

Hartmann

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in his first year as the Ducks' head coach, having just completed a 15-year stint at Wisconsin. He left the head coaching position to his assistant coach, who had also run under Smith at Wisconsin.

"The Wisconsin coach learned from Coach Smith, so you might as well learn from the teacher," Hartmann told the Emerald in 1999, his freshman year.

"(Hartmann)'s someone you really enjoy coaching in practice," Smith said Wednesday. "He really enjoys the process of coming to practice every day, and I receive a lot of energy and positive reinforcement from that attitude and attention."

Through his positive outlook, Hartmann, a native of Rockford, Mich., has been able to handle being far away from home. He has found family out here through the team.

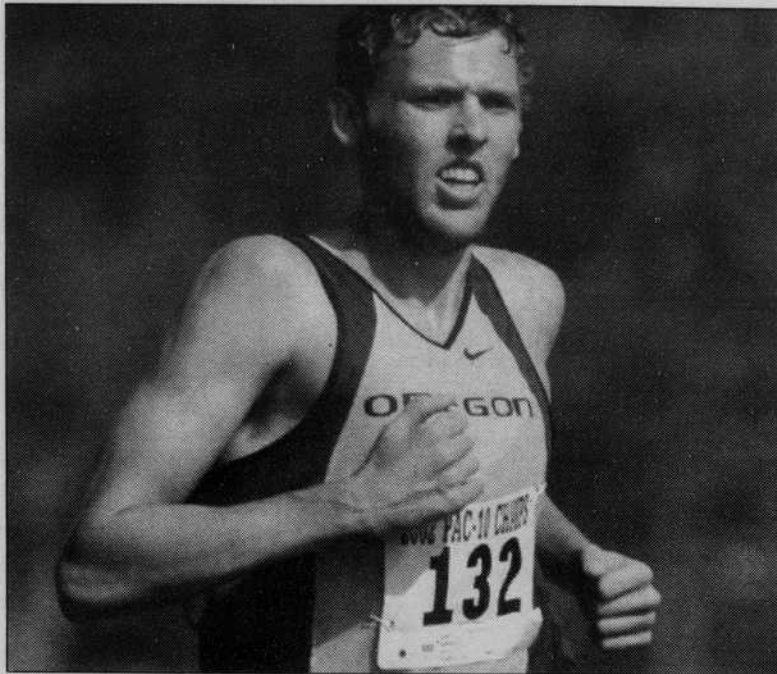
"(Smith) is a guardian for me out here," Hartmann said. "He makes me feel like I'm a part of his family."

Hartmann also travels with Holts, who is a junior, to his family home in Oregon for Thanksgiving, as well as weekend getaways.

"I sometimes think my family loves him more than they love me," Holts said.

Hartmann's family has a lot to do with why he's in Oregon. He has only been seriously running since the 10th grade, when his parents helped him weigh his options. Hartmann's dad told him he probably had a better future in running. Previously, 6-foot-3-inch Hartmann had only been running to stay in shape for basketball.

His career at Oregon started strong, as Hartmann won the Pac-10 Newcomer of the Year award in 1999. He finished 15th individually in the Pac-10 meet



Geoff Thurner Emerald

Hartmann "leads by example," according to his roommate, Brett Holts.

and 16th in the regional championship. The Oregon men finished sixth in the NCAA meet, with Hartmann finishing third out of the Duck squad.

In 2000, the Oregon men finished second in the Pac-10, led by Hartmann's runner-up finish. He also finished second at the regional meet, while the team finished fourth and earned an at-large bid for nationals.

Last year, Hartmann emerged as a leader, placing first for the team in all five meets he ran. Individually, he took sixth in the Pac-10 championships and third in the Western Regional.

Hartmann also runs on the Smith-led track and field squad in the winter and spring seasons, where he has two years of eligibility left. His events include the 1,500-meter, 5,000-meter and 10,000-meter races.

While serious on the course and

on the track, Hartmann is a laid-back guy.

"He's very unpredictable," Holts said. "When you hang out with him everyday, there's something new and there's something fun."

Hartmann is a follow-your-opportunities kind of guy. The elementary education major wants to be a third grade teacher, and also wants to continue running.

"Third grade is the grade to get through to (children)," Hartmann said. "I hope the opportunity (to continue running) presents itself, but I can't just rely on that."

Hartmann commented on being a role model in his classroom, and it wouldn't be the first time he has been a role model.

"Jason has become a big brother to me," Holts said. "He's always positive and willing to help out."

Mindi Rice is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

Thoughts on football from empty Autzen

It was a cold Saturday afternoon. A day when I felt alone, standing among 57,112 other people.

It isn't like me to have nothing to say; my friends were confused with my solace and the puzzled look on my face. I couldn't really describe what I was seeing.

I could see the rain pouring down in slow motion, and how for every yard that Washington gained, 10 people left the stadium. Nobody stood near me, nobody could understand, and the eight friends that I came to the game with left to go home.

The last seconds ticked by like hours, but I stayed until the end. I turned my head at the sight of having to watch the Huskies celebrate on my home field for more than 10 minutes.

The Ducks have forgotten that the game of football is 60 minutes long, not just 30. In the second half, Washington made Oregon look like a 2A high school football team.

I have yet to become accustomed to seeing Oregon lose, especially at Autzen. A 6-0 start against teams like Portland State, Idaho and Arizona, with the only mediocre test coming from UCLA, which the Ducks squeaked by.

And for the real tests, that's why Oregon has lost four of its past five.

But now things are simple. No more Associated Press Poll, no more BCS rankings to worry about, and no more Rose Bowl.

Just raw determination and heart that the Ducks will have in a little

place 45 miles north of here. And there will be nothing civil about it.

The records are identical. Both schools have lost to the same teams, except for UCLA, which Oregon beat and Oregon State could not, and Washington State, which Oregon State has not played.

So now where does that leave the Ducks?

Now the team faces another challenge.

At the beginning of the season, I spoke of Oregon State as nothing more than a workout for the Ducks, but I take that back.

It's a question of whether Oregon can pick itself up from the dark hole it has dug. Competition from the Big East or Mountain West in late December is not important right now. What's important is the Beavers, and who wants it the most.

So, you want to know what I think will happen? Oregon will win. Why? Because they have to.

It's not about the fans, or the critics, or even the rankings. It's about the Ducks proving to themselves that they can rebound from adversity and stare the orange and black right in the face.

I was told once that "you have to fail in order to find out what you are truly made of."

A true champion, therefore, isn't the one who goes undefeated, but the one who gets back on the horse one last time and gives it his or her all for 60 long minutes.

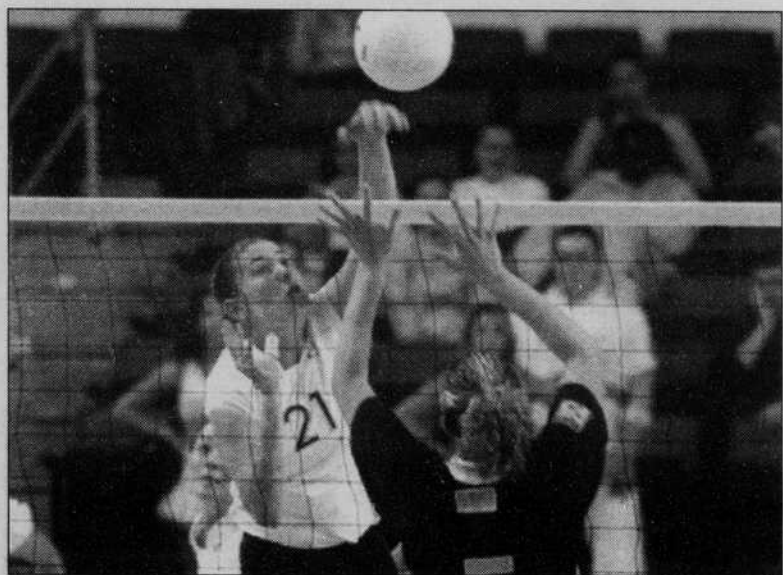
And call me hopeful, but have a little faith in the program that has treated you so well throughout your college career.

And after it's all over, Oregon stands alone.

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.



Jesse Thomas
Go the distance



Mark McCambridge Emerald

Sydney Chute will join two other seniors in their last games at Oregon this weekend.

Volleyball

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all the good times and memories."

Looking ahead to the future, Chute and Closs both admitted to have a possible passion for coaching. While Closs was less committal — she said she doesn't like planning her future too much — Chute believed coaching is definitely in

her future.

"There's a possibility I might look to coach club in Eugene, or wherever I end up," she said. "And from there, I'm not really sure. But I've definitely enjoyed coaching the clinics I've done in Eugene and my hometown."

"It's in my blood."

Contact the sports reporter at hankhager@dailyemerald.com.

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