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# SPORTS

**Best bet**  
NBA Playoffs:  
Dallas at Portland, Game 6  
7:30 p.m., ESPN2

Friday, May 2, 2003

## Heinonen prepares for finale at home

The Oregon track program will say goodbye to the legendary coach at the Oregon Twilight

### Track and field

**Jesse Thomas**  
Sports Reporter

For the Oregon seniors and women's head coach Tom Heinonen, Saturday isn't just the Oregon Twilight.

It's the last regular-season meet before Pacific-10 Conference Championships.

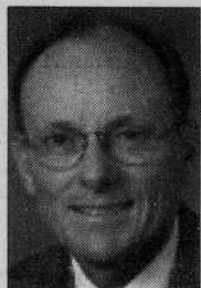
It's the last time the veteran Ducks will compete in an Oregon uniform on Hayward field.

And it's the last meet for Heinonen at Hayward Field after 27 years.

"It doesn't seem like a big deal," Heinonen said. "It adds on an extra dimension, but we still have all the big meets ahead."

The action begins at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, and although the meet isn't as big as the Oregon Invitational, nine schools from around the region will descend on Eugene.

For many, it is the last chance to tune up before postseason competition, while others chase marks to make it past the weekend.



**Heinonen**

On the men's side, freshmen Matt Scherer and Travis Anderson will stretch to reach regionals in the 400-meter dash. Scherer, at 47.54 seconds, and Anderson (47.59) are mere inches from the qualifying mark of 47.45.

Another Duck duo of freshmen Ryan Flaherty (1:51.64) and Jan Olszowy (1:50.40-indoors) are less than one second from the regional qualifying mark in the 800 meters of 1:51.15.

Off the track, senior James March will have his final chance at Hayward to zero in on a Pac-10 qualifying mark in the shot put, with his personal best only 2 1/4 inches away.

"We're trying to build toward the Pac-10 championships," Oregon head coach Martin Smith said. "We can build on (the Oregon Invitational) and we'll try to build at the Oregon Twilight."

The women's team will also say farewell to a few while others try to close in on postseason marks. Two-time discus All-American and senior Mary Etter will make her final appearance at Hayward and will try to add one more win to her tally of 38 in her career.

The All-American sophomore javelin duo of Elisa Crumley and Roslyn Lundeen return from injuries after missing last week's competition.

"I'm really excited and hoping to work some kinks out," Crumley said, as she will use the full 11-step approach on Saturday. "I'm excited to throw, and I'm looking to go for it."

Lundeen and Crumley have already reached conference and regional qualifying marks, yet their marks this season have fallen nearly 10 feet short of their personal bests.

On the oval, redshirt sophomore Laura

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## Tough times in Track Town



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

John Stiegeler walks away from a foul throw at Saturday's Oregon Invitational. Stiegeler has been competing with a brace (below) as he rehabs a torn ACL.

## Comeback kid?

John Stiegeler has turned from teacher to student as he tries to win his 2nd NCAA javelin title

**Peter Hockaday**  
Sports Editor

Early in his Oregon career, javelin thrower John Stiegeler was on a plane with the rest of the Duck track team, heading for a meet.

The landing was rocky. The team was shaken. But not Stiegeler.

As the team filed out, most of the Ducks gave the pilot the usual nod or "thank you" or "goodbye." Stiegeler sidled up, put his arm around the pilot and started talking about the landing.

"I just gave him a grade was all," Stiegeler said. "It was about a 7.5. Maybe an 8."

Stiegeler is always handing out grades. Grades for airplane landings,

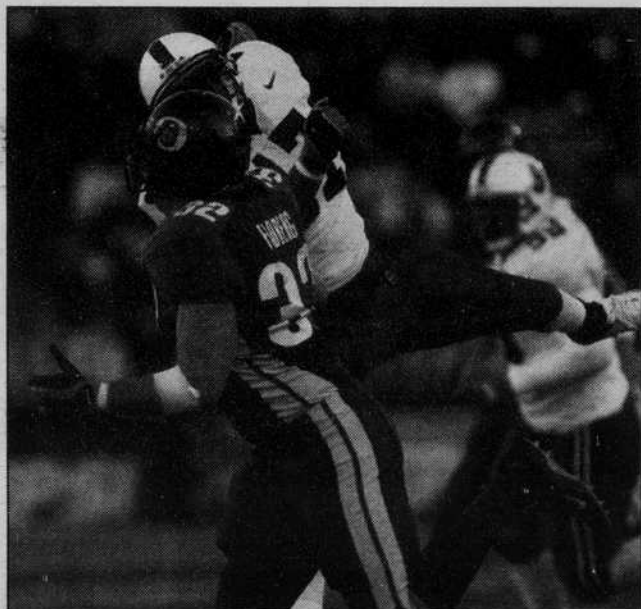
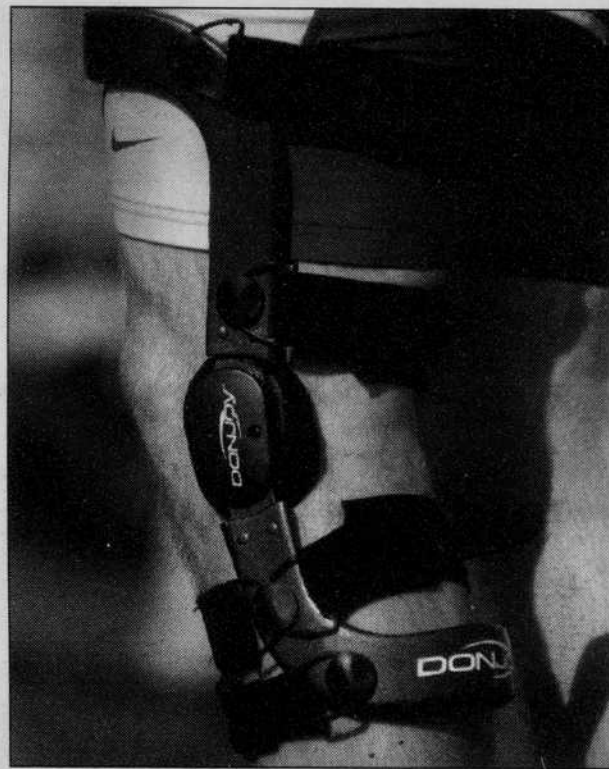
grades for other track athletes, grades for Duck placekickers. He's only months away from completing his master's degree and officially becoming a teacher, but really, he's been teaching since he could say "midterm."

But this last year has turned Stiegeler from teacher to student. On one fateful throw in Texas last April, Stiegeler tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee, and his rehabilitation from that injury has been hard and painful. Stiegeler still hasn't thrown at the distances he did two years ago, and he competes with a brace the size of Antarctica on his left knee.

He insists he's learned from his injury. He's learned patience, he's learned to rebuild himself.

Now, Stiegeler says, he's strong as an Oak tree. He implores that he can reach his goal of a second NCAA title in June. But he currently sits 23rd on the

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Adam Amato Emerald

Matt Floberg says he'll play in the spring game despite injuries.

## Spring game's format isn't green and white

A change in scoring is expected to lead to a more balanced contest at Autzen Stadium

### Spring football

**Hank Hager**  
Sports Reporter

It's the spring game with a twist.

Saturday's contest — set to start at 1 p.m. — is getting a bit of a makeover. Out is the traditional format of the top offensive and defensive units taking on the rest. No, this one's going to be competitive. This is going to be offense versus defense.

This year, the Ducks will be playing on a point system, where each unit can earn

points by successfully completing a certain play. For instance, if the offense can get off to a quick start and run for more than 20 yards on a single play, it will take a two-point lead.

"We sort of took it from a couple different magazine suggestions and then sort of adjusted a couple," head coach Mike Bellotti said. "We feel like it's good. It's very competitive."

If the Duck defense is able to pick off one of Oregon's four quarterbacks, the group will earn four points. If it can return that interception all the way to the end zone, tack on another six.

On the flip side, a field goal will earn the offense a traditional three points,

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