

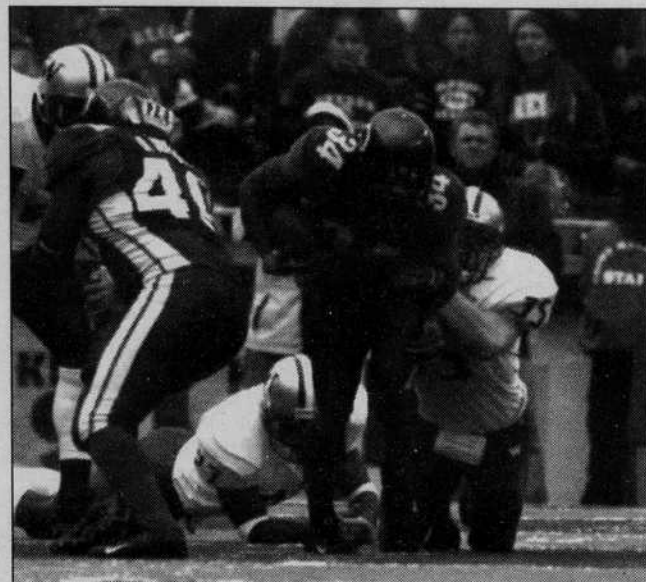
## SPORTS

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**Best bet**  
NCAA Football:  
Pittsburgh at Miami  
4:30 p.m., ESPN

Thursday, November 21, 2002

# Blazing-fast Amundson stops to chat



Adam Amato Emerald

Allan Amundson (34) said he 'just tries to help out' on the football team, whether that means taking kickoff returns or playing running back.

**Q&A: Senior Allan Amundson, the Ducks' fastest athlete on paper, says he wants to win more than he wants the ball**

## 106th Civil War

**Adam Jude**  
Senior Sports Reporter

Allan Amundson, Oregon's senior tailback/kick return specialist, sat down with the Emerald as he prepares for his final regular season game.

The San Rafael, Calif., native is third in the Pacific-10 Conference in kickoff returns at 22.4 yards, and he has 31 rushes for 149 yards and one touchdown as a backup running back. He has also caught three passes for 48 yards for the Ducks (7-4 overall, 3-4 Pac-10).

For his career, Amundson has 114 rushes for 490 yards (a 4.3-yard average) and four touchdowns. He ranks sec-

ond on Oregon's career kick return list with 67 returns and 1,561 yards.

Amundson, who has a team-best 4.53-second 40-yard dash, also participated on the Oregon track team last spring.

**Q) What's your most memorable Civil War?**

Unfortunately, my most memorable one is the one we lost two years ago in Corvallis. It was tough because all of the Beaver fans came out of the closet, and then there were Beaver flags everywhere, and that was tough to see. And you just have to live with that until the next Civil War. You can't just shake it off because you're reminded of it every time you see one of those flags.

**Q) How do you want to end your Oregon career?**

Right now, I just want to get in there and play and play well. I've had some opportunities, but they haven't really worked out. To get in there and do great would be awesome.

**Q) Describe what's its been like for**

you here the last couple years.

It's been a little difficult, but I still have fun. It seems like every year there's been at least one awesome running back in front of me. That's not easy to handle, but I'd still rather have them on our team as opposed to some other team. Winning is more important than the number of carries that I get. It's fun to watch them. I have nothing against them; I love them to death. Of course I'd like to play as much as I can, but I've had some people in front of me that are better. I've accepted it, and it pushes me to try that much harder.

**Q) What is your role on this team?**

With some of the younger guys that haven't had a lot of experience, sometimes they come to me with questions, and I've been here for four years and I usually know the answer. I just try to help out as much as I can. I don't get that many reps, so I have to do as much as I can with every one. It seems like a

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## Humble harrier

Jason Hartmann is nearing the end of his cross country career

**Mindi Rice**  
Freelance Sports Reporter

As the only senior on the Oregon men's cross country squad, the roles of captain and leader have fallen into Jason Hartmann's lap.

But it's not like he's complaining. "He doesn't say much, and when he does, it's pretty powerful," teammate and roommate Brett Holts said. "He leads by example. He's more casual, more laid-back. He's not so outspoken with the team in general, but he makes it known what's expected of you."

Hartmann will run his last collegiate cross country race Monday, marking his fourth consecutive appearance in the NCAA Championships.

"I'd like to make it my best one," Hartmann said. "I just want to walk away from the last experience, with the team and with me, seeing the fruits of our labor, and walk away happy."

Hartmann is a two-time All-American in cross country. He finished as the top American freshman at the NCAA meet in 1999, placing 37th and earning an All-

American honor. One year later, he improved his finish, moving up to 35th, earning his second All-American honor.

After missing a third honor by 10 seconds last season, finishing 50th, Hartmann has the opportunity to become the eighth Duck to win three or more All-American honors.

"Having (Hartmann) there definitely helps me," redshirt sophomore Ryan Andrus said. "When he's there it's a reference point I'm familiar with. He's a great runner that's been running at a high level for a while. He's fully capable of having his best nationals finish."

Andrus has finished just behind Hartmann in this season's Pacific-10 Conference Championships and Western Regional Championships.

When it was time to choose where he would be going to college, Hartmann had his pick of championship-caliber schools. As one of the top-five prep distance runners in the country, he heard from many schools, all wanting him to join their cross country programs.

Hartmann narrowed it down to two: Oregon and Wisconsin. Oregon head coach Martin Smith was

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Geoff Thurner Oregon Media Services

Jason Hartmann has led the Oregon cross country squad since coming to Eugene from Rockford, Mich.

# Volleyball seniors have no regrets as season ends

Oregon's three seniors are about to play their last matches of their career

## Volleyball

**Hank Hager**  
Sports Reporter

For the three Oregon volleyball seniors — Sydney Chute, Lindsay Closs, and Amanda Porter — tonight's match against Washington State and Friday's against Washington at McArthur Court represent the end of the line.

The end of the road. Their careers, differing in longevity with the Ducks, are about to be finished.

It's a sad fact they must face. But they understand that all things must come to an end.

"Every week, we prepare for the match — that's the only thing on our minds," Chute said. "Obviously, this one's going to be sweeter because it's the last home game, and my last one. So, I want to go out with a bang and make it memorable."

A win for Chute against the Cougars or Huskies would be something to remember, as the only player on the Oregon roster to have played for four seasons as a Duck has never defeated Washington State and has defeated Washington just once. Combined, she has gone just 1-13 against Oregon's Northwest rivals.

As for Closs and Porter, the road has been less bumpy, albeit because of a shorter time with the Ducks. Both transferred as juniors last sea-

son — Closs from Fresno State and Porter from Idaho — and have combined for just one Pacific-10 Conference win while with Oregon.

Still, there's no hard feelings, or regrets.

"It's been emotional," Closs said about her time with Oregon. "It's been a learning experience and I think I've grown up for it."

What the three have brought to the Oregon program is not best represented on the statistical sheet. Sure, Chute will leave the Ducks as the top assist-getter in three of her four seasons, and Closs will know that she accumulated the most kills in a season — 393 to date — since Madeline Ernst's 593 in 1998.

No, the three will know that the younger players looked up to them, learned, and based on their leader-

ship, became better players.

"I know — definitely to us underclassmen, and I know the juniors feel the same way — (they are) the best role models, and they've set great examples for us," sophomore Lauren Westendorf said. "They've set the standard for Oregon volleyball."

"Our coaching philosophy from when I've got here involves upper-division leadership," Oregon head coach Carl Ferreira said. "Sydney, Porter and Closs have done an excellent job in providing great guidance and leadership to not only the freshman, but everyone in the program. You can't really put a price tag on the value of what they do for the program. It's well beyond statistics."

As tradition goes, each can ex-

pect a gift Friday night from Oregon as a token of appreciation for their service with the squad. In addition, families are encouraged to attend the final match, are brought onto the court with their kin and given a round of applause from the Oregon crowd.

For Chute, especially, that will mean so much more. Being from Santa Rosa, Calif., she said her parents only have a chance to watch her play twice a season — when the Ducks visit California in Berkeley and Stanford in Palo Alto.

"Pretty much, I'm going to thank everyone for supporting me and helping me through, because you definitely have to work hard through your four years, because it's not easy," Chute said. "And just for

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