

SPORTS

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Best Bet
MLB: Seattle at Toronto
4:00 p.m., FSN



Wednesday, May 15, 2002

Henderson kicking, screaming into Hall

Rickey Henderson is 43 years old and still stealing bases, drawing walks, hitting home runs, and complaining.



Chris Cabot

Around the Dasher

For the next four to six weeks, Boston baseball fans and Red Sox players will have a chance to concentrate on the game between the lines without a constant nag.

All-star outfielder Manny Ramirez fractured his left index finger in Saturday's game in Seattle while sliding into Mariners catcher Dan Wilson's shin

guard, and he will be out for at least a month. Brian Daubach and Henderson, who has been complaining because of lack of playing time, will likely fill the void left during Ramirez' absence.

"Rickey is Rickey," Red Sox manager Grady Little told the Boston Globe.

"That's just the way it is. He likes playing baseball, and I can't fault him for wanting to play more, but we're not in a position to change what we're doing and that's that."

"We've got a good thing going here, and you would think that anybody would like to be part of this, and I think Rickey does."

Before Boston's three-game series with the Mariners in Seattle, Henderson left the rest of team (with the permission of the management) to visit his family in Arizona just after the team's May 9 game in Oakland, Calif. The team was unsure whether the nine-time All-Star would return to the team. Henderson did report to the Red Sox clubhouse the next day, just one hour before pregame stretching. It was the third time Henderson had threatened to quit the team.

"If I don't do much the next couple of days, I might as well help someone else," Henderson told the Providence Journal after his brief hiatus. "I know (Little is) trying to get everyone in. But I'm tired of sitting."

Baseball's all-time leader in runs (2,260), walks (2,150), stolen bases (1,397) and leadoff home runs (80), Henderson is approaching 300 homers to go along with his 3,013 hits and on base percentage of .402. His base-stealing percentage is an outstanding 80.7 percent. In 1981, Henderson stole 130 bases for a below-average Oakland team.

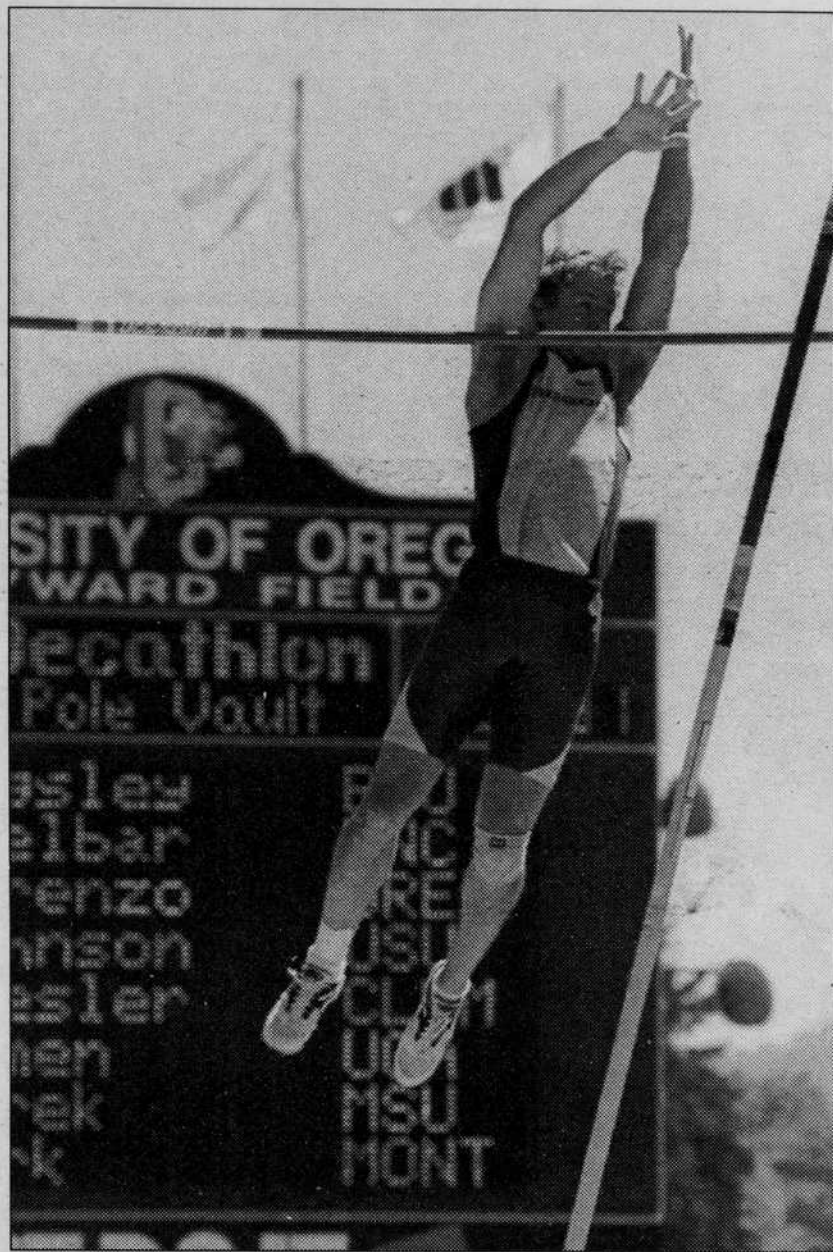
Rickey is good, and he knows it.

"Lou Brock was great, but today I am the greatest," Henderson said May 1, 1991, after swiping his 939th base to put him past Brock on the all-time steals list.

While Henderson has been the one of the kings of the jungle on the field over the past two decades, off the field he has been like a little mosquito in the baseball world's ear. If he had kept his

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Pappas earns sole conference honor



Adam Amato Emerald

Billy Pappas, competing here at last year's NAAs, won the Pac-10 decathlon title on Sunday.

Decathlete wins Athlete of the Week, an award usually given to two athletes — one in track and one in field

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

Oregon senior decathlete Billy Pappas has been competing for only one month after suffering an injury that kept him out of the indoor season and a large chunk of the outdoor season.

Oh, how far he's come.

Pappas was named the Pacific-10 Conference's men's track and field Athlete of the Week on Monday after winning the conference decathlon title on Sunday. The conference award is usually broken up into a track winner and a field winner, but Pappas was the only athlete to win the award this week, possibly because he did everything in winning the Pac-10 decathlon title.

Pappas won the title in only his second decathlon of the season by amassing a personal-best and NCAA-qualifying total of 7,532 points.

"So many things can go wrong in every event, but I stayed positive and worked on my confidence, so I am happy with how it turned out," Pappas said.

Pappas ensured the Ducks a share of the team lead heading into the second weekend of the conference championships. Aided by Jason Slye's fifth-place showing in the decathlon, Oregon garnered 14 points to tie for the Pac-10 Championships lead with Southern California, which placed athletes second and fourth. Washington State is third with six points.

This weekend, Pappas will return to Pullman to try and score even more points for the Ducks. The senior ranks 16th in the conference in the 110-meter hurdles, and will compete in the event this weekend. In an interesting twist of fate, Pappas was ranked 16th in the decathlon heading into last year's NCAA Championships, before scoring a then-personal best 7,488 points to finish eighth.

Before the NAAs "I'm going to do some speed training, since my 100 meters is really hurting me," Pappas said. Before the Pac-10s "I'll concentrate on hurdles since I'm coming back (this weekend) to hurdle here."

Pappas may also compete in the long jump this weekend. He finished eighth at last season's Pac-10 Championships in that event.

Multi-athletes for multi-events

Pappas will be gone next year, but the Ducks won't be starving for decathletes by any stretch of the imagination.

Along with Slye, Santiago Lorenzo — Oregon's first-ever

Turn to Track, page 8

USC women front-runner to take Pac-10 title

Only a few days remain before some of the nation's best converge in Washington for the Pac-10 Championships

By Hank Hager
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Pacific-10 Conference confidently calls itself the "Conference of Champions." There's a reason that can be said.

With the 2002 Pac-10 Championships scheduled this weekend in Pullman, Wash., the 200 or so athletes who will grace the Mooberry Track and Field Complex will get a chance to put that moniker to the test.

The NCAA Championships in Baton Rouge, La., are still two weeks away, but with nine squads participating, the Pac-10 version should provide a glimpse into the future.

Last season, USC — the eventual NCAA champion — placed second behind UCLA in Berkeley, Calif. In fact, the Bruins have won the past five Pac-10 titles, and eight of the past nine.

The following is a look at each of the nine squads, listed by projected finish and who to watch in Washington.

USC — Flanked by three-time NCAA champion Angela Williams, the Trojans are the deepest team in the nation in running events.

Williams, who holds the season's best time in the 100 at 11.06 — and also participates on the nation's second-ranked 4x100 relay team — is a force, comparable to some of the Pac-10's former best in Gail Devers and Jack-

ie Joyner-Kersey. In fact, if Williams can improve her time to better than 10.97 — Devers' best time — she will take home the all-time Pac-10 mark.

Don't count out the Trojan field squad, though. Inga Stasiulionyte is back in the javelin, is the best in the nation and is already being targeted as the woman to beat in Pullman.

"Inga is the person to beat, and maybe if I can beat her at Pac-10s, maybe I can get in her head a little bit," Oregon sophomore Sarah Malone said.

UCLA — If anyone can beat the Trojans, the Bruins have the best chance. Mirroring their cross-town rivals with an amazing running program, UCLA — this past season's Pac-10 winner — is going to have a successful day in the Northwest.

Monique Henderson, one of only seven women to gain an NCAA automatic mark in the 400, headlines the list of Bruin runners, and she's only a freshman. Tiffany Burgess and Lena Nisson go one-two in the nation in the 800, with Nisson coming back again as the No. 1 athlete in the nation in the 1,500.

Then all you have is the No. 1 athletes in the high jump (Darnesha Griffith) and pole vault (Tracy O'Hara).

Wow.

Washington State — The home squad doesn't have the impressive list of athletes that the two previous schools do, but the Cougars are nonetheless qualified to contend for first.

The Cougars already saw Ellannee Richardson take first in the heptathlon last week with 5,821 points — best in the nation.

Oregon — If the Ducks can improve upon last season's eighth-place finish, it will be attributed to a strong field program.

No running athletes rank high on the national lists for Oregon, but the squad features No. 2 pole vaulter Becky Holliday, two top 10 javelin throwers (Malone and Elisa Crumley) and the No. 8 discus thrower, Mary Etter.

However, the disc will be a packed event with six of the top 10 athletes in the nation coming from the Pac-10.

Stanford — A mixed bag and a team that could easily place anywhere from third to eighth, the Cardinal are a balanced group. They feature 800 runner Ashley Wysong, as well as Lauren Fleshman, the No. 6 runner in the nation in the 1,500. Fleshman also competes in the 5,000 run and is tops by 16 minutes in the event.

Watch out for Kathleen Donoghue. The junior, following O'Hara, Holliday and Arizona's Amy Linnen in the pole vault, could capitalize, should one of the previous three miss at a crucial height.

Arizona — When one thinks of Arizona,

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