

Brown improves her long jump

After a career of building, senior Amanda Brown tries to extend her season into two more meets at the Regionals

Women's track notes

Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

Senior Amanda Brown never enjoyed track and field when she started out. It just never seemed to fit.

In middle school, Brown would beat the boys in the sprints and intimidate the girls if she ever raced against her own gender. In high school, she was thrown in nearly every event there was.

On top of that, the Eugene native loved basketball the most.

So when did track and field finally become enjoyable?

"Senior year, after I won my fourth state title," Brown said.

After four years at Sheldon High School, she had rewritten the Oregon prep books by winning four 4A long jump titles along with four district titles in the 100-meter dash and long jump.

Nearly half a decade later, Brown is closing her senior season jumping five inches farther than her prep days, and as an avid triple jumper, the 22-year-old leads Oregon in both events.

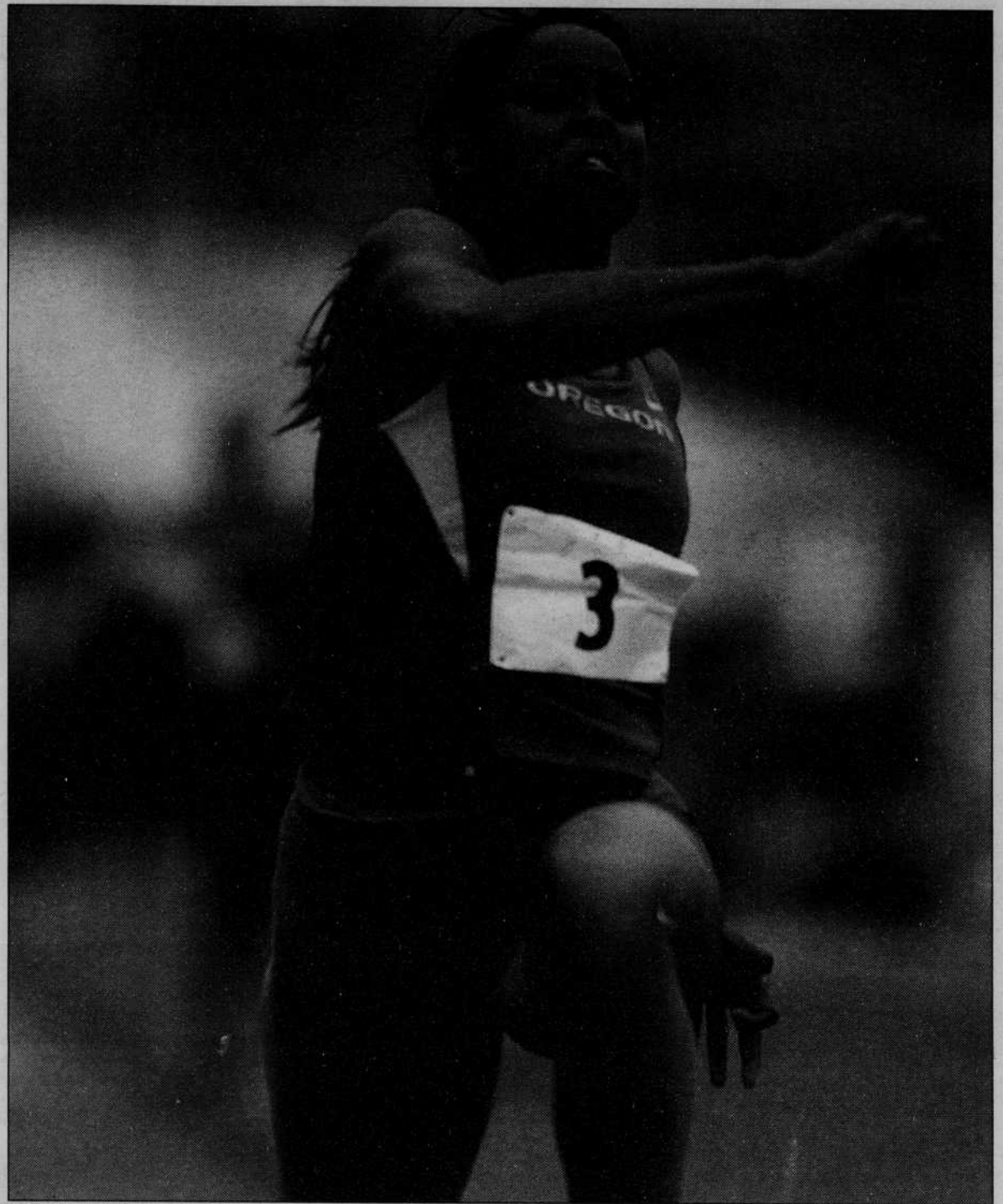
Brown's personal best of 19 feet, 4 1/4 inches in the long jump has propelled her to a Pac-10 appearance every year, scoring as a sophomore and junior. The mark leaves Brown 3 1/2 inches from breaking into the top-10 all-time at Oregon.

The triple jump has proved more favorable for Brown as she ranks fourth all-time at Oregon (40-9 1/2) and finished sixth at Pac-10s last weekend.

"This year I've been working on it so much that it's almost natural now," Brown said. "There's still a lot to do and a lot to work on."

Brown has recently dealt with a right ankle injury that hindered her performance at the conference meet. With regionals less than two weeks away, Brown is hoping to be fully recovered.

"I'm focusing on getting healthy, and if I get healthy I'll jump far," Brown said. "Right now, 42 feet would probably be my goal. To some that might seem far-fetched, but I know it's not, and I've jumped it before."



Mark McCambridge Emerald

Amanda Brown is on the cusp of breaking into Oregon's top-10 all time in the long jump, but she ranks fourth in the triple jump.

Every day is a Holiday

She may be more than a foot short still, but redshirt senior Becky Holliday is nearly at the top of the world after clearing 14-6 at Pac-10s this weekend.

It is the second best mark in the world this year along with a personal best. It moves her to eighth all-time among Americans and set a new Pac-10 record. And to top it off, it places her nearly two inches above anyone else in the collegiate ranks.

"It's almost like a dream come

true to be jumping as high as I am," Holliday said. "It means I am achieving my goals."

The Sparks, Nev., native is abstaining from this weekend's Prefontaine Classic and will see competition again at next weekend's regional meet when she allows the rest of the West Coast to try and catch her.

Thirteen days too long

After senior Mary Etter had what she would term a mediocre performance in the Pac-10 discus competition, where she finished

fourth, all she wanted to do was throw again. And 13 days before the regional meet was far too long to wait.

"I'm impatient," Etter said after pleading for regionals to come sooner. "If I throw what I did today, I'll have it in my hands."

The Everett, Wash., native hit a mark of more than 188 feet, but it was not legal. If it had landed in bounds, Etter would be ranked third nationally.

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.

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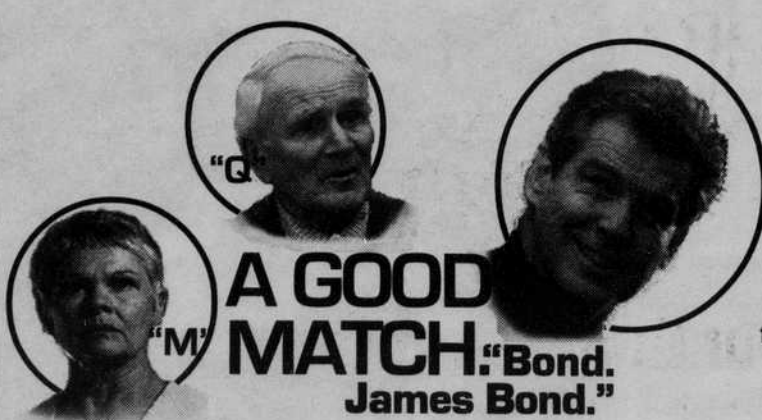
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