

SPORTS

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Best bet
NBA Playoffs:
Minnesota at Lakers, Game 3
8 p.m., TNT

Not too shabby

Junior transfer Abby Andrus has created quite the buzz in the heptathlon world and attempts to reach 5,000 points in the UO Invitational today and Friday

Track and field

Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

Abby Andrus is not a boisterous person. She is not the type to attract attention in a crowd. And she doesn't have an overbearing voice.

Rather, she keeps to herself and she stays reserved. Andrus is just the quiet type.

"She's so quiet but such a nice girl," fellow teammate sophomore Kayla Mel-lott said. "Sometimes she can surprise you, the funny stuff that she'll say, just because she is so quiet. You'll be like 'Whoa, Abby, that was really funny.'"

Yet the funny, soft-spoken junior has been generating quite a bit of pandemonium on the track. The buzz surrounding Andrus has grown as she tries to reach the 5,000-point mark in this weekend's Oregon Invitational.

Andrus has competed in just one heptathlon as a Duck, scoring 4,963 points at a meet in California in late March. That mark is just 37 points shy of an NCAA provisional qualifying mark, which is why the Peoria, Ariz., native will try and crest the 5,000-point barrier starting today.

"I don't think I'll have problems breaking 5,000 this weekend," Andrus said. "I plan on a little higher than that. The most important thing this weekend is qualifying for nationals."

In just her first season at Oregon, Andrus already ranks eighth on the Ducks' all-time career list with her mark of 4,963. Andrus has three years of experience in the multi-event heptathlon, which includes the 100-meter hurdles, high jump, shot put, 200, long jump, javelin and 800.

Her heptathlon career began at Paradise Valley Community College in Arizona after she graduated from Cactus High in

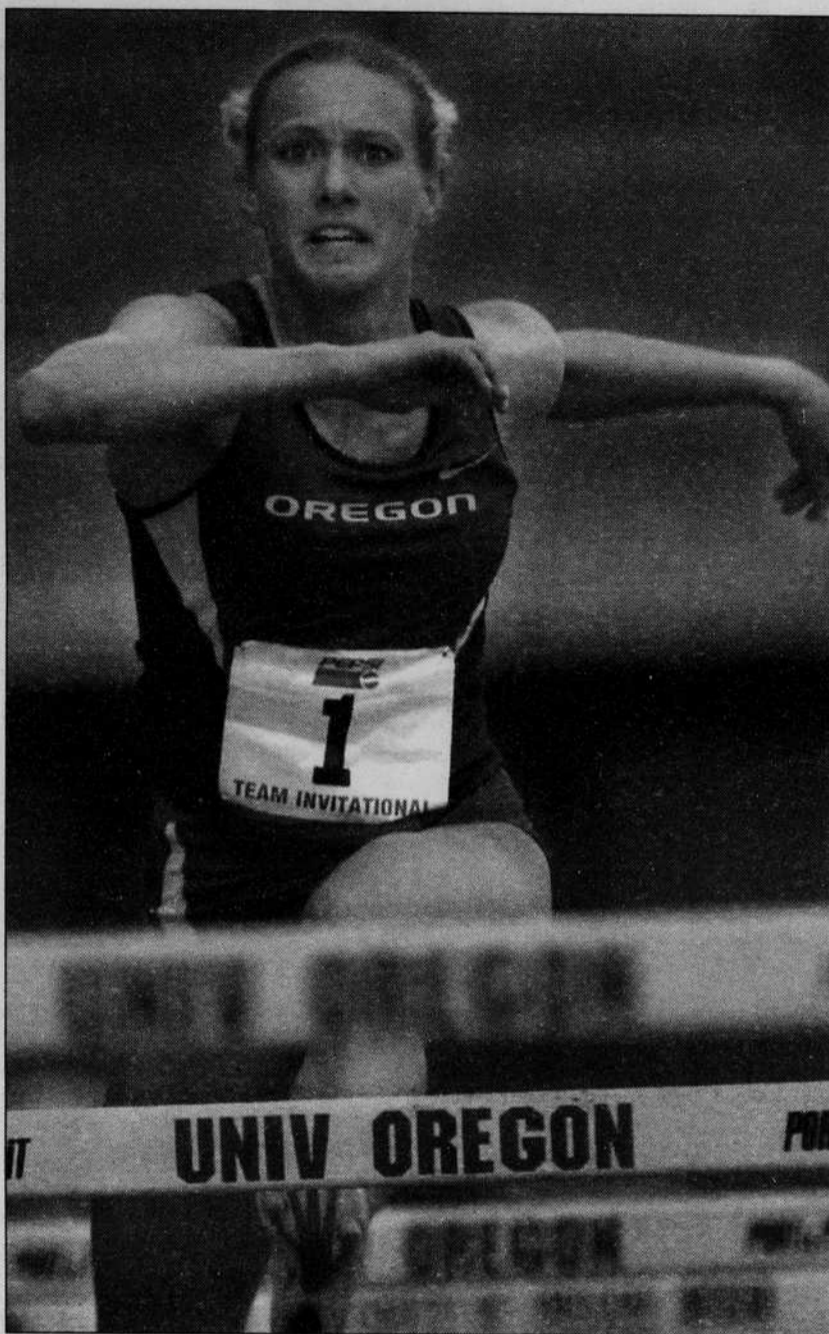
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On tap

What: Oregon Invitational

When: Decathlon and heptathlon start today, regular meet Saturday

Where: Hayward Field



Adam Amato Emerald

Abby Andrus transferred to Oregon knowing she'd have only two years as a Duck.

Golfers head to Pac-10s

Oregon sends five underclassmen and one senior to its most important tournament of the year

Golf

Scott Archer

Freelance Sports Reporter

Youth will be served for the Oregon women's golf team this week, as the Ducks head 45 minutes north to Corvallis for the annual Pacific-10 Conference Championships today through Saturday. The tournament will be held at the Trysting Tree Golf Club, a par-72, 6,160-yard course.

Oregon's youth movement continues as coach Shannon Rouillard has elected to send three freshman and two sophomores

into the most important tournament in the Ducks' 2002-03 season. Senior Annie Davis will also participate in the tournament but her score will not count, as she has entered the field as an individual.

Among the youngest of Ducks competing in the tournament is the team's most prolific player, Therese Wenslow. Wenslow leads the team with a 76.8 stroke average to go along with three top-10 finishes and seven top-50 finishes. Oregon will also send freshmen Erin Andrews and Michelle Timpani, who both currently have a 79.9 stroke average.

However, Oregon's most steady influence comes from sophomore Johnna Nealy and her 78 stroke average. Nealy's roommate and teammate Jess Carlyon will also travel with the Ducks. Carlyon holds an 82.7 stroke average.

The Ducks begin the tournament at 9 a.m. today along with Washington State, the team the Ducks will be paired with for the opening round.

Highlighting the competition this weekend is No. 5 USC and defending champion No. 6 Arizona. The Wildcats have won five of the last six Pac-10 tournaments and are strong favorites to repeat again. No. 8 California has yet to win a conference championship, along with No. 13 UCLA and No. 20 Washington, who are also seeking their first conference crown.

Oregon looks to bounce back from a poor Pac-10 tournament performance last season as it finished 10th overall. Nealy and Carlyon are the only holdovers from last year's Pac-10 Tournament. Nealy finished tied for 51st overall and Carlyon tied for 56th. Both competed as freshmen. The highest the Ducks have finished in the tournament is a fourth-place tie, which Oregon has done twice, once in 1991 and again in 1993.

Oregon has struggled in its last two tournaments after a string of several top-10 finishes. Oregon competed April 4-6 at the Ping/ASU Invitational and was led by Wenslow. The team finished 15th overall after finishing the previous week at 17th at the UCLA Bruin Classic. The Ducks appeared to be hitting their stride in early March, when they finished the Spartan Invitational and their own Duck Invitational ninth and eighth, respectively.

Scott Archer is a freelance writer for the Emerald.



Wenslow

Oregon swings into conference tourney

Eight players from the Oregon men's tennis team and seven from the women's compete in singles and doubles matches this weekend

Tennis

Ryan Heath

Sports Freelancer

A year that started for Oregon tennis with preseason individual tournaments in October comes to an end this weekend with the Pacific-10 Conference Championships in Ojai, Calif.

Leading off for the Ducks in the main draw is junior Sven Swinnen with an 8 a.m. match against No. 27 Matt Hanlin of Washington.

Hanlin should prove to be a tough first match after he bested Oregon career singles victories leader Oded Teig in three sets last weekend.

Teig and Swinnen seem to be trading enemies as Teig battles Or Dekel of California, winner of a three-set match against Swinnen earlier this month.

Duck sophomore Manuel Kost, ranked 47th in the nation, will take on Chris Letcher of Arizona State. Closing out the main draw for the Ducks is Thomas Bieri, facing Washington's No. 18 Alex Vlaski, who lost to Kost last weekend in straight sets.

The No. 66 men will also send four singles players to the invitational portion of the tournament.

Senior Jason Menke takes on Tim Mullane of Arizona, while freshmen Andrew Walker and Arron Spencer battle Cal's Steve Berke and Stanford's Philip Sheng respectively. Junior Chris King faces Wayne Wong of Cal in one of the last matches of the first round.

The No. 40 women send three players each to the main draw and invitational portions.

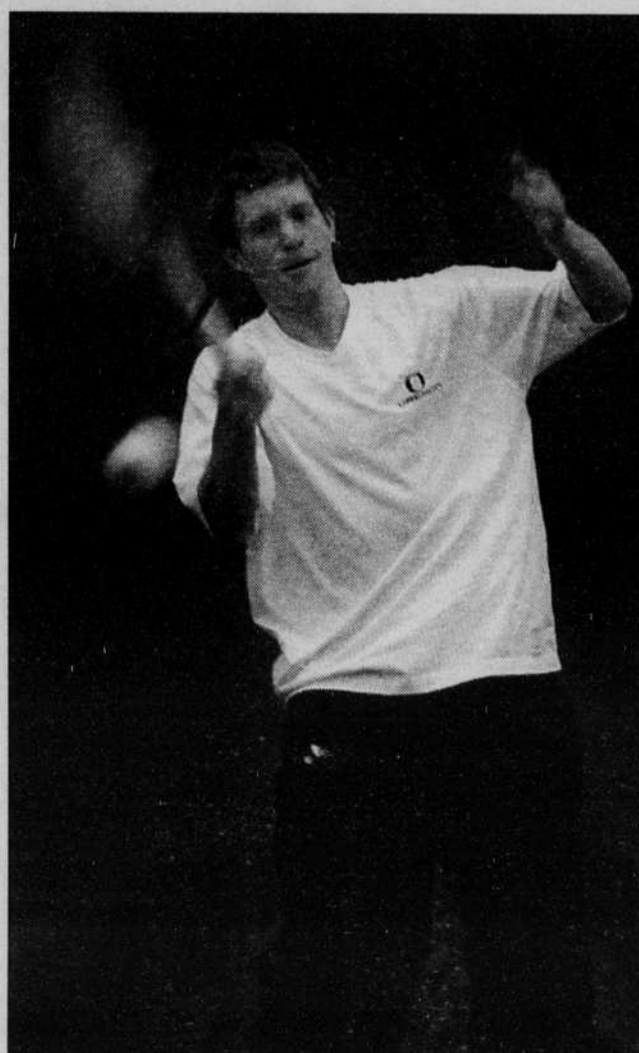
Leading the way for the Ducks is No. 20 Daria Panova against No. 49 Dianne Hollands of Arizona. Panova won the preseason Pac-10 Indoor Championship in January and is currently ranked ninth in the conference.

Closing out the main draw for the Ducks is No. 55 Courtney Nagle taking on UCLA's Shilpa Joshi and freshman Jamie Marshall battling Washington State's Chris Martinez.

Surprisingly absent from both the main draw and invitational, but present for doubles, is Duck senior captain Monika Geiczys. Geiczys, winner of two matches against Martinez earlier in the season, is coming off a big win in San Diego after losing four of her last six.

The Ducks send freshmen Julie Merle and Anna Leksinska and sophomore Ester Bak to the invitational section of the

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Adam Amato Emerald

Manuel Kost is ranked No. 47 in the nation heading into Pac-10s.