

# Track

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Glendale, Ariz., in 1999. The 5-foot-5-inch Andrus finished fourth at the Junior College National Championships in her first season at PVCC.

As a sophomore in 2002, after red-shirting the 2001 season, Andrus was the national runner-up with a then-personal best of 4,903 points.

Oregon assistant coach Mark Stream, who trains the Duck heptathletes, began recruiting her halfway through the 2002 season. For Andrus, who has always wanted to be a Duck, it became a sure deal in no time.

"She has a lot of the quality characteristics of a good heptathlete," Stream, in his 26th season of coaching, said. "She's reasonably level-headed. She's pretty determined. She's a good competitor and she likes to rise to the occasion."

In his career, Stream has coached some of Oregon's greatest heptathletes including record holder Kelly Blair (6,038 in 1993), Jennifer Thomas (5,452 in 1998) and Jenny Kenyon (5,169 in 2002), to name a few.

"She compares very favorably to those people on the top part of that list," he said. "Before she's done, I would think that she'll be number two (all-time) or at least has the potential to be there."

Andrus' potential continued to blossom in last weekend's Long Beach State Invitational where she led a 1-2 sweep in the 400 hurdles and finally broke the 60-second barrier. Mellott finished second at 61.30 seconds.

Her time of 59.90 was a .34-second personal best and ranks Andrus sixth all-time in Oregon history along with improving her own outlook.

"It was good to break the barrier of 60 seconds," Andrus said of her Pacific-10 Conference and regional qualifying mark. "It gave me confidence that I can start running times that I think I'm capable of."

If Andrus can continue to set high marks, her chance of qualifying this weekend will greatly increase.

The 22-year-old has set goals to go sub-14 seconds in the 100 hurdles, which is her favorite event of the seven, and to hit a mark of more than 19 feet in the long jump in today's start of the heptathlon.

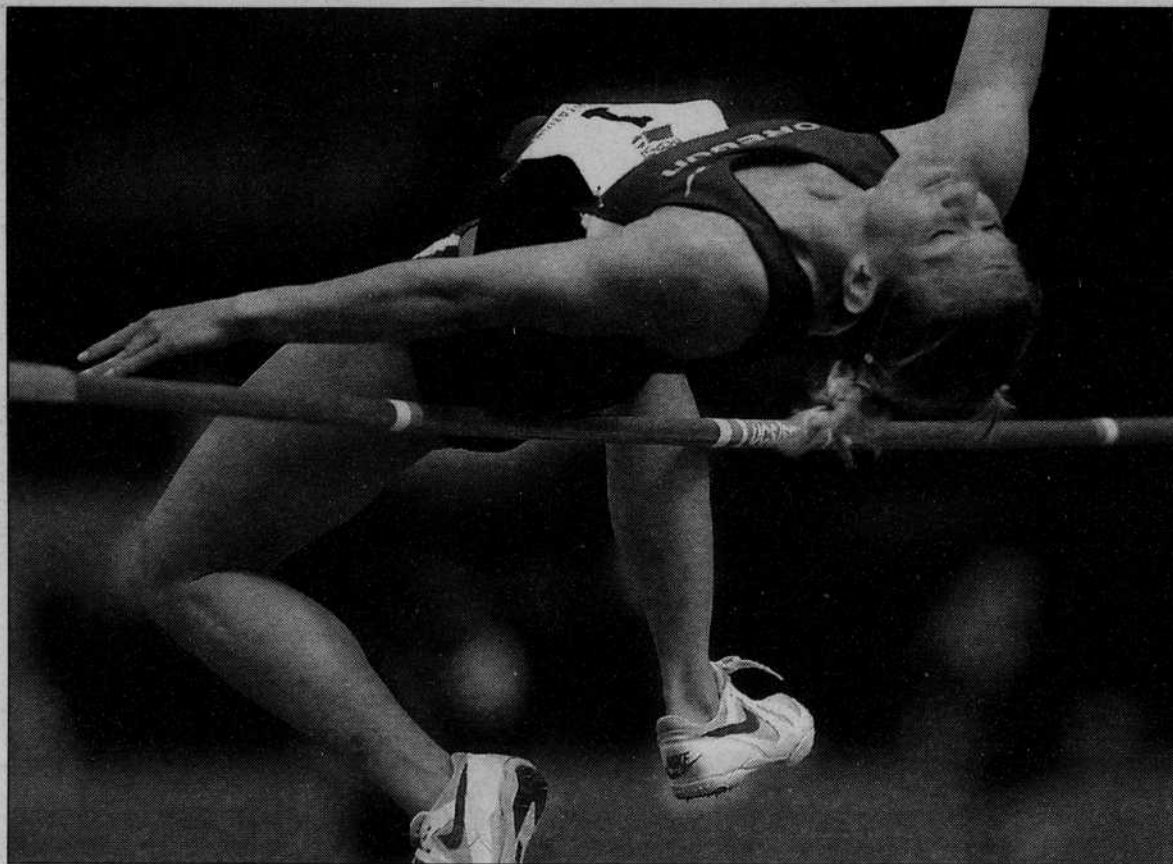
"She wants to constantly improve and isn't satisfied until she's better," said Kenyon, who is Andrus' training partner and ranks fifth on Oregon's all-time heptathlete list. "Although she's quiet, Abby shows her competitiveness on the track. She's extremely competitive."

Andrus has generated noise in the Pac-10 standings, currently ranked fourth, and has easily surpassed the Pac-10 qualifying mark of 4,400. If she hits the 5,500-point mark, Andrus would have a NCAA automatic bid, whereas 5,000 is a provisional mark.

"I don't see that as an obstacle at all," Stream said. "She's a rise-to-the-occasion type of person. She just loves what she does."

That rise-to-the-occasion, quiet, soft-spoken person may continue to create more buzz starting today.

Contact the sports reporter at [jessethomas@dailyemerald.com](mailto:jessethomas@dailyemerald.com).



Mark McCambridge Emerald

Andrus has already made Oregon's top-10 list after competing in only one heptathlon as a Duck. Now she wants to shoot higher.

## Andrus file

**Born:** Abby Andrus on December 18, 1980 in Logan, Utah.

**Before Oregon:** Won state 100-meter hurdles and tied for high jump, finished second in 300 hurdles as a senior at Cactus High School in Peoria, Ariz. Went to Paradise Valley Community College, where she finished second in heptathlon at 2002 Junior College National Championships.

**Oregon:** Scored 4,963 points in her first heptathlon at Oregon, at Stanford Invitational. Will run Oregon Invite heptathlon today.

## Tennis

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tourney.

Merle begins the day for the Ducks with a match against Dinka Hadzik of Washington, while Leksinska, who beat Hadzik in a

dual match earlier in the season, takes on Arizona's Kristy Randono.

Duck sophomore Bak, winner of a straight-set match over Randono in February, closes out the first round of the Invitational portion by taking on Kristen Case of Cal.

Matches continue throughout the day for both the men and women

with winners playing an afternoon match to decide who moves on to the quarterfinals on Friday.

The tournament will focus on singles the first day with doubles starting on Friday morning.

Ryan Heath is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

Today's crossword solution

C	A	T	H	Y	W	C	T	U	M	E	A	L
A	E	R	I	E	A	R	O	N	A	X	L	E
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A	R	G	O	E	R	O	S	O	N	I	O	N
P	A	U	L	R	I	O	T	R	A	V	E	D
S	L	E	D	S	E	T	S	A	B	E	T	S

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## Horoscope by Linda C. Black

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (April 24) You could actually get paid this year for establishing a structure and sticking to it. Luckily, you're good at this. Unfortunately, it's a structure somebody else wants. Fortunately, the pay is steady. Unfortunately, the pay isn't abundant yet. To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) Today is a 7. Keep most of what you know to yourself, especially where money is concerned. Don't discuss a project that's still under construction.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) Today is a 6. Your contribution may be acknowledged with a financial reward. Just accept any compliments or gratuities you get. You've earned them.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21) Today is a 7. Hassles you encounter as you make your plans don't have to stop you cold. They're just testing your self-discipline and resolve. You can get past them.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Today is a 5. The going is slow and sometimes tedious, but that's how it needs to be. The more problems you solve on paper now, the more smoothly your plan will evolve.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) Today is a 6. When the direct approach isn't working, try moving toward your goal at an angle. Don't try to do the whole job by yourself. Appreciate assistance.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today is a 7. You may feel as if you're slogging through mud, and you may wonder if progress is being made. It is, along with a good impression on someone who's watching your efforts.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Today is an 8. When there's a will, there's a way, they say, but you may wonder if this project is really worth the trouble. Keep at it, and eventually you'll get through the mess.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today is a 5. Others may think you're an obstructionist, but you just want to be sure. It's good that you make them all recheck their work. They'll all be more confident, too.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today is an 8. It may seem that what you're doing now is interfering with your future, but it's not. You're building a stairway, one step at a time, to your dreams.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today is a 7. Neither a borrower nor a lender be. If you really need a little more cash, take on an extra job.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Today is an 8. You don't have to tell everybody what it is you have in mind. But do listen to their comments so that you can fine-tune your plan.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) Today is a 6. Progress has been slowed temporarily. Take time to go over your notes. Something you thought would work out, won't. And something you thought wouldn't, will.

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