

SPORTS

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Best bet
NBA Playoffs:
San Antonio at Lakers, Game 3
7:30 p.m., TNT

Friday, May 9, 2003

Duck scouting party heads to Pac-10s

MEN: Santiago Lorenzo and two other decathletes try to bring back a bushel of points from the Pac-10 decathlon

Men's track and field

Peter Hockaday
Sports Editor

Warning: This will sound cocky. But in the half-cooked world of track and field, it almost makes sense.

Santiago Lorenzo says if he finishes all 10 events at the Pacific-10 Conference Championships decathlon this weekend, he'll take the Pac-10 crown.

"There's no doubt that if I finish I will win it," he said.

Before you discount Lorenzo as another ego-maniac athlete, consider that he's probably right.

Lorenzo is a former NCAA Champion among boys in the decathlon field. As the athletes compete in 10 events over two days in Los Angeles, he's the only one who has consistent marks in all of those events. He's got the experience; he's got the skill. And he's got a season best that's almost 700 points better than his nearest competitor.

Not that Lorenzo will take it easy on the rest of the boys this weekend.

"You don't want to fall into whether it's easy or not because then you get relaxed, then you can make mistakes," Lorenzo said. "You've got to just stay focused and finish."

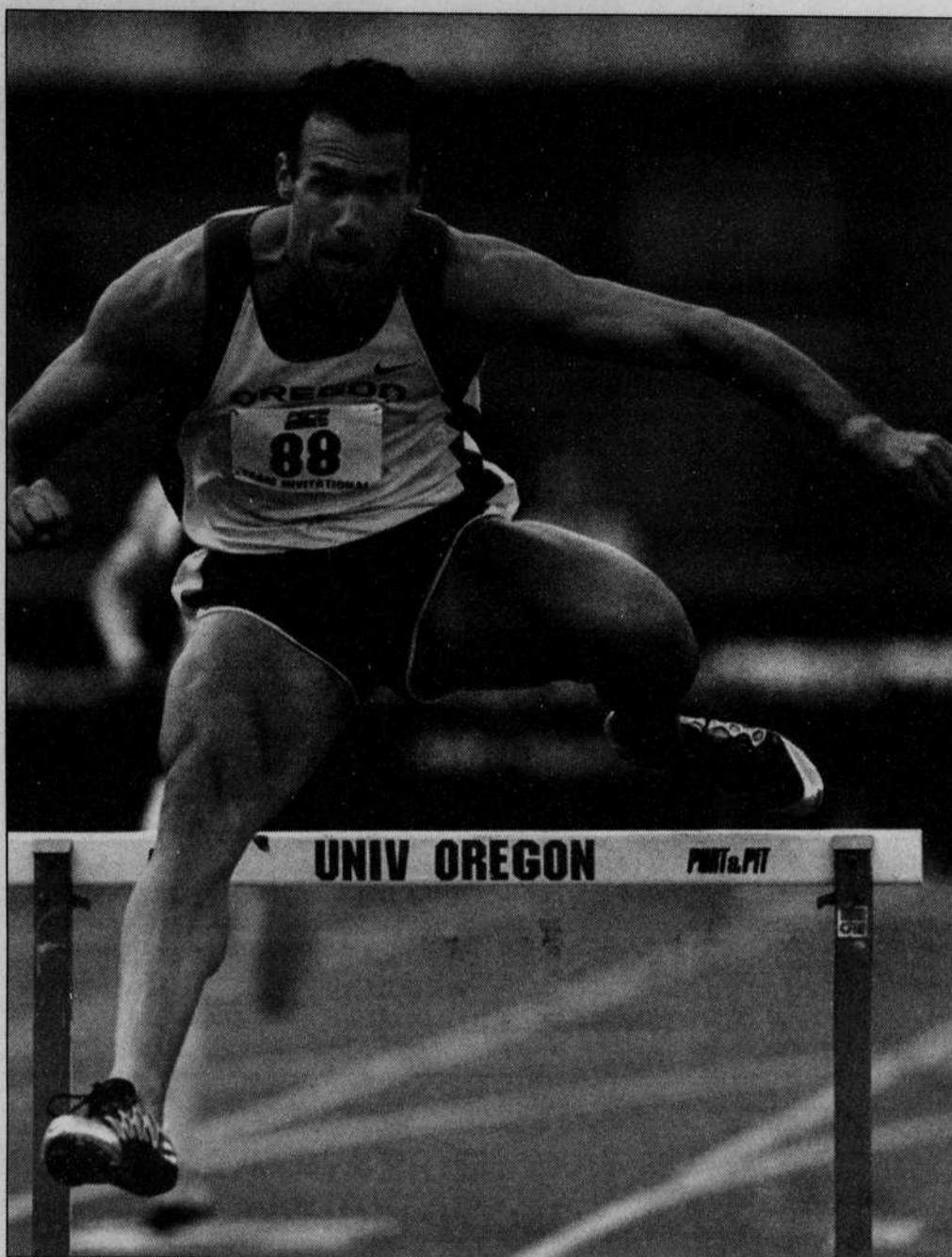
The main reason Lorenzo is back in NCAA-champion-caliber form is his consistency. Just ask him what his best events are.

"Maybe my pole vault, and my javelin's pretty good. And my 1,500 isn't bad," Lorenzo said. "I'm getting to the point where all my events are evened out."

Lorenzo, along with fellow Ducks Andy Young and Jason Slye, will kick off the Pac-10 decathlon at 2 p.m. Saturday on USC's home track, Cromwell Field. Saturday's events include the 100-meter dash, long jump, shot put, high jump and 400. The athletes will conclude Sunday with the 110 hurdles, discus, pole vault, javelin and the decathlon's traditional final event, the 1,500.

The decathlon Ducks will be able to score Oregon's first points in the Pac-10 Championships. The rest of the team will head down to Los Angeles next Saturday.

And the decathlon Ducks will have a chance to score bunches of points. Behind Lorenzo, Young is ranked fifth in the conference and Slye, who finished fifth at last year's Pac-10s, is currently ranked eighth in the



Mark McCambridge Emerald

Santiago Lorenzo thinks he simply has to finish in order to win the Pac-10 decathlon in Los Angeles this weekend.

conference. The top eight finishers from each event score points.

Young will be Oregon's "X" factor. Lorenzo says he's got talent to pull off an upset of higher-ranked Pac-10 decathletes.

But while Young might be slightly better than Slye, the latter has more experience. Slye is a senior, and Young is a redshirt sophomore.

"Andy's going to be really tense; it's going

to be our job to calm him down," Lorenzo said. "Before the Texas Relays he was freaking out a month beforehand. And he didn't even know if he was going to go or not. Jason, in that sense, is better because he's been there."

The Ducks should benefit from the sheer number of green-and-yellow jerseys making the

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WOMEN: Abby Andrus has the opportunity to contest for a Pac-10 title against the nation's leading heptathlete

Women's track and field

Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

On the 26-foot ladder known as the national heptathlon rankings, junior transfer Abby Andrus stands directly in the middle.

Andrus ranks 13th nationally and can continue her way up at the Pacific-10 Conference Championships heptathlon this weekend. She'll try to earn one of the 26-28 spots the NCAA usually selects.

In the conference, the Peoria, Ariz., native ranks second with a season best of 5,152 points, an NCAA provisional mark.

For Andrus, first place seems almost out of reach as Washington State's Ellannee Richardson leads the nation with her score of 5,701.

"Ellannee is an amazing athlete, and I'm not about to say I'm going to go after her, but I just want to do the best I can do," Andrus said. "I'd like to finish second; I think that's a very realistic goal for me."

Even the second spot will be contested as two other competitors have crested the NCAA provisional standard of 5,000 points — Stanford's Lillian Bush (5,129) and Washington State freshman Diana Pickler (5,120).

Andrus competed in her first decathlon as a Duck in late March. The former national junior college runner-up transferred from Paradise Valley J.C., where she had a previous best of 4,903 in 2002.

The 22-year-old has made her presence felt all over at Oregon as she leads the team in the 100 hurdles at 14 seconds, and 400 hurdles (59.90), which rank her seventh and sixth all-time at Oregon.

Andrus, who owns the sixth best all-time heptathlon mark at Oregon, is looking forward to the competition which begins Saturday.

"It's always good to compete with people who are better than you and

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Mark McCambridge Emerald

First baseman Alyssa Laux was named to the Verizon Academic All-District team Thursday. Laux and four fellow seniors will be honored Saturday in their final home game.

Softball takes on Bay teams in season's final homestand

The Ducks close their regular season with a game against California on Friday and a doubleheader Saturday against Stanford

championship-level accomplishment."

Oregon hosts No. 5 California at 2 p.m. Friday before a doubleheader against No. 14 Stanford at noon Saturday.

The Ducks have lost three games to California (40-16, 9-9) this season. The Golden Bears are the defending Women's College World Series champions after finishing fourth in the Pac-10 last season.

"We beat Cal, and it ties us (with Cal) for third in the Pac-10," Arendsen said. "That would leave Arizona as the only team in the Pac-10 we didn't beat."

Stanford (36-23, 5-13) lost this season's early matchup with the Ducks, 3-2, in a 10-inning thriller. Catcher Jenn Poore hit a two-run home run in the second inning. Poore later scored the winning run on a single by first baseman Alyssa Laux.

Oregon returns to Howe Field with a confidence
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Mindi Rice
Sports Reporter

For five Oregon seniors, there are two days and three games left at their home of Howe Field.

For 18 teammates and three coaches, there are three games left in the No. 18 Ducks' regular season.

Three chances for Oregon (30-16 overall, 8-10 Pac-10) to finish in the top half of the Pacific-10 Conference for the first time since 1990.

"It was unanimous we'd finish last (in the pre-season poll)," head coach Kathy Arendsen. "We're not going to finish last. We could finish as high as third. In this conference, that is a cham-

Softball