

Sports Editor:
Adam Jude
adamjude@dailymerald.com

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True athlete, true passion

■ From high expectations to disappointment to enjoyment: In the end, Annie Pogue has no regrets

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

Annie Pogue is indefinable, yet recognizable. Enigmatic yet charismatic. Maybe even a bit problematic.

However you choose to define her, and regardless of how she chooses to define herself on any given day, Pogue's traits mold one undeniable figure: a true athlete.

Pogue is described in Oregon's 2000 track and field media guide as one of the school's "most explosive athletes." Not surprising considering her double duty with the volleyball and track teams.

Yet, as she wraps up her fifth and final year at Oregon, she never fulfilled her athletic eligibility. But that doesn't mean she didn't want to.

In retrospect, the 23-year-old Pogue says everything has worked out for the best. She has no regrets about her time in Eugene, even after being excused from the volleyball team in the spring of 2000.

"It was kind of an awkward situation," Pogue said of Oregon's coaching change, which replaced Cathy Nelson with former Idaho mentor Carl Ferreira in January 2000.

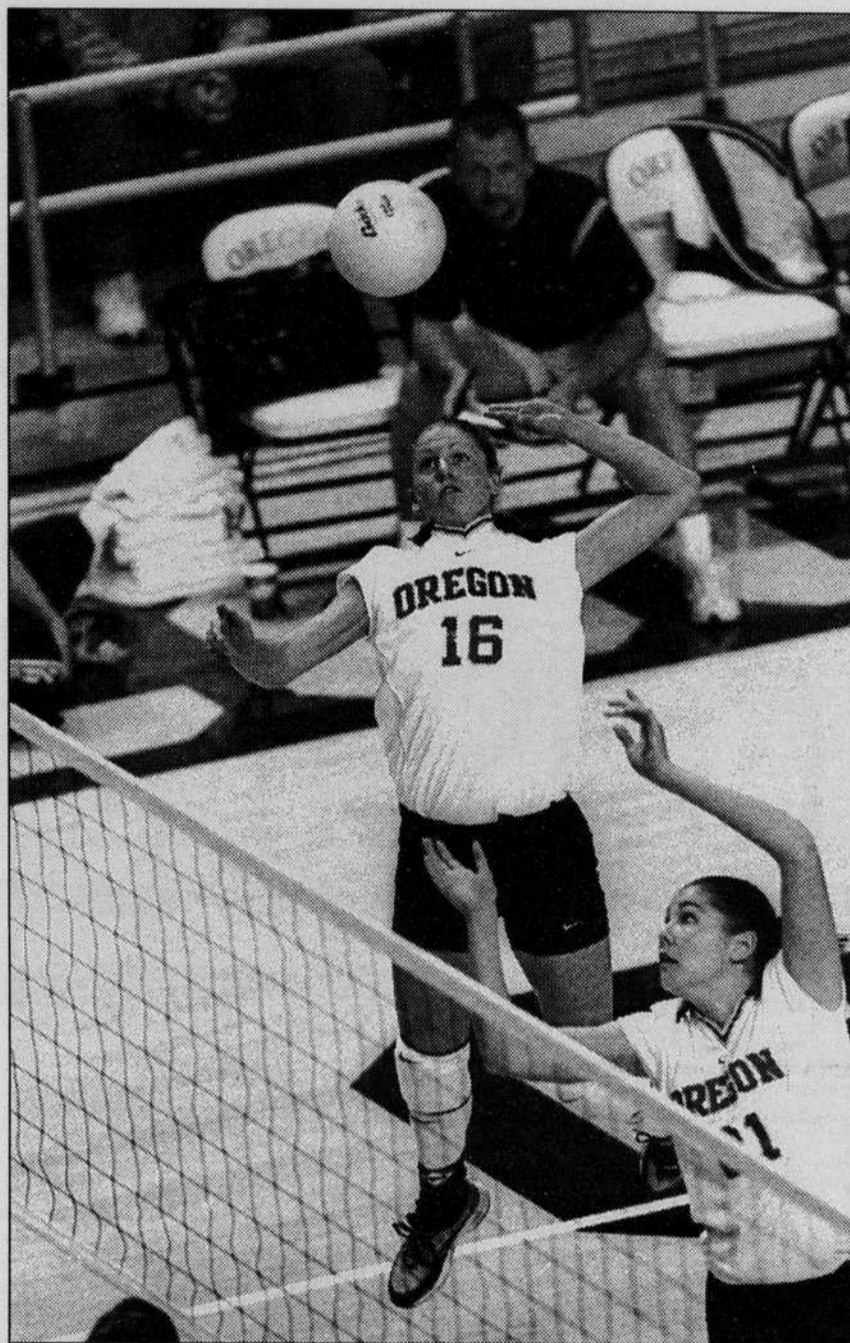
Despite ranking fourth on the team in kills and second hitting percentage in 1999, Pogue said she did not fall into Ferreira's new plan for the team. "We didn't get along," she said of her relationship with the new coach.

Subsequently, Pogue was one of several players from Nelson's roster released by Ferreira, which also included Carli Halligan.

"We were both really bummed out," Pogue said, also referring to Halligan. "At that first fall camp when we weren't playing any more, we made the team a care package and watched a whole practice. At that time, it was really hard for us, and we were heartbroken."

The disappointment, however, didn't last long. Pogue and Halligan joined the school's Club Sports volleyball team, where they won the club national title in 2001 and 2002.

Turn to Pogue, page 12



In 1999, Annie Pogue (16) was one of the top offensive threats for the Oregon volleyball team. After being released, however, she joined the Club Sports team and won two national championships.

Track star Jones opts for return to 'Pre'

■ Marion Jones, a veteran of the Prefontaine Classic, is a last minute addition as she looks to add a seventh title to her resume

By Hank Hager
Oregon Daily Emerald

Marion Jones is six-for-six in events she has competed in at the Prefontaine Classic Grand Prix.

Since 1998, the Los Angeles native has won two 100 titles, two 200 titles, and has even two more in the long jump at Hayward Field.

And until Wednesday, it was thought that her perfect record would stay the same until the 29th version of the Pre Classic.

Not anymore.

The 26-year-old graduate of North Carolina was announced Wednesday as the top entrant in the 100, amid speculation she would fail to make an appearance at Hayward for the first time since 1997.



JONES

In a Prefontaine field that includes distance runner Hicham El Guerrouj, pole vaulter Stacy Dragila and hurdles legend Gail Devers, Jones stands out. In addition to the six top finishes at the Prefontaine Classic, she has won five Olympic medals — all coming from the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

Just before Jones proved her success in Sydney, she won the 100 at the Prefontaine, but with a time that wasn't satisfactory.

"There weren't too many things I liked about the 100," Jones said after the 2000 Pre. "The start was horrible, and the transition was not very good ... but that all has to get better."

It did, and Jones went on to become the world record holder as the woman with the most medals at a single Olympics.

The 2000 woman of the year, as selected by the Associated Press, ESPN and Reuters, Jones holds the Prefontaine record in the 200 (21.81) — set in 1999 — and the long jump (23-11.75), earned during her inaugural trip to the meet in 1998.

She also holds the Hayward Field record in both events.

In her quest to win her seventh title at the Pre Classic, Jones will run against the No. 2 sprinter in the world, LaTasha Jenkins, and Jamaica's Tanya Lawrence, the eighth best in the world.

The 29th annual Pre Classic begins 1 p.m. Sunday at Hayward Field. ESPN2 will show a delayed broadcast at 8 p.m.

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

Bakke, Holliday both wait on NCAA bubble



Courtesy Washington State Media Services

Brandon Holliday is 24th nationally in the 400 hurdles, and today he will find out whether he's headed to Louisiana for the NCAA Championships.

■ Six Ducks expect to make the NCAA Championships, but two athletes learn their fate today

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

In March, the term "bubble" is thrown around in reference to college basketball teams that are on the brink of making the NCAA Tournament.

Now, several athletes from the Oregon men's track and field team are on the bubble.

Nick Bakke, the Oregon sophomore and surprise winner of the Pacific-10 Conference javelin title on Saturday, sits in 22nd position nationally after his 21-foot personal best. He and hurdler Brandon Holliday will wait anxiously today for the NCAA to hand down final decisions on who will qualify for the national championships.

"Right now it's up in the air," Bakke said Wednesday. "I'll be training right up until I know."

The NCAA takes at least 16 athletes in each event, often more if the marks in that event are particularly good. Five Oregon athletes are safely within the 16-athlete limit, while Jason Slye and Eric Logsdon are ranked 31st and 35th, respectively,

and are too low on the list to expect qualification. But Bakke and Holliday, who are ranked 24th nationally, can only keep all fingers crossed that their fields are expanded.

"I'll be disappointed if I don't go, but I won't be heartbroken because I ended the season with a bang," Bakke said.

Holliday and Bakke might have another chance to move up the list, if athletes above them are unable to compete. Coaches will confirm athletes from their teams this morning, and those decisions will affect the lists below them.

Oregon coach Martin Smith will have to declare John Stiegeler unfit to compete in the javelin because of an injury, so Bakke will at least move to 21st on the national list. He could move up further if other teams have similar situations.

Even if Bakke misses the cut, he says he'll hold on to his Pac-10 championship.

"I haven't had time to sit down and think about it," Bakke said of his title.



Turn to Track, page 10