

Monday, May 13, 2002

OREGON TWILIGHT

Kent takes spotlight at Twilight

■ While the current Ducks chill, the future Duck thrills the crowd at Saturday's Oregon Twilight

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

If Jordan Kent is to be the savior of Oregon men's track and field, he got off to a good start Saturday at the Oregon Twilight.

He started by saving the day.

After a mostly anemic performance from the Ducks at Hayward Field, Kent, a senior at Churchill High and Oregon's top recruit for next year, won the 200-meter dash and the long jump in front of 3,346 fans. Hours after stepping off the track, Kent attended his senior prom.

"I just wanted to go out there and turn my nervousness into adrenaline," Kent said. "I just really wanted to have fun tonight."

Kent hasn't lost a 200 this season, and that streak wasn't broken by the best efforts of current Duck speedsters Samie Parker and Allan Amundson. Parker and Kent battled until the final 50 meters, when Kent legged out the split-second victory.

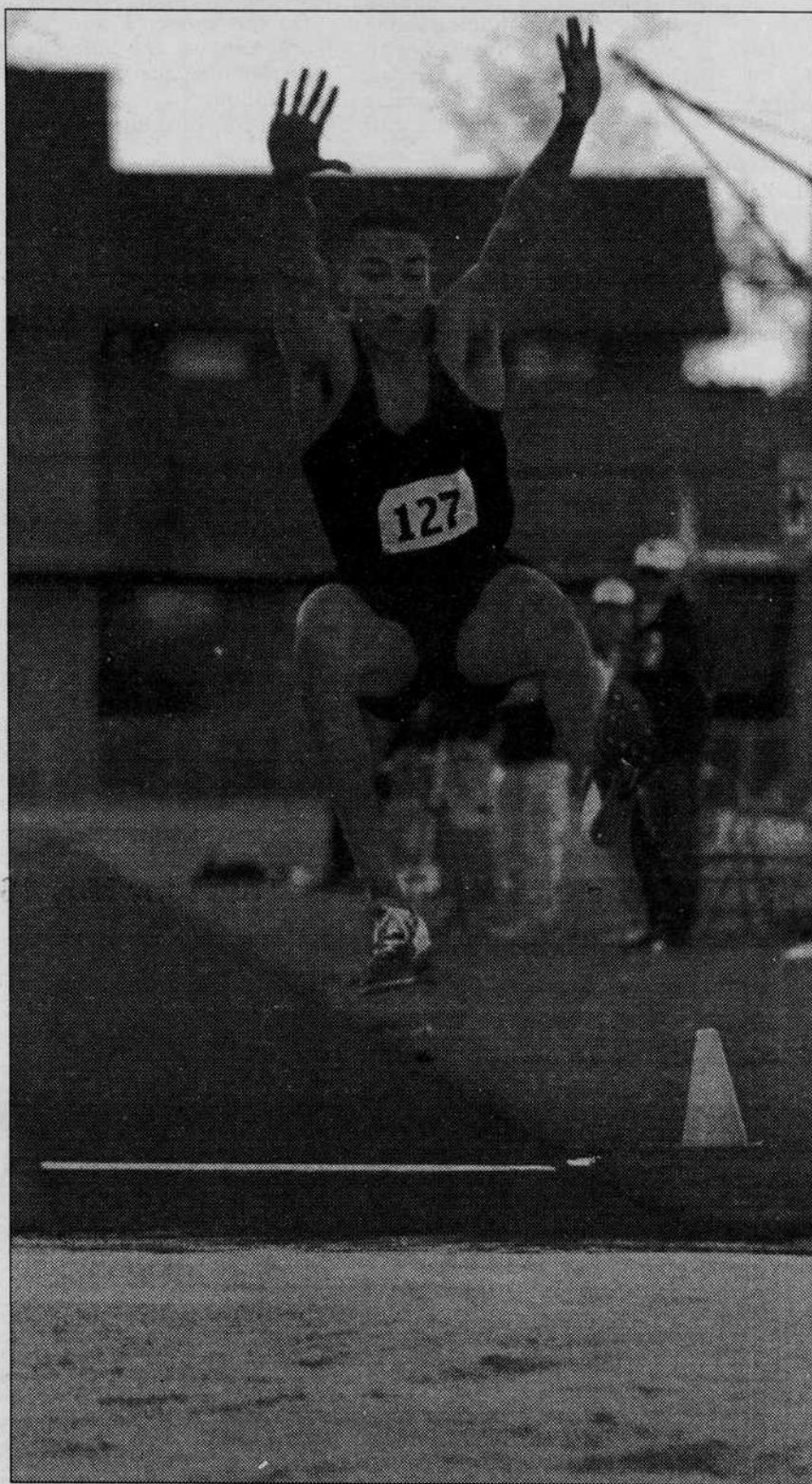
"I was watching it unfold in front of me," said Amundson, who finished fifth. "Those guys are blazing."

Kent ended the race with a wind-aided time of 21.20 seconds, which would have been a Pacific-10 Conference qualifier without the wind and without Kent's non-collegiate status.

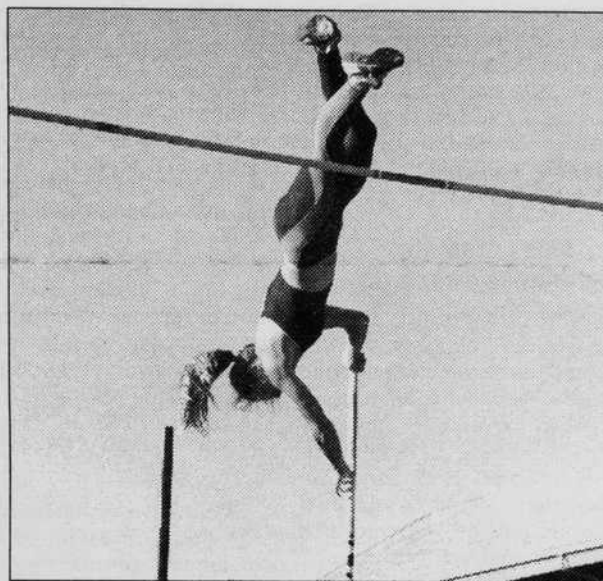
"It's too bad it was wind-aided, but I'll take a 21.2 any day," Kent said.

In the long jump, Kent won with a wind-aided leap of 23 feet, 11 inches.

Turn to Men's, page 12



Jordan Kent, a senior from Eugene's Churchill High School who has signed with the Ducks, won the long jump and the 200-meter dash at the Oregon Twilight on Saturday.



Jonathan House Emerald

Oregon redshirt athlete Niki Reed goes up for a height at the Oregon Twilight on Saturday. The senior competed unattached.

UO women impress in final home meet

■ The Oregon Twilight, the Ducks' last home meet, caps off a successful year for women's track

By Hank Hager
Oregon Daily Emerald

Parting is such sweet sorrow.

The 3,346 in attendance Saturday at the Oregon Twilight were able to see the Ducks in action for the final time this season at Hayward Field. And Oregon didn't disappoint.

Highlighted by Mary Etter and Amanda Brown's two wins each, the Oregon women took first in 11 events, sweeping the throws and garnering one very important Pacific-10 Conference qualifying mark.

Brown, who had failed to claim a qualifying mark in either the long jump or triple jump, did so confidently in the former event.

With the West grandstand looking on, the junior jumped a season best in the event, taking first with a mark of 19 feet 2 1/2 inches. She is the last Duck to claim a Pac-10 mark.

Making her accomplishment even more fulfilling, Brown had suffered a hamstring injury before the season, relegating her to lower marks while recovering.

"It feels so good to get that" Pac-10 mark, she said. "I had kind of given up on myself on the year, and it was

Turn to Women's, page 12

Oregon softball, McMurren finish season with win at Stanford

■ Senior Connie McMurren throws a 4-0 shutout in her final game for Oregon as the team ends its season

By Chris Cabot
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon softball team closed its season on a good note Saturday with a 4-0 win over No. 8 Stanford.

Before their final game victory in the second game of a doubleheader that improved their record to 24-30 overall and 2-19 in the Pacific-10 Conference, the Ducks dropped Game 1, 10-1, to Stanford (43-18 overall, 7-14 Pac-10) and a 3-2 contest to No. 5 California (48-19, 12-9 Pac-10) on the road Friday.

"This is an amazing testament to this team," Oregon head coach Brent Rincon said. "They truly never gave up and

were always ready to come out and win. They just were not going to be denied in the second game."

In her final collegiate pitching performance, senior Connie McMurren threw a gem against the Cardinal. Allowing just four hits while striking out two, McMurren threw her 12th career shutout — placing her fourth all-time at Oregon. McMurren finished her career with 439 strikeouts.

Oregon scored its first run in the second when Rachel Tommasini drove in Lakeesha Eversley with a sacrifice fly. Eversley knocked in the Ducks' second run in the fifth with a single that scored Lynsey Haij.

Turn to Softball, page 12



Adam Amato Emerald

The Oregon softball team closed out its season with a 4-0 win over No. 8 Stanford on Saturday. The victory gave the Ducks a final record of 24-30 overall and 2-19 in the Pacific-10 Conference.