

# Hager

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logo three years ago, the only sports logo a fan could find was Donald charging through the "O," or at least some variation.

Now, try finding more than a few pieces of memorabilia that have that logo and it might take you weeks, if not months. Autzen Stadium and McArthur Court used to have the famous Disney character displayed proudly center stage, on the 50-yard line and half court.

Not anymore. Now, two logos, one in bright yellow, and the other in dark green, are emblazoned on the fake grass and hardwood. One wonders if the Donald logo, accompanied by "Go Ducks," will still be painted on the side walls of Autzen.

But it could be a lot worse. About 30 years ago, Stanford University succumbed to political pressure and changed its nickname from an American Indian moniker to its current nickname, the Cardinal.

The new name is well and all, but it's a tree.

A tree. There is no more annoying mascot in this country than the dancing tree seen at Stanford games.

Sure, the tree mascot is the anti-mascot, made to poke fun at other schools, and has no real meaning to the school's past. But come on, a dancing tree? The tree ranks up there as one of the worst mascots in the collegiate game.

The Cardinal should be commended, however, for removing their offensive team name. The issue has become way too overblown recently, but imagine if Oregon still had a logo that was of-

fensive. The situation would be worse by tenfold.

Granted, ducks are not the most fierce creatures alive, and yeah, there are better team nicknames out there. Wildcats seems to be a popular one, and Bears — in its many variations — are more graphical and terrorizing.

But Oregon fans should still be extremely thankful for the Duck. The green and yellow could be the Banana Slugs (UC-Santa Cruz) or Anteaters (UC-Irvine), or the aforementioned Cardinal (ahem, trees).

And Donald is a tradition at Oregon. Donald is important to a majority of the 18,000 or so students who roam this 300-acre campus.

A little while ago, the school even tried replacing him with a fiercer, more up-to-date version. Nevertheless, the current, giant beanie-wearing water fowl still roams the sidelines at football and basketball games, so we can all be assured of where that idea went.

Donald will probably never disappear completely. The brain trust in the administration and Athletic Department, I hope, will realize that replacing the Duck at football games with a giant foam "O" or any kind of anti-mascot would hurt the school more than benefit it. But that also doesn't mean they should take it away everywhere else.

Donald means something to the University. He is the Duck. He is what every superior athlete on Oregon athletic squads play for, braving injury and sickness, to take the championship flag home.

So why not embrace the Duck tradition instead of taking away from it?

E-mail sports reporter Hank Hager at hankhager@dailymerald.com.

# Harris

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Then, earlier this year, the two met again at a meet in Nebraska.

"Micah, why does that name sound familiar?" Johnson asked.

"Yeah, I was next to you at the USA Championships," Harris answered.

"OK, yeah, I recognize you. You're pretty good, huh?"

"Just trying to reach your status."

Since that meeting, Harris has been getting closer and closer to Johnson's level as a world-class hurdler. The Oregon senior, fueled by competition with top-flight athletes this season, broke his own school record in the 110-meter hurdles at the Mt. San Antonio College Relays last month and now has his sights set on the Pacific-10 Conference Championships and the NCAA Championships beyond.

"Micah likes to compete against the best," fellow Oregon hurdler Terry Ellis said. "When we go to big meets, there's no doubt he's going to step up."

Harris proved he's a big-meet athlete by setting the Oregon school record at the NCAA Championships last spring. In front of thousands of raucous fans at Hayward Field, Harris surprised the crowd by making the semifinals with his school-record run of 13.73 seconds.

At a big meet earlier this season, Harris set the school record again in

the Olympic Development Section of the 110 hurdles at Mt. SAC, this time running the race in 13.67 seconds.

"After you've competed at the top, with the top, you want to make sure you get back," Harris said. "That's the whole point of being out here, to compete with the best, so you can be at your best."

*"After you've competed at the top, with the top, you want to make sure you get back. That's the whole point of being out here, to compete with the best, so you can be at your best."*

**Micah Harris**  
hurdler

Harris will sit out this weekend's Oregon Twilight meet at Hayward Field to prepare for the Pac-10 Championships on May 18. Harris is ranked second in the Pac-10 behind Southern California's Ryan Wilson, but said he won't settle for second at the conference meet this year.

"I was Pac-10 runner up last year," Harris said. "I want to move up a slot."

After that, Harris will travel to Baton Rouge, La., for the NCAA Championships on May 29. His time is currently ninth in the country and

an NCAA automatic qualifier.

"He elevates to the level of his competition, which will be high at the NCAAs," sprinter Samie Parker said. "I think he has what it takes to finish at the top of the list."

Parker is part of the 4x100 relay team that Harris runs on. Harris also runs for the 4x400 squad. The 4x100 team has been steadily decreasing its times over the course of the season, and will head to the Pac-10 Championships with high hopes for an NCAA time.

Ellis said that while the relays might appear to be bad for a person running a sprint, they actually help to loosen Harris for his hurdling.

"It gives him a chance to get warmer, and pumps him up for his next event," Ellis said.

Harris, a Tempe, Ariz., native who came to Oregon from Central Arizona Community College, said that the Oregon track experience has taught him many life lessons, not just how to be a member of a 4x100 relay team.

"It's more than just hurdles out here for me," Harris said. "It's a combination of all the people, everything. That's what makes it fun to be out here."

And if Harris keeps up his big-meet reputation, he could soon be passing even Allen Johnson — on the track and in legendary stature.

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# Petrick

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Along with playing on the diamond, Mari Lyn was named second-team all-metro in volleyball her junior and senior years at Glencoe and also played on the basketball squad.

"She really has worked very hard in all of the sports she has played all the way up," Ben said. "I'm always worried that she doesn't get a lot of the credit that she deserves."

As her freshman campaign with Oregon has progressed and her play has improved, she has impressed

head coach Brent Rincon to earn more playing time of late.

*"She's a quality hitter and I think she has proven that over the last month."*

**Brent Rincon**  
head coach

"She's a quality hitter and I think she has proven that over the last month," Rincon said. "She is going to have a very bright future here."

While Ben is in the middle of his

season with Colorado, the season for Mari Lyn and the Ducks is quickly coming to a close.

"We're kind of sad that it is coming to an end, and we know that we don't have a really good chance to go on, but we are still going use those games to prepare us to be better players for next year," she said. "I have no idea what is going to transpire for next year, but I just hope that I can add something to the team wherever it has to be and however I can."

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## Horoscope by Linda C. Black

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (May 9). You like life to be predictable. You want to know what's coming up before it happens. This year, that'll be tough. The game is fast and furious. You could be a big winner. Your natural stability gives you a great platform from which to play.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) - Today is an 8 - How far can you get before shutdown? Start checking things off of your lists. Make cold calls, proposals, outrageous requests. And never take "no" for an answer.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 6 - Just because someone else didn't plan ahead, why should you have to suffer? Don't let anyone yell at you for taking your own sweet time. It's good for them to slow down.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 7 - Feel like you might finally tell a friend exactly what you think? Do it! Set up an appropriate time and place.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 6 - You may not agree with everything your leader says or does, but that's OK. That makes you much more valuable to him or her, and honesty brings peace of mind.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is an 8 - Set old concerns aside as you proceed with your plans. Don't have plans? Follow a smart person who does.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 5 - Out with the old, in with the new. You've put up with something you don't like for long enough. Consider taking out a loan if necessary.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is a 7 - This would be a great day to fall in love again. But there's a trick required. Just for fun, give up having it your way, and see what happens.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 6 - You're slogging through mud. Every little victory, every minor goal you reach, counts. If it's for a worthy cause, don't give up.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 7 - Some of the others are starting to see things your way. It's because of your convincing arguments and your wisdom. Adopting their good points makes you stronger.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 6 - Not all of your goals have been met, but nor have all your fears materialized. So far, so good. Keep standing up for what you think is important.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is an 8 - Continue to dig through the records, the Web sites, the piles of evidence. If anyone can solve this case, it's you.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 6 - It's difficult for you to ask for what you want - in words, anyway. Save the boss money and you could win a bonus.

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