

Monday, May 12, 2003

# Lorenzo comes back to win Pac-10 title

The senior makes a strong move on the final day as the Ducks take 19 points back from Los Angeles

## Men's track and field

Peter Hockaday  
Sports Editor

He's baaaaaack.

Santiago Lorenzo missed last season with an injury, but officially returned to his 2001 form by winning the Pacific-10 Conference decathlon title Sunday in Los Angeles.

Lorenzo stood third after the first day and second heading into the final three events, but came back to win his second Pac-10 decathlon title at USC's

Cromwell Field.

"I've been there before, and being in third place I knew I'd be able to make up points," Lorenzo said. "I did what I wanted to do. Mission accomplished."

Jason Slye finished fourth, and Andy Young finished one spot behind Slye as the Ducks took home 19 points in the team competition, 10 more than second-place Washington State. That will give the rest of the team an automatic advantage in next week-end's regular competition.

"This is a huge lift to the body of our track team," said Oregon assistant coach Bill Lawson, who coaches the decathletes. "I'm really proud of these guys, how they battled and never gave up. They fought 'til the very last second."

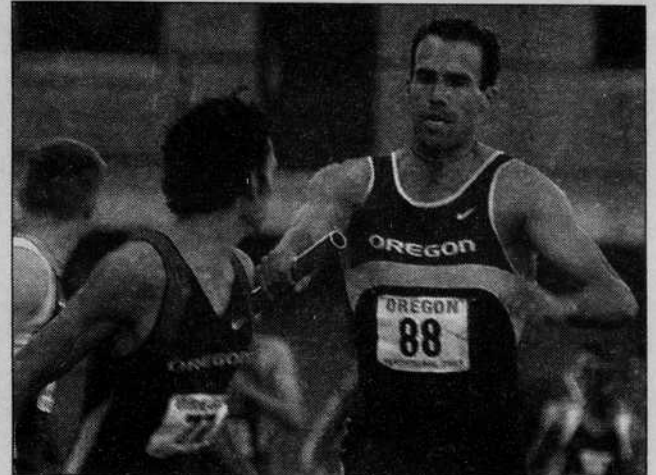
Lorenzo had an erratic first day of

competition. He started the day by finishing fourth in the 100-meter dash, then took third in the long jump, second in the shot put and ninth in the high jump. He capped the day by winning the 400. He finished the day third with 3,856 points, but was less than 100 points out of the lead.

On Sunday, Lorenzo took charge of the competition. He finished third in the 110 hurdles to start the day, then finished second in the discus. He took the lead by finishing second in the pole vault, then finished the day with a win in the javelin and held on for sixth in the last event, the 1,500.

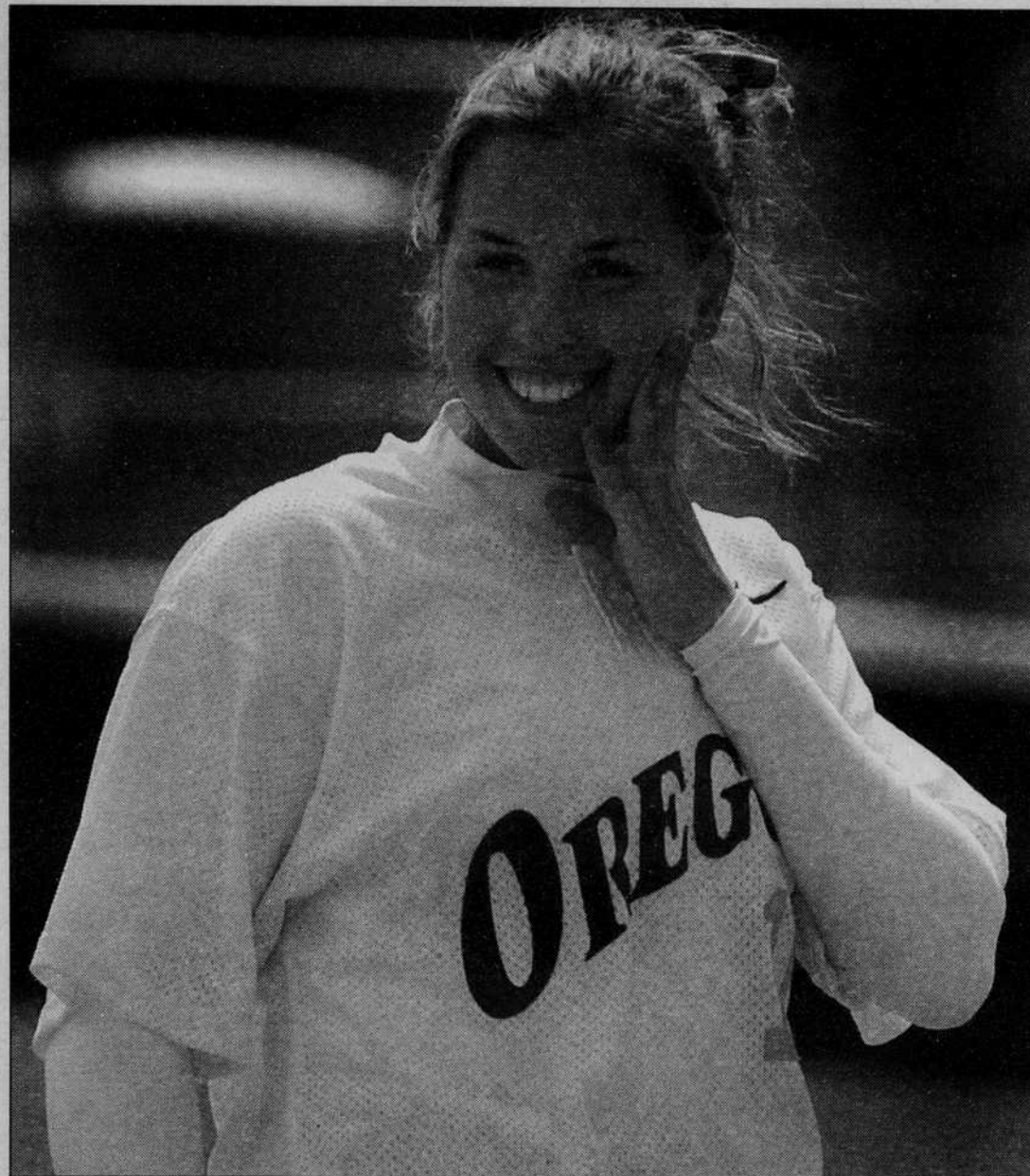
"Santiago obviously did his job," Lawson said. "He tried to use as minimal effort as possible. That's a true champion,

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Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Santiago Lorenzo stood third after the first day, but won the Pac-10.



Adam Amato Emerald

Amy Harris threw a complete-game shutout in Saturday's 7-0 win over Stanford. It was Harris' eighth complete game.

## Softball earns berth in NCAA Regionals

The Ducks get a No. 3 seed after home wins against fifth-ranked California and No. 14 Stanford

### Softball

Mindi Rice  
Sports Reporter

Oregon's hard work on the season paid off Sunday as the Ducks were given a No. 3 seed in Fullerton, Calif., for the NCAA Regionals.

The Ducks will face Penn State in their first regional game Thursday at 5 p.m. on California State-Fullerton's home field. Cal State-Fullerton is the No. 1 seed in the region and the No. 6 seed overall.

"This is huge," head coach Kathy Arendsen said. "It's a chance to play in front of our fans."

Oregon was expecting to be sent east to Michigan or Florida, figuring Stanford or California would earn the Fullerton nod. Nine members of the Oregon team are from California, meaning the regional placement will likely be a chance to play for a friendly crowd.

"California's familiar to all of us," third baseman Lynsey Haij said. "It'll be like home."

The No. 18 Ducks set themselves up for their No. 3 seed with a split against No. 5 California and No. 14 Stanford on Friday and Saturday to close the Pacific-10 Conference season.

Oregon had lost three games to Cali-

fornia this season, scoring only one run against the Bears in all three games.

California struck first Friday with one run against pitcher Amy Harris in the third inning. Anissa Meashintubby relieved Harris and struck out the second batter she faced to end the inning.

The Ducks answered with a towering solo home run over the right field scoreboard by Haij.

In the bottom of the fifth, Oregon padded its lead with five runs. Right fielder Beth Boskovich opened the inning with a single. Left fielder Andrea Vidlund followed with a single, advancing Boskovich to second. First baseman Alyssa Laux singled to load the bases.

Cal pitcher Kristina Thorson walked catcher Jenn Poore to walk in Boskovich, and center fielder Janell Bergstrom drove in Vidlund and Laux with a single to center.

Cassie Bobrow relieved Thorson, who promptly gave up an infield hit to second baseman Erin Goodell. Poore scored on the play. Designated player Amber Hutchison hit a sacrifice bunt back to the pitcher, driving in Bergstrom for the 6-1 lead.

In the bottom of the sixth, Oregon added three more runs, ending the game with the eight-run rule over the defending national champions. Vidlund hit her 11th home run of the season. Laux followed with a single, then scored on a double by Poore. Pinch hitter Julie Jaime drove in Poore to end the game.

Meashintubby held the Bears hitless

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## Year of one Duck: Oregon softball squad wins games and fans

Not to go all soft on you, but... Go softball.

Last night's softball selection show at the Casanova Center was the feel-good event of this Year of the Duck. Notice the singular.

Last year, football went Fiesta, basketball went bonkers and track nearly went to the top. But this year, there are fewer titles in "Title Town" than there are hairs on Vin Diesel's head.

But it's still the Year of the Duck. It's the year of softball.

Just ask the Oregon Marching Band, which was shrewd enough to send a contingent to Saturday's games.

Trust me, you've never heard "stick it in, stick it in, huh!" until you've heard it at a softball game.

Or ask Joe Giansante, the voice of Duck football and basketball on local television broadcasts, who found himself in the Howe Field



Peter Hockaday  
Two minutes for crosschecking

media box Friday, broadcasting an Oregon softball game.

Or ask Oregon coach Kathy Arendsen, the Jolly Green Giant behind this whole mess. She really is jolly — she walks around with a grin that would make The Joker cringe. She wears a boatload of green now that she coaches the Ducks after 13 years at various somewhat eastern places.

And she's a giant. The Oregon media guide doesn't list coaches heights, but if they did, she'd be a short 6-foot-2. Arendsen was a dominating pitcher, and now she's

a dominating coach. She hasn't coached a losing team since 1992 and she wasn't about to get in the habit once she hit the Pac-10.

She's turned this Oregon softball team from doormat to doorbell — they're dinging dingers, they're chiming each others' praises and they're not going to knock on their way into the NCAA house.

"This is a team of destiny," Arendsen said.

Now, destiny is labeled Penn State. It wears Oklahoma State's orange and is larger than Cal-State Fullerton's Titan mascot. Those are

the teams Oregon must defeat to get to the College World Series, a place the Ducks haven't been since 1989. Oregon can lose once but can't lose again in the round-robin regional.

"We have a shot," Arendsen said of the World Series. "This is a team that knows how to win, that does well in pressure situations. I think we're well-rounded, and we're playing well at the right time."

Another "team of destiny" — the 2001-02 Oregon men's basketball team — has eerie parallels with this softball squad. Both Turn to **Hockaday**, page 12