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Javelin duo may leave Oregon

With possible coaching rearrangements looming, two Ducks say they might head to different programs

Track and field

Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

The Oregon women's track and field team must say some good-byes at the end of the season.

Fourteen seniors will graduate and 27-year veteran head coach

Tom Heinonen will retire. But the future of Heinonen's staff and sophomores Roslyn Lundeen and Elisa Crumley isn't so definite.

With the men's and women's programs converging next year under the guidance of men's head coach Martin Smith, Lundeen and Crumley have re-evaluated where they might throw next year.

The heart of the problem lies in Smith's hands, as he has the choice to do any coaching rearrangements he wishes. That means that women's throws coach Sally Harmon might not be re-hired next year, leaving the javelin duo with a difficult decision.

"As an athlete, you can't have ideal situations, and you can't always stay with your coach," Lundeen said. "Sometimes it's good to branch out and get a new perspective on the event and get some new insight into it."

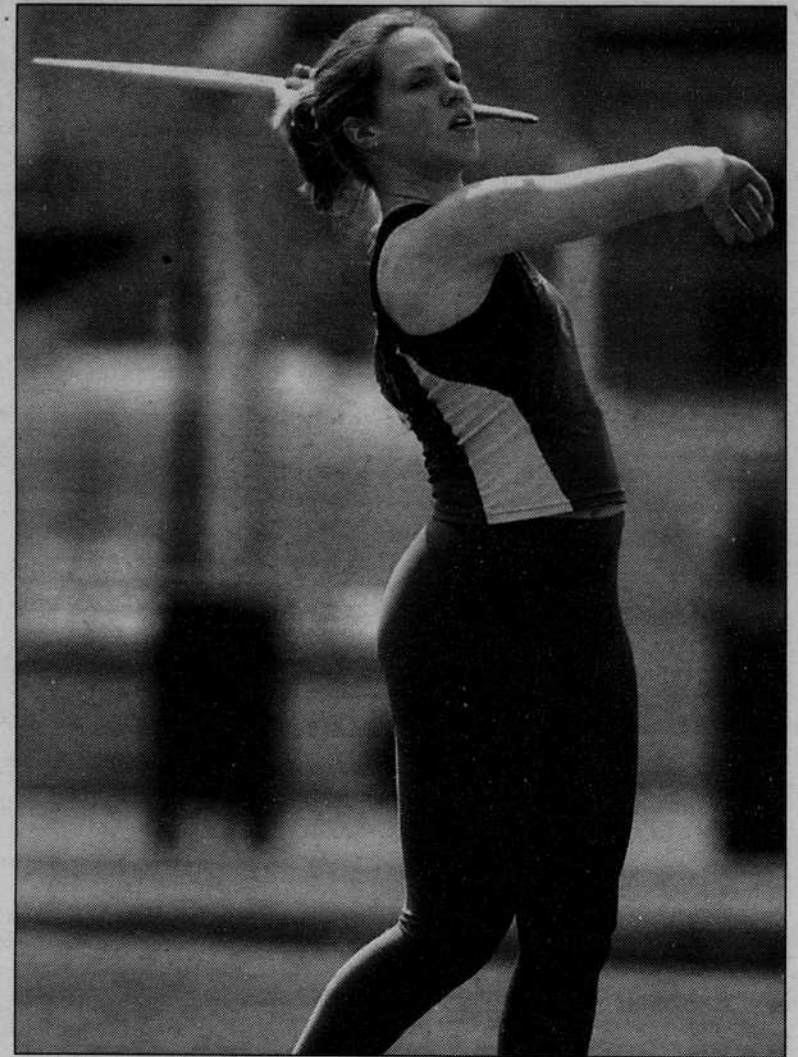
"Whether or not it's Sally or whether or not it's someone else isn't going to make or break the decision; just as long as there is someone knowledgeable in the job that can help us get where we want to go."

Lundeen and Crumley have made some recruiting trips to evaluate possible options shall the situation arise. The two visited Purdue and Georgia with Lundeen also seeing Virginia Tech and Clemson and Crumley made a stop at LSU.

"Both of us have said right from the start 'yes, it would be wonderful to stay together,'" Lundeen said of her and Crumley, who is also her roommate. "But at the same time, if there was a coaching fit that worked better or situation that worked better, we are just really looking for the best fit for us."

The decision remains on hold for Lundeen and Crumley. Lundeen said Smith was going to make his announcement in early May but there is still no word.

"Oregon is home to me, I love it



Mark McCambridge Emerald

Roslyn Lundeen said Oregon is still her first choice to throw next year.

here," Lundeen said. "If the opportunity presents itself to stay and if I think it's going to be conducive to my throwing far here, then that will be my choice. But until we know for sure what's going on with the program next year and the coaches, it's tough to make that decision."

For love of the game

With Heinonen's time quickly winding to a close, some athletes have taken the time to reflect on what the 27-year-veteran loves the most.

"All he gets to do is coach, and that's his favorite part," Crumley said. "He came to me the other day, smiling, saying 'This is what I love.' He loves track and field, and he's going to love everything until it's done."

And with a love so strong, Heinonen simply can't walk away altogether. Heinonen has said he may want to coach the Club Sports dis-

ance running team next year, but it has not been made official.


"We're thrilled to know that he's interested," director of Club Sports Sandy Vaughn said. "The students would definitely benefit from his commitment and expertise. And we would hope that he would enjoy the experience of this programs environment."

One more try

With the Pacific-10 conference Championships starting this weekend with the heptathlon and decathlon, three athletes will make their final tries at regional and Pac-10 qualifying marks in Stanford this weekend.

Junior Jill Hoxmeier (hammer), redshirt freshman Sara Schaff (800) and redshirt senior Carrie Zografos (5,000) will all try and qualify in their respective events.

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.



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Hockaday

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enemy. And there isn't a harder enemy to fight.

But he stayed on his feet, even as his legs betrayed him. He redshirted track last season. He worked at the prestigious and grueling Steens Mountain Running Camp last summer. He rooted on his Oregon teammates at cross country and track meets.

And the whole time, that competitive fire smoldered in his belly.

"The hardest part of it, the other part is watching everybody else get better, everyone else improving," Heinonen said. "Guys that I used to be able to compete with are now doing some pretty good stuff, guys at other schools. I'm watching them run and thinking 'I owned that guy in high school.'"

He started branching out. As one of only two declared journalism majors on the track team, he started writing. He writes a regular column on the Web site for Runner's World magazine. He writes features for the Prefontaine Classic programs. His mom, Janet Heinonen, is a well-re-

spected track columnist, and Erik got those genes along with the coach's talent.

But Erik doesn't want to be stuck behind a computer his whole life. He wants to run like Forrest, slowing only when the crowd yells "Stop!"

That's what he'll do this weekend. It's a throwaway race at Stanford, the track equivalent of a late-season game between the Tigers and Devil Rays. The field will be scrubs, maybe a couple guys hoping to run one last tune-up before the Pacific-10 Conference Championships.

One runner will run his shoes off. One runner will run against his injuries, against his past, against his future.

Erik Heinonen will run this weekend. May the Track Town gods shift in their unholy orbit and bless him with reservoirs of good luck, if only to make up for all the bad luck they've dealt him in the past two years.

Contact the sports editor at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.