

SPORTS

Sports Editor:
Peter Hockaday
peterhockaday@dailymerald.com

Best bet
NBA Playoffs:
Sacramento at Dallas, Game 5
4 p.m., TNT

Tuesday, May 13, 2003

Running reloaded

The future of the Oregon Club running team looks bright after a lack of participation in recent years

Jon Roetman
Freelance Sports Reporter

The Oregon Club running team is laying the foundation for what could possibly be a popular and successful club sport for years to come.

After several years with minimal participation, the Ducks got back on track this year, boasting 10 consistent members who have participated in races around Eugene and Corvallis.

With next year's travel plans reaching outside the state of Oregon, and the possibility of women's track and field head coach Tom Heinonen taking over coaching duties, the Ducks plan to continue building the recently re-established club.

"(A re-vamped running club) would be a great asset to the city of Eugene," club coordinator Richie Carpenter said.

Heinonen, who is in his 27th and final season coaching Oregon women's track and field, has expressed interest in becoming the head coach of the running club if current head coach Mike Manley decides not to return.

"My intention is to coach the group," Heinonen said. "I'm interested and eager to help if they want me to."

Would the Ducks be interested in Heinonen's services?

"It would be an honor," Carpenter said of the idea. "Tom Heinonen has an outstanding record of producing outstanding runners."

Club Sports Tuesday

Carpenter, a sophomore, took over coordinator duties this year in an attempt to breathe life into Oregon's club version of one of Eugene's most popular sports. He pointed to the fear of rejection as one of the main reasons why athletes wavered from joining the club in years past and why more haven't joined this year.

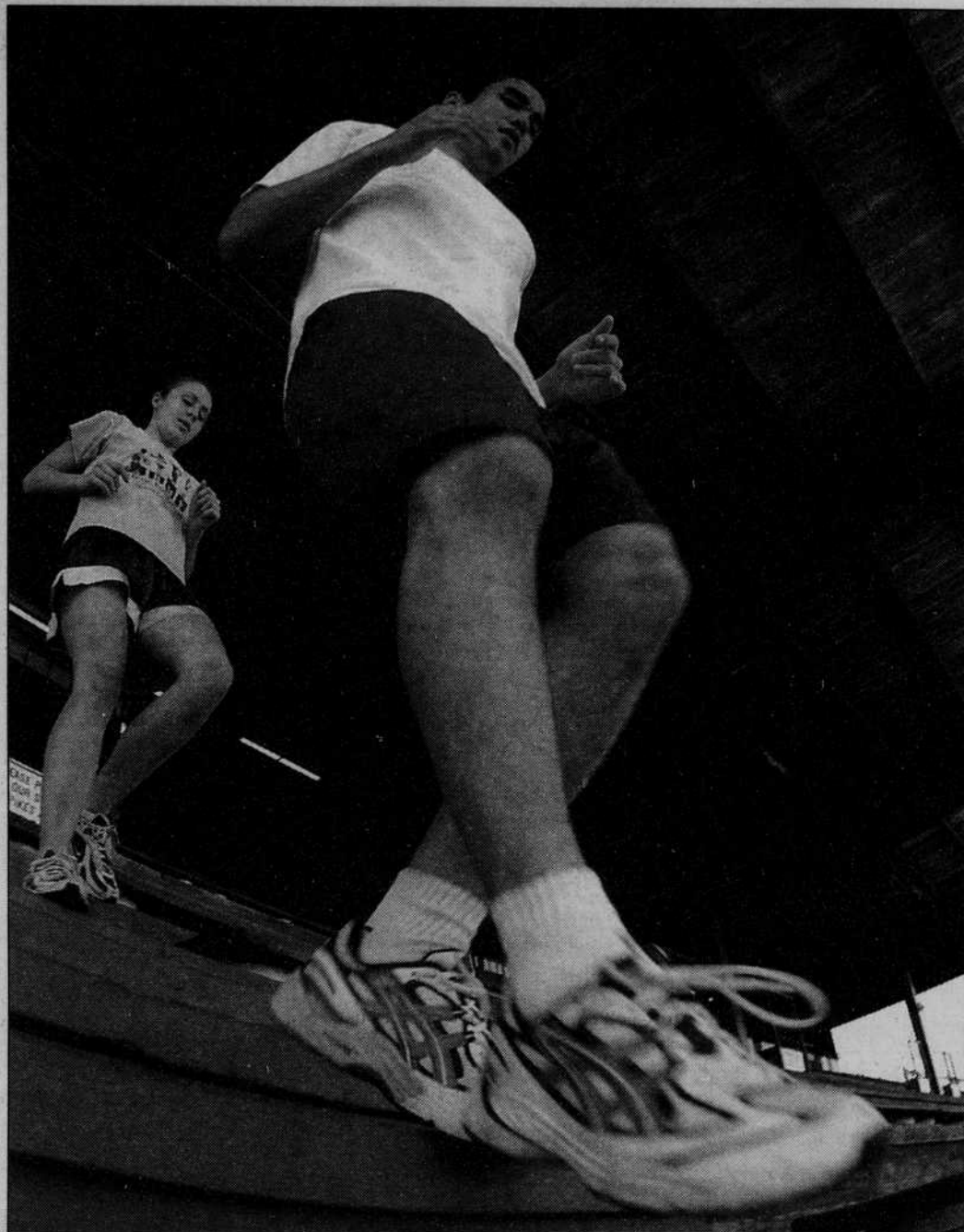
"People are too intimidated to come run with us," Carpenter said. "Eugene is a pretty prestigious running town. People think automatically that if it's a club, everyone is good and people are scared."

"We're probably the opposite of what everyone thinks."

Carpenter said the Duck roster contains athletes ranging from those good enough to compete for a spot on the Oregon track and field team to those who are just looking to get back into shape.

The Ducks have experienced success in several races this season, including Run For the Health of It, held last Wednesday at Alton Baker Park, where Meriel Hartling finished first among female athletes. The Ducks also finished second in their age group in the Oregon Marathon Relay on April 19. The combination of Miranda Vorres, Matthew Bauman, Julie Ravet, Carpenter and

Turn to **Running**, page 10



Adam Amato Emerald

The Oregon Club running team has grown recently, as 10 members have stuck with the squad this season.

Heinonen aide loses position on next year's Duck squad

Lance Deal will take over the throws for the merged track teams next season

Women's track and field

Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

It's been nearly two decades since assistant throws coach Sally Harmon stepped on the scene.

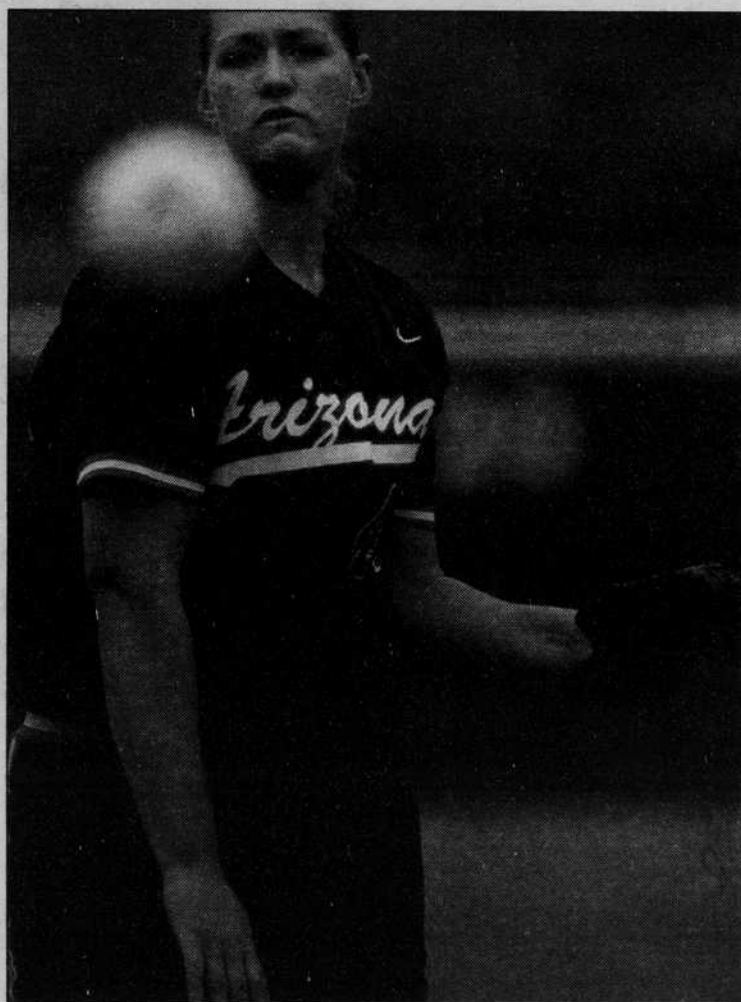
The Springfield High graduate has long been a presence at Oregon, from her own national title in 1981 to coaching three others to the top of the nation.

But after 18 years, Harmon's ledger wasn't enough to make the cut as next season's throws coach, while the men's and women's squads will merge.

Oregon men's head coach Martin Smith, who will coach the merged program next season, announced on Thursday that assistant men's coach Lance Deal will take over the men and women on next year's throwing squads.

"The programs combined, the staff did not," Harmon told The Register-Guard on Friday. "I think the writing has been on the wall for a long time. I am relieved this process has had closure and the decision has been made."

Turn to **Track**, page 10



Mark McCambridge Emerald

Arizona pitcher Alicia Hollowell led her team with a 0.63 earned run average. The Wildcats earned the top overall seed in this month's NCAA Championships.

Pac-10 dominates NCAA Regionals with eight teams

Oregon is one of two Pac-10 schools to earn a No. 3 seed in regionals; while three earn No. 1 seeds, two schools draw No. 2 seeds and Oregon State rounds out the conference with a No. 6 seed

Softball notes

Mindi Rice
Sports Reporter

In the NCAA Regionals field of 64, there are eight No. 1 seeds.

Three of those are Pacific-10 Conference schools. Arizona, UCLA and Washington all earned regional No. 1 seeds, while Oregon earned a No. 3 seed in the regional hosted by California State-Fullerton.

"We are extremely pleased with our selection," Duck head coach Kathy Arendsen said. "We don't have to travel across the country, which gives the families and other Duck fans an opportunity to come watch us."

Arizona was given the overall No. 1 seed, earning home field advantage with a regional at Hillenbrand Stadium. The Wildcats will host No. 2-seed South Carolina, No. 3 Texas A&M, No. 4 Minnesota, Cal State-Northridge, Boston College, Princeton and Colorado State.

UCLA earned the No. 2 overall seed. The Bruins travel to Fresno, Calif., as the No. 1 seed at that regional.

Joining the Bruins in Fresno are No. 2-seed Georgia, No. 3 Michigan State, host and No. 4 Fresno State, Long Beach

Turn to **Softball**, page 10