

SPORTS

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Best bet
NBA Playoffs:
Sacramento at Utah, Game 4
7:30 p.m., TNT

Monday, April 28 2003

Smith, Wrihster taken in fourth round

Three Oregon players were selected at the NFL Draft held in New York this weekend

Football

Hank Hager
Sports Reporter

Fans last season at Autzen Stadium would oftentimes see Onterio Smith break open an 8-yard run immediately followed by a pass to George Wrihster that stretched out the opposing defense.

Fitting, then, that the two would be selected one after another in the NFL Draft on Sunday.

Wrihster became the first Oregon player selected in the draft when Jacksonville took the tight end with the 104th overall pick — a fourth round selection. Smith was then grabbed by Minnesota with the next pick.

The Vikings also took wide receiver Keenan Howry in the seventh round as the 221st overall selection.

For Smith especially, it is a significant drop from where he was expected to be taken. ESPN.com and SI.com both had the running back going in the late second round, maybe even higher. However, as Saturday — the first day of the draft — passed, all was quiet. Only six running backs were chosen in the first three rounds.

Sunday proved to be a better day for the group. Kentucky's Artose Pinner and LSU's Domanick Davis went early in the fourth before Smith heard his name called.

For Wrihster, it is exactly where the Van Nuys, Calif., native was expected to be chosen.

"I know he's an athletic guy who can catch the ball," Jacksonville head coach Jack Del Rio said. "He's good after the catch. He adds another weapon

to the offense."

Howry, who caught 40 passes for 784 yards during the 2002 season, was the 29th receiver chosen. When he entered the draft, most pointed out his playmaking ability on punt returns, where he averaged 14.3 yards per return last season.

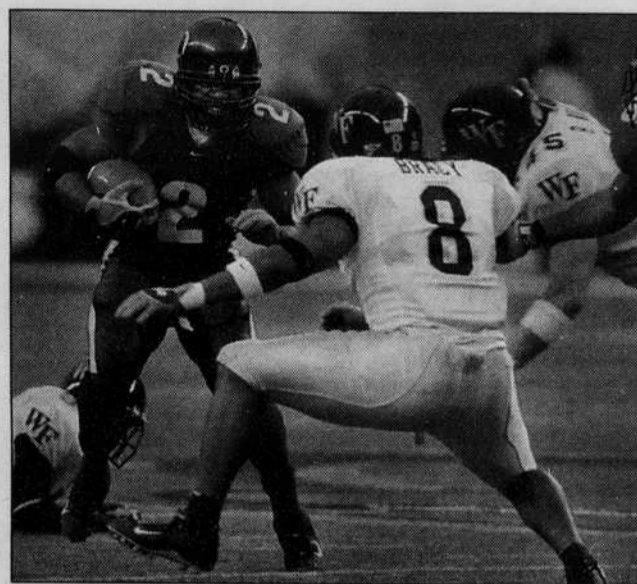
In addition, running back Allan Amundson was signed as an undrafted free agent by San Francisco.

Back to college

The weather Friday at Autzen Stadium had a touch of hail, rain and sun — all in a two-hour span.

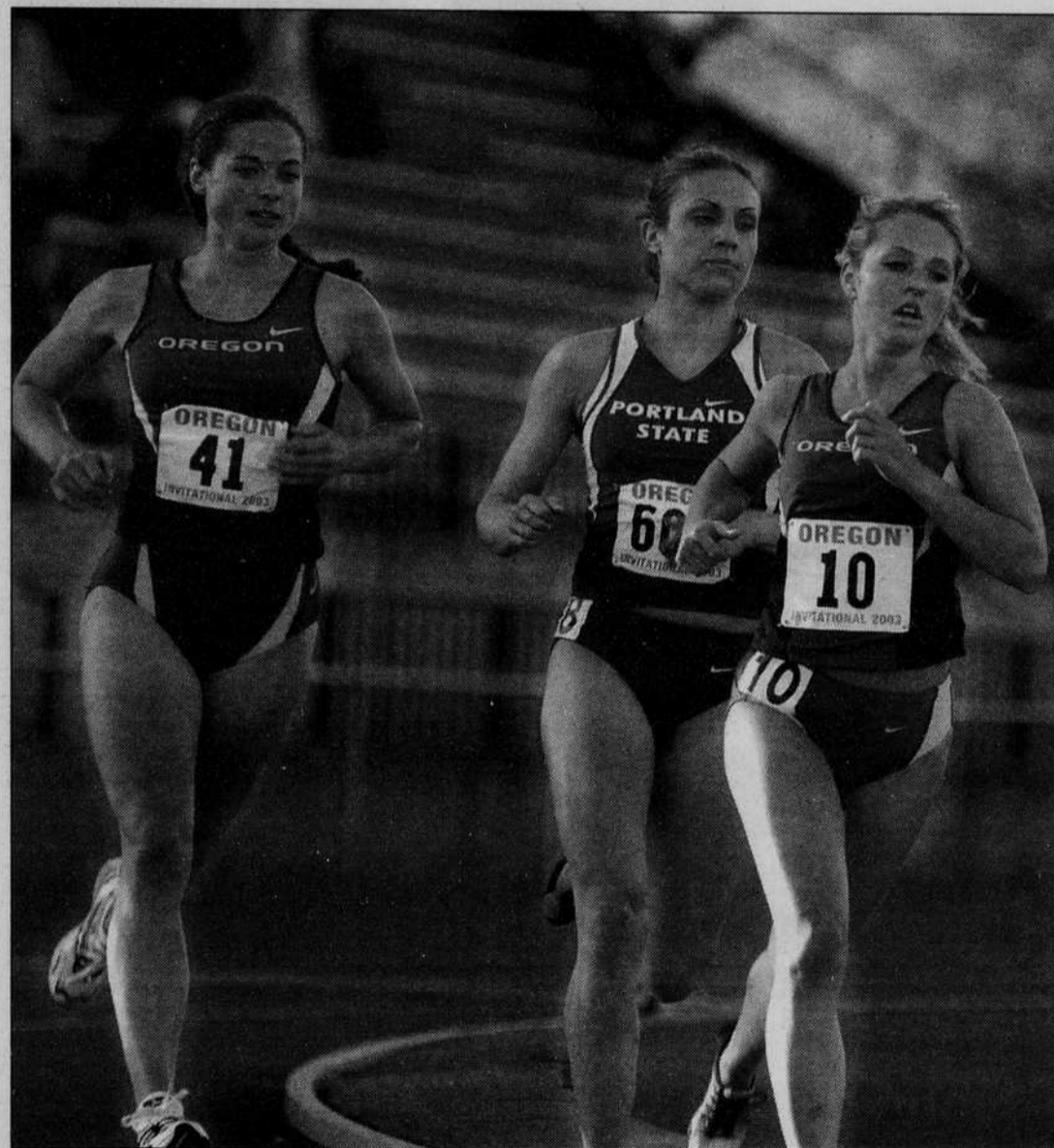
Suffice to say, it was unpredictable. Yet the same could be said about the third Oregon scrimmage.

"I thought for the first half our defense was awesome," head coach Mike Bellotti said. "They came out ready to



Adam Amato Emerald

Onterio Smith dropped to the fourth round of the NFL draft, despite expectations he would be chosen in the second on Saturday.

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Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Carrie Zografos (41) and Nicole Feest (10) battled in Saturday's 5,000. Feest notched an NCAA regional time in the race.

Women hit marks despite bad weather

A change of pace in Saturday's Oregon Invitational allowed the track athletes to shine with some huge personal bests

Women's track and field

Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

Saturday was a different scenario from your usual Oregon women's track and field meet.

The sprints and hurdles were run on the backstretch because of unforgiving winds.

The field events did not draw the usual enthusiasm and applause, because of a minor cancellation of the pole vault and no Oregon competitors in the javelin.

And the oval was the scene of personal bests, heartbreak and the highlight of the afternoon.

From senior Eri Macdonald's seventh place finish in the 800 meters to freshman Nicole Feest's 25-second personal best in the 5,000, the Oregon Invitational provided a bit of everything.

"I, honestly, so didn't expect this," Feest said of her 16 minute, 57 second finish, which earned her a regional qualifying mark. "I felt pretty comfortable and I tried to stay calm. I underestimated myself because I did not expect to do so well."

"She is so tough," Oregon head coach Tom Heinonen said. "When she knew she had to run at the stage where most people start to slow down at about six laps, she attacked and left the group and struck out on her own. She's a tiger, she really is."

Senior Carrie Zografos made her 5,000 debut after a hip injury delayed her return. Zografos' time of 17:01.93 left her seconds shy of the regional qualifying mark of 17 minutes.

"I really wanted to get regionals, but it's so good to be back," Zografos said. "I didn't know what to expect. This was hard; it was mentally hard to stay focused."

Zografos will run the 5,000 at the Pacific-10 conference meet and expects to qualify for regionals and dip under the 17 minute mark.

Yet despite some heartache the competition allowed for personal bests to pop out all over the track. Senior Janette Davis broke the 54-second barrier in the 400 for the first time.

Davis ran a personal best and won in 53.87 seconds. The senior from Medford also earned a spot as Oregon's fourth-fastest all-time in the event.

"In this weather, I just gave it to God and did the best I can do," Davis said. "I always have the potential but finally put it all together. I just had to run my race."

Davis now sets her sights at 53.3, which would be third all-time at Oregon. She hoped to run that mark Saturday, but expectations changed after the winds picked up.

After Davis raised the bar, others followed suit.

Senior Heather Murtaugh hit a .23-second personal best in a second place finish in the 200 meters. Murtaugh fell short to Montana States Lacy Hinzpeter by a mere .01 of a second.

"It felt so good," Murtaugh said of her

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Duck individuals stand out of Oregon Invite crowd

Adam Kriz, Eric Mitchum and Samie Parker turn in impressive performances Saturday

Men's track and field

Peter Hockaday
Sports Editor

Oregon head coach Martin Smith doesn't like to talk about his team after a meet — he prefers instead to laud the Ducks' individual efforts.

But if a whole is the sum of its

parts, the Ducks are going to be a whole heap of trouble for other conference teams when the Pacific-10 Conference Championships roll around in mid-May. They proved as much with a strong team showing at Saturday's Oregon Invitational at Hayward Field.

"We took several positive steps forward today," Smith said Saturday. "We're 21 days out from the conference meet, and the most important thing at this point is to continue to make gradual improvements at each meet."

Oregon athletes scored several important marks at the massive meet. With more than 30 teams from across the nation there to provide competition, Adam Kriz threw an enormous personal best in the hammer — twice — and shrugged it off afterwards.

"I expect to get PRs at this point; I expect to win meets," Kriz said.

Eric Mitchum had Hayward Field's strong winds at his back and ran a blazing-fast 110-meter hurdles race, while Samie Parker also capitalized to run a fast time in the 100.

Foluso Akinradewo had a season best in the triple jump.

But it was Oregon's new qualifiers that stole the show at the end of Saturday's meet. The sun came out and shone on the Oregon 4x400 relay team, which barely qualified for the NCAA West Regional, and Eric Logsdon, who turned in a much-needed qualifying time in the 5,000.

"You only get so many chances to run the 5K," Logsdon said. "So we were definitely targeting this meet."

Earlier in the day, freshman jumper Chad Clason qualified for

regionals in the high jump. He said the presence of former Duck jumpers Jason Boness and Kyle Johnson helped him jump higher than he's jumped this season. Boness, who won the competition, and Johnson graduated last year and both competed unattached.

"Those two are pretty good," Clason said. "They just take you under their wing."

The surprise of the day came from John Stiegeler, and it wasn't a pleasant surprise. The javelin star,

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