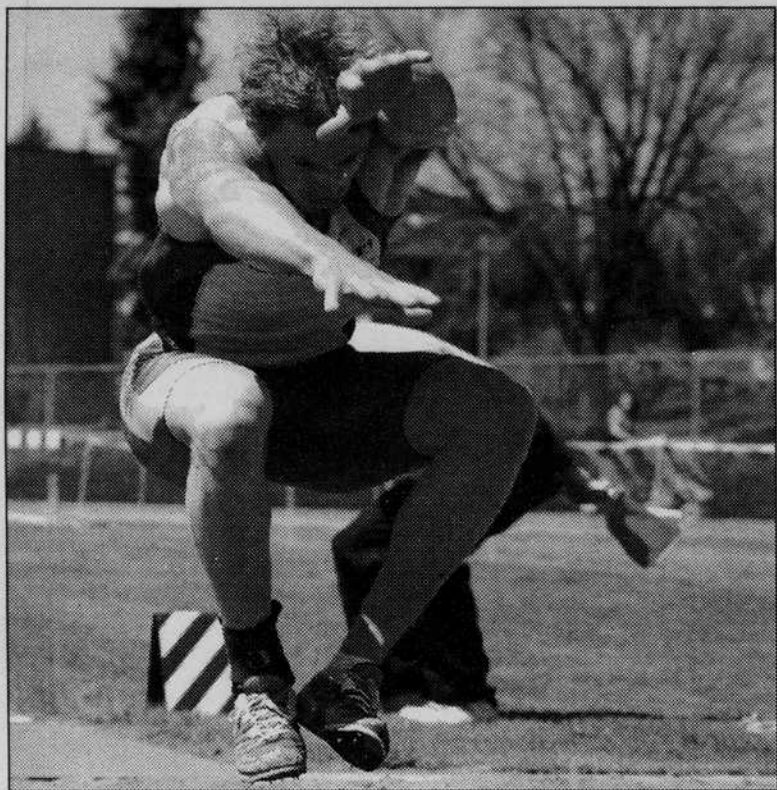




Courtesy Washington State Media Services

Senior decathlete Billy Pappas, the Pac-10 champion, is one of six Oregon athletes with an NCAA bid already locked up.

Track

continued from page 9

"But it feels good."

Billy Pappas, another Oregon Pac-10 title winner, knows he's going to the national meet, and says his focus will be recovering from the Pac-10s. Pappas won the conference decathlon title two weeks ago, then returned to a week later to score points in the long jump.

"I was expecting to do well," Pappas said of the decathlon. "You never know what's going to happen, but I thought I had a good chance to win."

Now, Pappas says he will enjoy the longer-than-usual break between meets, as the national meet doesn't start until Wednesday. The first decathlon events will be Friday.

Harrowing Harris finish

The times on the final score-sheet tell you how close the finish of the Pac-10 110 hurdles was:

1. Wilson, Ryan. USC. 13.81.
2. Harris, Micah. Oregon. 13.82.

But how close was the race, really?

"Oh ... my ... God, that race was so close," Harris said at practice Wednesday. "The guy on one side said I won it, the other side said the guy might have gotten me by a fingertip or an eyelash. It was too close to see from the human eye."

Thankfully, the computers settled it and named the Trojans' Wilson the winner of the race. But Harris said he wasn't too disappointed about losing to the second-ranked hurdler in the nation, especially when both hurdlers are headed to the NCAA Championships as automatic qualifiers.

"That's how it is at Pac-10s, it's the best guys," Harris said. "He's not a bad hurdler. It was definitely a good experience going into NC's."

That might be the ultimate reason for Harris' lack of disappointment. He will see Wilson again. One can only hope that race is as thrilling as their Pac-10 meeting.

Changing lanes

It's not the most controversial sports selection process, but the NCAA track and field selection method does leave a large margin for personal error.

That's why they're changing things up.

Next season, the NCAA will institute four regional-qualifying meets for the first time ever. The regional meets, similar to the regional qualifying tournaments in NCAA golf, will streamline the qualifying process. The qualifying marks for regional tournaments will be lower than current NCAA provisional marks, and will allow for larger amounts of athletes. The NCAA will then select from the regional pools.

Hayward Field will not host a regional meet in the foreseeable future, because the regional meets are tentatively scheduled for the weekend of the Prefontaine Classic and Oregon state championship meets.

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 23). You'll watch with amazement as everything falls marvelously into place. What you've been after for years could come together in minutes. All that planning, scheming and dreaming you've already done counts, of course, but leave room for a miracle.

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 - You have a front-row seat for a very good performance. Watch, listen and learn. Let your teammates show you what they can do. You'll be proud.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 6 - Take on as much as you can. Put in overtime or accept a second job. There's plenty to do and lots of money to be made. You'll be glad later.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 10 - You're amazingly brilliant, charming and blessed. Don't hesitate. Push for more than you think you can get. This time, the surprise is a good one.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 5 - Is your head full of ideas about fixing up your home? Write them down. Start with your dreams, and you can always pare down the list later. The hard part is getting them out of your head.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 7 - There are so many people talking, you can't get a word in. Don't complain. Listen and take notes. Soak it up.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 5 - Your routine should be set by now. You make the widgets, the widgets sell. Fame might be elusive, but fortune is within your grasp. Keep cranking out those widgets!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is a 9 - Being in charge feels pretty good, but use your power wisely. The better you take care of others, the better they'll take care of you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 5 - You know it's not good to gossip, so don't! Instead, move quickly. Get food, real estate or something you want for your home. Another's loss is your gain.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is an 8 - Start projects and enter alliances early. After that, tie up loose ends. Schedule a holiday day for tomorrow.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 5 - All should be going well, so pat yourself on the back. You can even take on new projects now, but give yourself a break. Schedule some rest before your next adventure.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 10 - The thoughts in your head are coming together. Suddenly they all make sense. The joy in your heart needs to be spoken. Tell one you love exactly how you feel.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 5 - Finances usually are not your strong point. You'd rather just have the money be there when you need it. Today, that could happen, so stop worrying.



off the mark

by Mark Parisi

www.offthemark.com

