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Best Bet  
Tennis Masters Series  
3 p.m., ESPN



Friday, May 17, 2002

# Oregon track aims for Pac-10 supremacy

**WOMEN:** After two months of outdoor meets, the Ducks get down to business at the Pac-10 Championships in Pullman, Wash.

By Hank Hager  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Like ancient Roman warriors who converged on the Coliseum to battle to the death, 200 athletes will compete against one another at the Mooberry Track and Field Complex in Pullman, Wash., on Saturday and Sunday.

These athletes won't be fighting to the death, and there probably won't be any bloodshed — but there will be dreams dashed and careers started.

And it all starts as the clock clicks to noon.

The Pacific-10 Conference Championships, after five months of indoor and outdoor meets in Seattle, Lincoln, Neb., and Eugene — among other destinations — are finally upon the 24 Oregon women who will make the eight-hour bus ride to the tiny Washington town.

"I'm very excited," junior Jordan Sauvage said. "The drive will be long and tiresome, but it will be fun."

Last season, the Ducks finished a paltry eighth in Berkeley, Calif., a disappointment considering the overall talent the team had. However, this year's squad is much improved, especially in the field events.

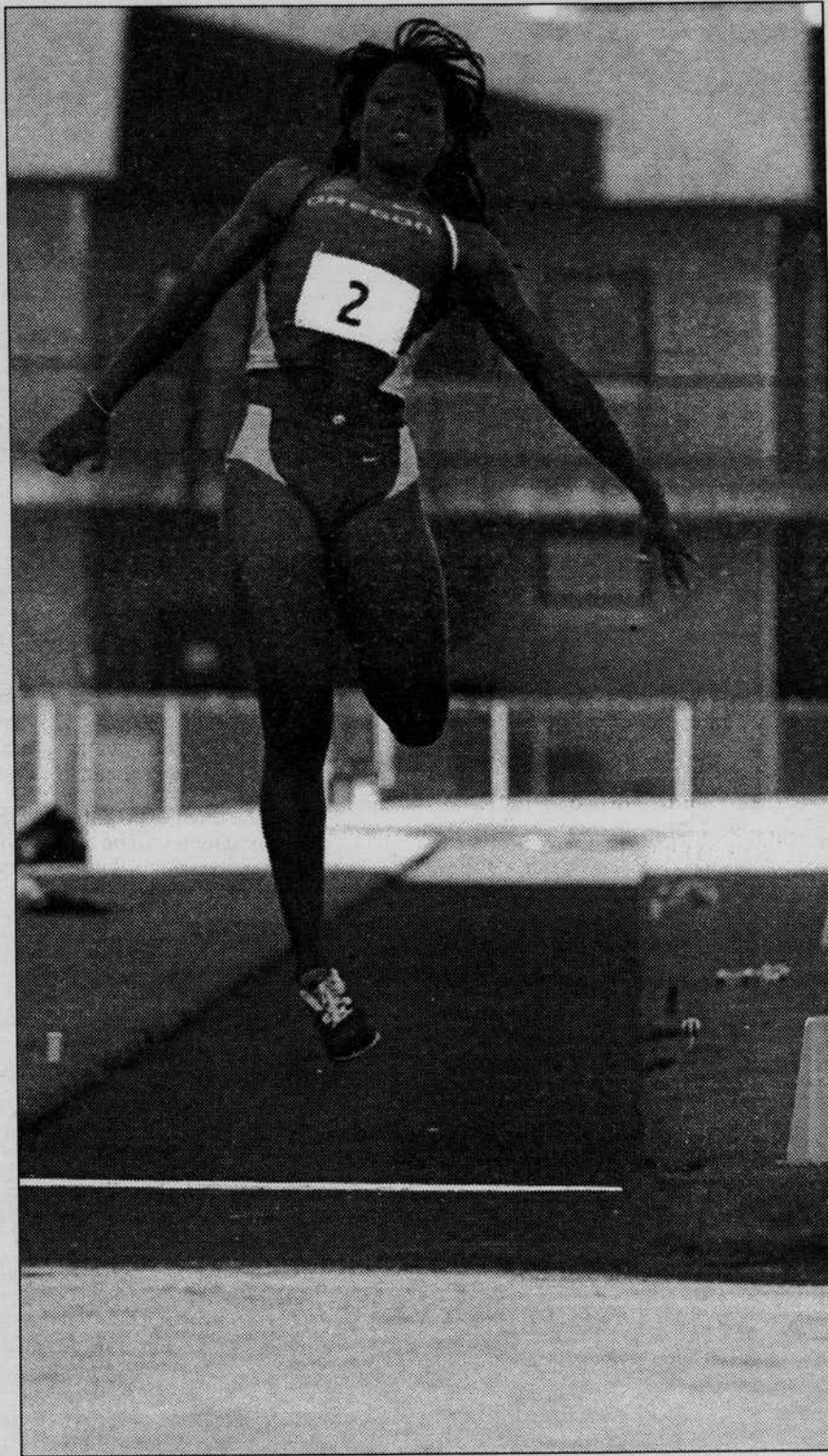
"If you look at our marks list at the end of the season, we're better in 16 of the 22 events," head coach Tom Heinonen said. "By any measure, we're a far better team."

That said, first place is still most likely out of reach for the green and yellow. UCLA and USC — two of the nation's top powers — go into Pullman with national title aspirations.

In fact, the Trojans and Bruins go into the championships with top-ranked athletes in 14 of the 22 events, a number that is even more impressive because eight of those athletes are top in the nation.

"Our athletes have seen plenty of great competition," Heinonen said. "However, they know USC and UCLA will battle it out for first place."

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Adam Jones Emerald

Amanda Brown will be the first Duck athlete to compete at the Pac-10 Championships. Brown is making her third consecutive appearance in the long jump.



Jonathan House Emerald

Kyle Johnson matched his personal best of 7-0 1/2 at the Oregon Twilight, and will enter this weekend's Pac-10 meet with momentum.

**MEN:** Oregon needs 'everyone' at their best to complete the 'year of the Duck' sweep

By Peter Hockaday  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Football started it. Men's basketball continued it. Now track gets a chance to finish it.

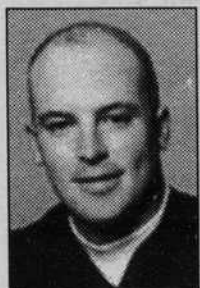
The Oregon men's track and field team will try to complete the "year of the Duck" at the Pacific-10 Conference Championships in Pullman, Wash., this weekend. Two of the three major men's sports have won Pac-10 titles this year, and a victory for Oregon this weekend would simply seal the deal, according to the athletes.

"We want to get (the Pac-10 title)," distance-runner Simon Kimata said. "Everybody knows that, it's not a secret. Basketball has done it, football has done it. I'm not talking about individual, I'm talking about the team. It would make a lot of sense if we got it. They have done it, we have to do it too."

In order to win this weekend, the Ducks will need to perform at, and perhaps above, their potential. Track and field powerhouses like Stanford and UCLA, who finished first and second last year, respectively, will once again bring a full slate of talented athletes to the meet. Teams like Arizona

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## First-round woes again plague UO golfers in NCAA Regional



BYERS

■ Despite Aaron Byers' 72, the Ducks are 16th after the first round of regional play

By Jesse Thomas  
for the Emerald

The Oregon men's golf team foundered Thursday in the first round of the NCAA West Regional and walked away in 16th after 18 holes.

Senior Aaron Byers' 2-under 70 placed him in a tie for fifth and helped to keep Oregon in contention for a bid to the NCAA Championships. But now the Ducks have to fight an uphill battle on the challenging 7,368-yard, par 72 South Champi-

ons Course in Albuquerque, N.M.

Oregon entered the tournament seeded 11th, but their 12-over 300 puts them 15 strokes behind first-round leader Texas. The Ducks, however, are just six strokes out of 10th place.

The top 10 teams and two individuals from Albuquerque will advance to the NCAA Championships May 29-June 1 in Columbus, Ohio.

Jason Hartwick led Texas to the first-day lead with a 4-under 68. The Longhorns fired off 285, four strokes

better than eighth-seeded San Diego State's 289. Fresno State, Minnesota and Nevada are all keeping it a tight race and are tied for third at 290.

Byers' 70 put him in a tie with eight other golfers including Oregon State's David Yarnes; both are just two strokes back of first-round leader Hartwick.

With five birdies and three bogies, Byers, a senior from Albany, Ore., shot off his lowest round in an NCAA Regional. Pepperdine's Jason Allred, UNLV's Brandon Askew and Minnesota's David Morgan shared a tie for second at three-under 69.

The other Ducks did not fare as well as Byers, as junior John Ellis and sen-

ior Brandon Harnden forced to count 76s to put them in a tie for 77th. Junior Chris Carnahan and sophomore Mike Sica shot disappointing 78s to tie for 105th.

Oregon is following in the same footsteps as last year's regionals at the Trysting Tree Golf Course in Corvallis, where the Ducks sat in 21st after the first round.

They fought back to 14th after the second day but were doomed in the end and finished 18th overall.

Oregon will begin second round play at 8:15 a.m. today.

Jesse Thomas is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.