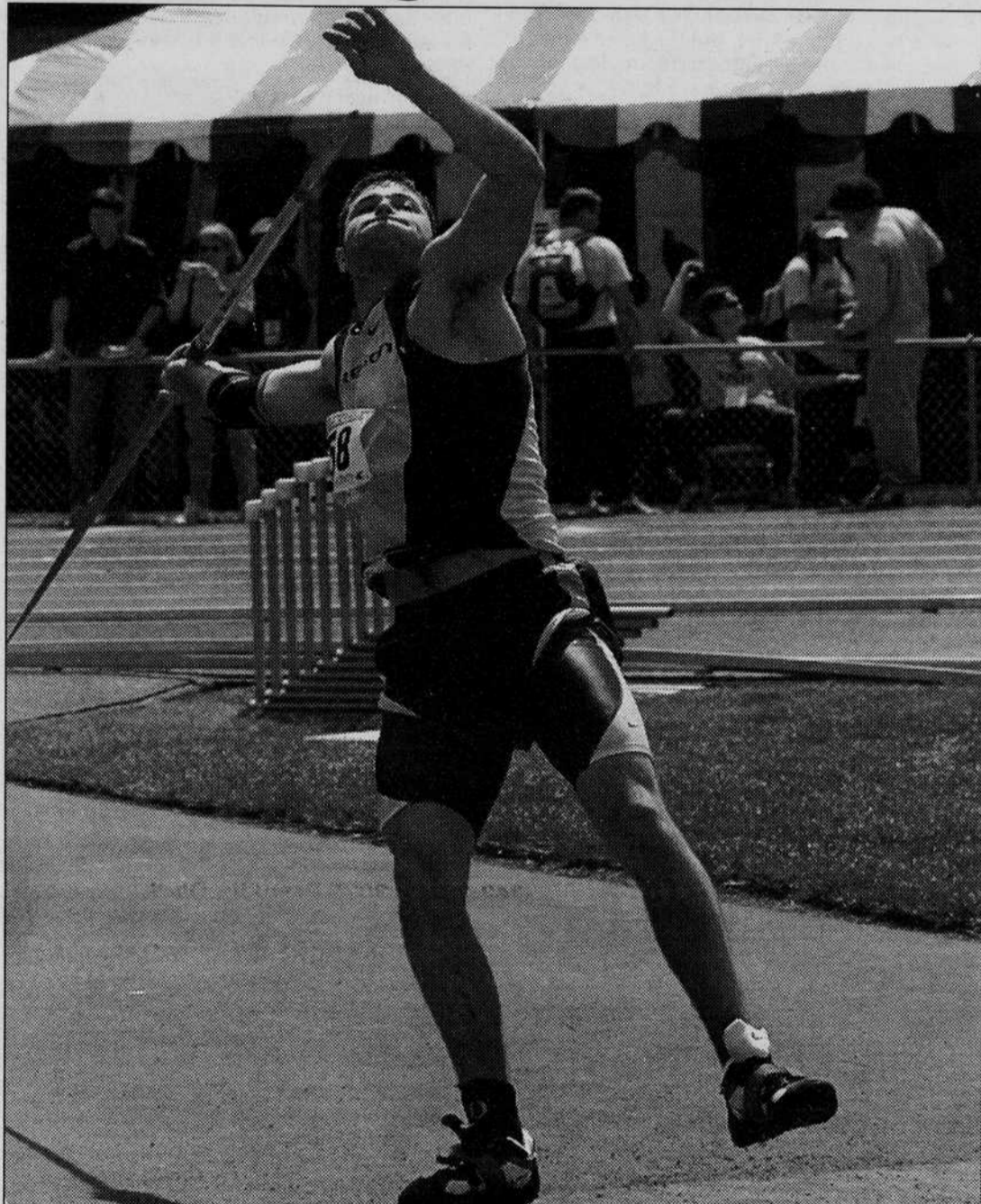




Friday, May 24, 2002

NCAA fate good for some Ducks, bad for others



Courtesy Washington State Media Services

Nick Bakke, ranked 20th nationally in the javelin, was the last Oregon athlete to make it into the NCAA Championships.

■ Nick Bakke is the last javelin thrower into the national meet, but Brandon Holliday and Eri Macdonald didn't make the NCAA's final cut

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

Nick Bakke is in the picture.

Even if he was never in the national javelin scene before he won the Pacific-10 Conference title last week, Oregon sophomore Nick Bakke (pronounced Back-ee) is now officially headed to the NCAA Championships, as the 20th and final member of the javelin field.

When asked if he ever thought about making the NCAA Championships earlier this season, Bakke said, "Not realistically."

"I had high hopes and everything," Bakke said. "But not realistically, no."

Bakke moved up the NCAA list Thursday when Oregon junior John Stiegeler bowed out of the meet. Stiegeler tore his anterior cruciate ligament in April, but finished the season ranked fourth in the nation.

Bakke was one of several Oregon athletes who learned their NCAA fate Thursday night. Brandon Holliday, ranked 25th in the 400 hurdles, didn't move up the list and wasn't invited to the national meet. On the women's side, middle-distance runner Eri Macdonald, ranked 25th in the 800-meter race, missed making the NCAA meet by 10 spots.

Several Oregon athletes were assured spots in the final meet of the season, but moved up or down the national lists. The rankings won't mean anything next week, but for now they provide an idea of where the Oregon team might score points. Only the 1-8 positions score points, in descending order, at the NCAA meet.

On the men's side, the most dramatic leap was made by Jason Hartmann, who moved from 12th to 10th in the 10,000. Adam Kriz jumped a spot to 12th in the hammer, and Micah Harris

Oregon NCAA qualifiers (national rank)

Men

Simon Kimata, 800 (3)
Trevor Woods, pole vault (7)
Micah Harris, 110 hurdles (9)
Jason Hartmann, 10,000 (10)
Billy Pappas, decathlon (10)
Adam Kriz, hammer (12)
Nick Bakke, javelin (20)

Women

Becky Holliday, pole vault (3)
Sarah Malone, javelin (4)
Elisa Crumley, javelin (8)
Mary Etter, discus (9)
Roslyn Lundeen, javelin (12)

went from a tie for 11th to ninth in the 110 hurdles. Two Ducks moved down the list: Simon Kimata went from second to third in the 800 and Trevor Woods dropped from fifth to seventh in the pole vault.

On the women's side, only one Duck of the five NCAA qualifiers moved on their lists. Javelin thrower Roslyn Lundeen moved from 13th to 12th. Becky Holliday remained third nationally in the pole vault, Sarah Malone stayed at fourth in the javelin, Elisa Crumley stayed at eighth in the javelin and Mary Etter remained ninth in discus.

Oregon will take the qualified athletes to the national meet with high expectations to repeat last season's success. The men finished ninth overall last year, while the women finished 60th, but made progress.

The Ducks will start competition in the NCAA meet on Wednesday in Baton Rouge, La. Becky Holliday, Kriz and Kimata are the three Ducks in action on

Turn to Bakke, page 6A

UO Club Sports ultimate team heads to nationals

■ The Oregon ultimate team will represent the Northwest region

By Jesse Thomas
for the Emerald

Coming from one of the toughest regions in the country, the Club Sports women's ultimate team will be representing the Northwest beginning today.

The Ducks begin round robin play at the national championships this morning. The three teams in Oregon's

bracket are Yale, Bucknell and Carlton.

In their last trip to the national tournament in 2000, Oregon

placed 15th out of 16 teams.

The Ducks said they are a completely different team this year and enter today ranked fifth. Colorado is ranked first followed by San Diego in second and then Stanford, also representing the Northwest, is third. Carlton is ranked fourth.

But according to Oregon captain Izzy Stohler, it was very difficult for the rankings to be decided.

"I almost feel that we are underrated," Stohler said. "We are hoping for quite a few upsets."

The Ducks qualified for the national tournament April 28 in the regional tournament. The women consider Stanford their biggest rival, primarily because the Ducks and the Cardinal represent the same region.

Through the regular season competition, Stanford led the best of three series against Oregon, 2-1.

"We've worked so hard to get to where we are now and I really think we have the ability to beat them," coordinator Serena Woods said, in reference to Stanford.

Oregon will compete today through Sunday.

Crew teams end season

The Club Sports men's and women's crew teams finished their seasons during the weekend in a respectable fashion.

The Ducks competed in the Pacific Coast Rowing Championships on Saturday and Pacific-10 Conference Championships on Sunday. The conditions were far from desirable as Oregon experienced a 20-mph headwind for

Turn to Club Sports, page 8A

Track Town to show off Pre Classic

■ The Prefontaine Classic is back for its 28th run, and features some of the best athletes in history

By Hank Hager
Oregon Daily Emerald

Attendance has been down at Hayward Field this season and the weather hasn't complied with the Oregon athletes, but the Prefontaine Classic Grand Prix is going to change that.

The fans are coming back, and the clouds are going away, and the 28th version of one of the country's most fabled meets is ready to get underway.

"Ticket sales are going really well," meet director Tom Jordan said. "But we really want to see the crowds come back for the (Oregon) meets because we want track to be healthy here."

The event, which starts at 1 p.m. Sunday, is going to allow Track Town, U.S.A., to get national exposure in an era that has not been kind to the Eugene area. ESPN2 will air a delayed broadcast at 8 p.m. the

same day, while Eurosport will also carry the meet.

Marion Jones headlines a group of athletes that Jordan has called some of "the best fields we've ever had." The six-time Prefontaine winner will be joined by Hicham El Guerrouj — termed the "King of the Mile" — as well as legendary pole vaulter Stacy Dragila, star hurdler Gail Devers and U.S. mile champion Mike Miller.



ETTER

But it will also feature some local flavor as well. Oregon star discus thrower Mary Etter was announced Thursday as the latest addition to the field. The junior, ranked ninth nationally in the discus, will be competing in the NCAA Championships in Baton Rouge, La., on May 31.

However, despite the less than a week difference between

the two meets, Etter doesn't believe it will ruin her chances to compete at full strength.

"It's going to be nice because a lot of people in the nation are going to have to wait two weeks before throwing in nationals," she said. "It's going to be nice being in a world-class meet and then going to nationals."

The Prefontaine runs two hours long, and will feature some of the world's best. With so many star-studded events taking place, weather immediately becomes a concern.

However, Jordan is confident that the weather — which has been forecasted to be in the mid-60s with potential for rain — will be favorable when the some of the world's best take to the Hayward track.

"One of the things I'm hoping for is that this crummy weather keeps down the allergies," Jordan said. "It doesn't need to be warm. Just partly-cloudy and dry."

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