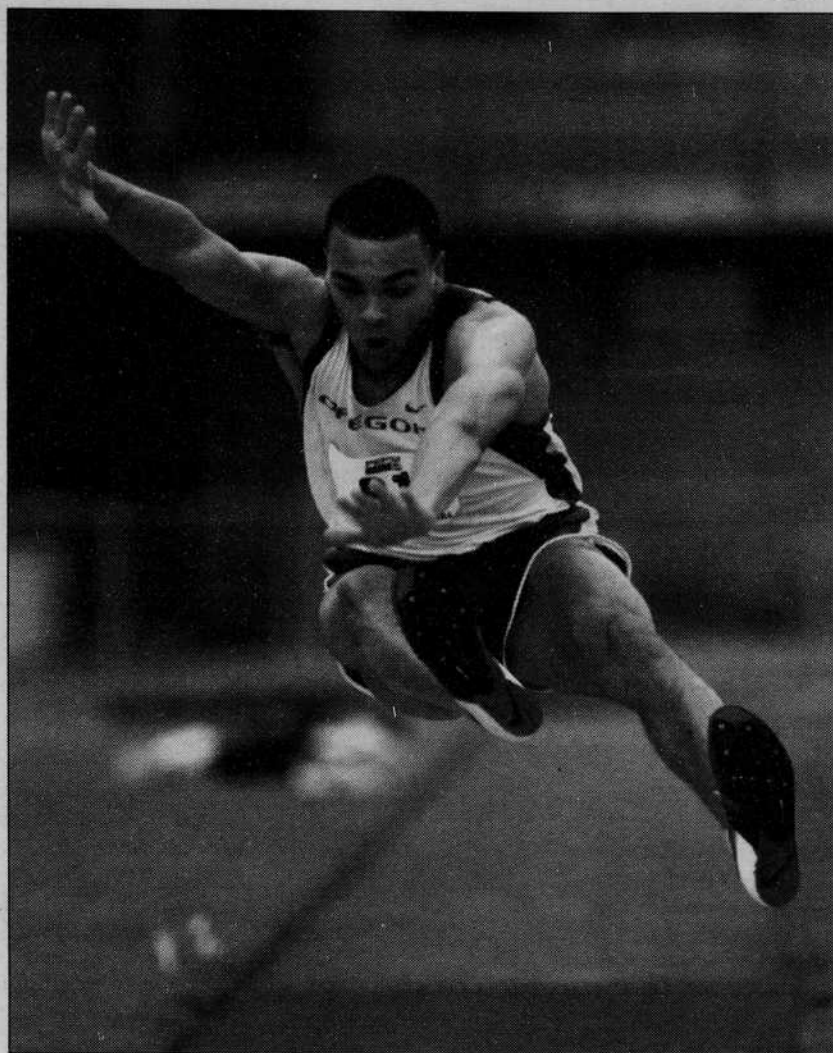


SPORTS

Best bet
NHL Playoffs:
Detroit at Anaheim
7:30 p.m., ESPN2

Monday, April 14, 2003

Kent leads Oregon to Invitational win



Adam Amato Emerald

Jordan Kent won Saturday's long jump and almost won the 4x100-meter relay.

The Ducks win eight of 18 events in an impressive team victory Saturday at home

Men's track and field

Peter Hockaday
Sports Editor

Early Saturday afternoon, Oregon freshman Jordan Kent had the Pepsi Team Invitational long jump in hand, so he ditched the long jump pit, ran across Hayward Field, changed quickly into a sprinting uniform and switched spikes. He ran back across the infield, getting to the track's Bowerman curve just in time to run the anchor leg of the 4x100-meter relay.

As the large Hayward crowd swelled around him, Kent got the baton at the same time as Minnesota's two-time All-American, senior Andy Wholin. Kent and Wholin battled down the home stretch, but Kent's tired legs couldn't catch Wholin, and the Gophers took the relay by less than a second.

But even if Kent didn't catch Wholin on this day, he gave the crowd the sense that he'll be catching — and passing — opponents for a long time as a Duck.

"I think I did one too many long jumps," Kent said. "But it was a lot of fun to finally get out here and get my feet wet."

Kent's first meet as a Duck coincided with Oregon's first team-scoring meet of 2003. And with the help of a Kent-led, talented freshman class and a strong upperclassmen contingent, the Ducks dominated the competition at the Pepsi Team Invitational. Oregon won early and often, finishing with 211 points to second-place Minnesota's 171. Washington finished with 113 and Colorado ended with 108.

"As a team, you saw a lot of good athletic efforts out there today," Oregon head coach Martin Smith

said after the meet.

The most surprising athletic efforts came on the track. Reversing the Duck stigma, Oregon won with sprinting and faltered in the distances. Football players Samie Parker, who won the 100, and Jason Willis, who finished third in the 100 and second in the 200, had a lot to do with that. Then there were the freshmen: Eric Mitchum took the 110 hurdles and the all-freshman 4x100 relay team finished only .20 seconds behind Minnesota. The Ducks scored 33 points in the 100, 200 and 400, but scored only 22 in the 800, 1,500 and 3,000.

But the day started with success on the field. John Stiegeler, who won the 2001 javelin national championship but redshirted last season with a knee injury, won Saturday's javelin section and fellow Duck Adam Jenkins finished second, giving Oregon a quick 16 points in the team competition. Stiegeler, whose 220-foot throw was far short of his pre-injury Oregon record of 252-10, said he still isn't happy with where he's at in his comeback.

"I couldn't get it to quite come together today," he said.

The Ducks' field success continued as Adam Kriz won the hammer competition with a seven-foot personal best of 217-10, which put him fifth on the national list and fifth all-time at Oregon. Kent followed with his win in the long jump, and then the track stars took over. By mid-afternoon, the Ducks had the team competition won.

The victory over Minnesota was a notch in Oregon's belt for the season, as the Golden Gophers were the top-ranked dual meet team coming out of the indoor season. Minnesota was ranked 15th in Trackwire.com's rankings headed into the meet, and the Gophers have talent comparable to several Pacific-10 Conference teams. The Ducks will head to Los Angeles for the Pac-10 Championships in

Turn to **Men's**, page 10

Women shine with nine wins at Hayward Field

Oregon wins its first five events and never looks back on the way to the important team win over three squads

Women's track and field

Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

By the time 2 p.m. Saturday rolled around, the Oregon women's track team had everything kicked into full gear: five events in the bag and five personal victories for the Ducks.

After the rocket start, junior Abby Andrus

had a comeback victory in the 100 hurdles on a sour stomach and senior Eri Macdonald ran a 63-second last lap of the 800 meters to secure the victory.

All en route to an Oregon team victory. The Ducks had 204 points in the Pepsi Invitational, while second-place Minnesota had 172. And Oregon made it look easy from the start, when sophomore Roslyn Lundeen improved her season best to win on the last throw of the javelin.

"The win is obviously nice and I'm just happy to be in one piece," said Lundeen, who nursed injuries early in the season.

"It seems like our kids competed with a lot of

heart," Oregon head coach Tom Heinonen said. "They knew it was competitive, and they reacted by being competitive and putting lots of good marks on the board. This is our best meet of the season by far."

Oregon's throwing arsenal continued in usual fashion. After Lundeen's season best, senior Jordan Sauvage hit 185 feet in the hammer to secure the win and nine points for Oregon.

Senior Mary Etter followed suit with a victory in the discus by throwing 176 feet, more than six feet past her previous season best. Etter also went on to finish second in the shot put behind Minnesota's Alean Frawley.

"It's about time," Etter said of finally throwing past 170 feet in competition. "I'm kind of tweaking things in my forearm. There will be no problem getting 180 if I get that stuff down."

The pole vault was the fourth victory of the five that proved no different than usual on Oregon's part. Washington's Kate Soma was the only competitor who had a mark close to that of any Duck. Soma had a rough day as she could not clear 12-11 1/2 on her third attempt.

After Soma was out, Oregon seniors Nike

Turn to **Women's**, page 10

Ducks play sloppy in first scrimmage of spring season

Chris Vincent leads the Ducks with 41 yards rushing in Saturday's first scrimmage of spring

Spring football

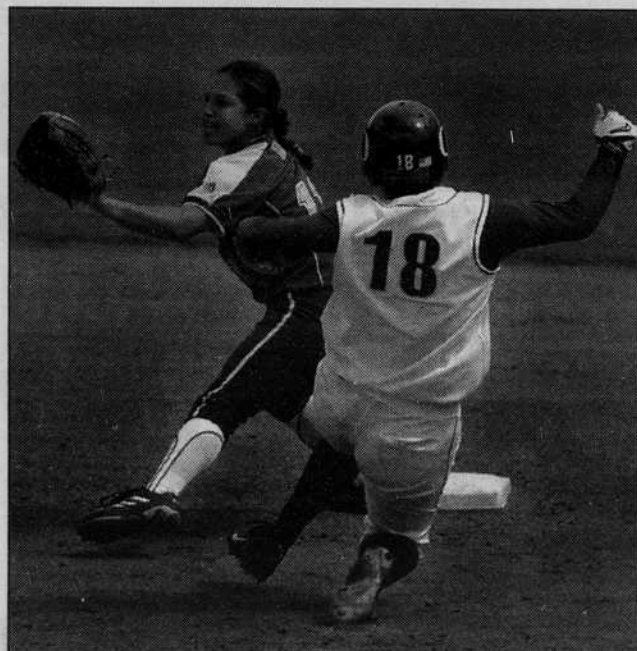
Hank Hager
Sports Reporter

Kellen Taylor's fumble late in Oregon's scrimmage Saturday typified the Ducks' sloppy play during their first day inside Autzen Stadium during spring practices.

On a reverse, the wide receiver never got a handle on the ball, and kicked it to the sideline, costing the Oregon offense a 10-yard loss.

Overall, it was an inconsistent scrimmage for both the offense and the defense.

"I thought we were a little sluggish," head coach Mike Bellotti

Turn to **Football**, page 10

Adam Amato Emerald

Junior catcher Jenn Poore walked three times in Sunday's game and was picked off in her steal attempt during the first inning.

Softball splits Pac-10 weekend at Howe Field

Oregon splits three home games against Washington and UCLA, with the Ducks' one win breaking their Pac-10 win total for 2002

Softball

Mindi Rice
Sports Reporter

Despite taking out the No. 2 team in the nation — Pacific-10 Conference foe UCLA — on Saturday, the Ducks couldn't find a rhythm on Friday or Sunday, surrounding the win with two losses.

No. 20 Oregon (21-13 overall, 3-7 Pac-10) pulled out a tight 5-4 win after letting UCLA catch up in the seventh inning Saturday. The game also featured a one-outing debut of

Turn to **Softball**, page 12