished third at the U.S. Championships at Hayward Field last season. McMahon was the U.S. champion last season and an Olympian in 1996 and 2000.

In the women's 1,500, former Oregon standout Lisa Nye will return to the Hayward track for the first time since her victory in the 2001 U.S. Champi-

Turn to Track, page 12

"We are the best."

— Sarah Malone, Oregon javelin thrower



Adam Amato Emerald

The Oregon women's javelin four, from left to right: Charyl Weingarten, Roslyn Lundeen, Sarah Malone and Elisa Crumley. Each has earned an NCAA provisional mark, with Malone and Crumley earning an NCAA automatic.

Four-seeing the future

■ One of the top foursomes in the country, the Oregon women's javelin program is the best in school history

By Hank Hager
Oregon Daily Emerald

Theodore Roosevelt may have coined the expression, "Speak softly and carry a big stick," but the Oregon women's javelin foursome is making it come to life.

Earlier in the season, Ducks' head coach Tom Heinonen called the squad the best in the nation and possibly the best Oregon has ever seen. The national rankings back this up, but is it something they truly believe?

"We are the best," sophomore Sarah Malone said while sitting on a bench outside the Bowerman Building. "We have the best foursome in the country. Nobody's even close to us. Not only do we have it now, but none of us are seniors."

Malone, a sophomore, is the unquestioned leader of the group, a foursome that places each member in the top 25 in the nation. Malone, in addition to being the leader, is also the highest-ranked at No. 2.

Then come the freshmen. Elisa Crumley, a native of Hillsboro, Ore., is fifth, followed closely by Roslyn Lundeen at ninth. Both have exceeded expectations in their first season, and are looking forward to visiting Pullman, Wash., for the Pacific-10 Conference Championships, and possibly even Baton Rouge, La., for the NCAA version.

"I knew coming in that we had some strong kids and a good group of girls," Crumley said. "Through working hard, it has just paid off."

Last but not least, junior Charyl Weingarten is the veteran of the group, and one that is ranked No. 24 collegiately. She is a two-time Pac-10 qualifier and finished 19th in last season's NCAA Championships held at Hayward Field.

Turn to Javelin, page 10

DOUBLE TROUBLE

■ Football speedsters Samie Parker and Allan Amundson are serving double duty on the Oregon track team

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

Samie Parker and Allan Amundson are fast. But to get from Portland's PGE Park after a 1 p.m. football game Saturday to Hayward Field in Eugene for the start of a 5:05 p.m. relay race, they'd have to run about, oh, 110 miles in one hour.

They're fast, but not that fast.

With football's spring drills concluding Saturday with the Spring Game in Portland, Parker and Amundson, both under football scholarships, will have the chance to concentrate more on track in May.

"Hopefully (the football coaches) will let me devote more time to track," said Parker, who finished fourth in the 60-meter dash at the NCAA Indoor Championships in March. "I want to go to the Pac-10s."

Parker, in his third year of double-dipping in the spring, is Oregon's fastest athlete — he has already established a Pac-10 Conference qualifying time in the 100-meter dash (a wind-aided 10.45) — but he doesn't stop there.

"Samie will be the fastest collegiate football play-

er in the country (in the fall)," said Steve Silvey, the sprints coach for the Oregon track team. "There's no question — if Samie did track full-time, he would be at the national outdoor meet in June."

Even at part-time, Parker may still advance to the NCAA Championships, if not in the 100-meter dash, perhaps with Amundson in the 4x100. The foursome composed of Amundson, as the lead, Micah Harris, Terry Ellis and Parker, the anchor, ran a 40.77-second relay in the Washington Dual at Hayward Field on April 13, just shy of an NCAA-provisional mark of 40.10.

That same day, after their events at the dual, Parker and Amundson headed across the Willamette River to the Moshofsky Center, where they participated in spring's first football scrimmage. Amundson led the team with 11 carries (for 33 yards), while Parker had one catch.

"That was pretty cool, to do both sports in one day," Parker said. "It was like Deion Sanders when he played in a football game and a World Series baseball game in the same day. It was good experience to have under my belt."

Amundson, in his first year with the track program, said he'd been asked before to run with the track team, but never thought he was fast enough.

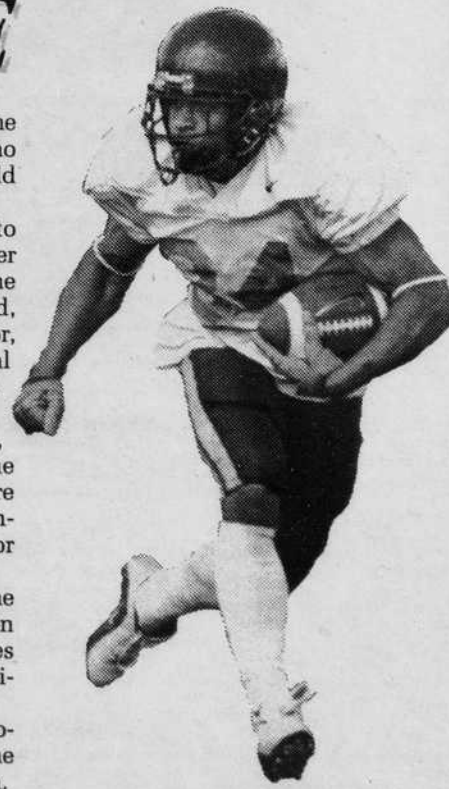
"I got faster last summer, so I felt like I could hang with the track guys this year," said Amundson, who

Turn to Football, page 12



Geoff Thurner
Oregon Media Services

Samie Parker, a wide receiver for the Oregon football team, finished fourth in the 60-meter dash at the NCAA Indoor Championships in March.



Thomas Patterson Emerald

Allan Amundson, in his first year with the track team, is Oregon's fastest running back.