

Sports Editor:
Peter Hockaday
peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com

SPORTS

Best bet
Stanley Cup Finals:
Anaheim at New Jersey, Game 5
5 p.m., ABC

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Perfect 10

Duck decathlete Santiago Lorenzo lives the decathlon life and is looking to score another NCAA Championship next week

Men's track and field

Peter Hockaday

Sports Editor

Normally, when doing a feature story on an athlete, a writer tells an athlete's story from top to bottom. Like a nice porterhouse steak, the author picks out the tasty bits, trims off the excess fat and hopes the reader eats up the rest.

But Santiago Lorenzo isn't an athlete. He's a decathlete.

The decathlon sounds like one event, but it isn't. It counts as one event. But really, it's 10 track events, from javelin to high jump to a 1,500-meter race to hurdles. Athletes compete in the 10 events over two days — five on the first day and five on the second.

And Lorenzo is the ultimate decathlete.

"We'll be out doing hill workouts, and he's the guy pushing everybody," fellow decathlete Jason Slye said. "It's like he's one step ahead of everyone else."

He competed in everything from tennis to field hockey as a high schooler growing up in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He settled on track, but, ironically, settled on the one track event that's more than one event.

He has a dynamic personality and an NCAA Championship under his belt... but we'll get to all that.

In honor of the decathlete, we present Santiago Lorenzo's story in 10 parts over two days.

Event 1: ¡Viva Argentina!

Buenos Aires sits on the northeastern coast of Argentina. It's a city of 12.5 million people and an almost

equal tonnage of smog.

Argentina has a rich soccer tradition that includes two World Cup crowns. The soccer sun is so bright there it dwarves most other sports.

"In Argentina, nobody, basically, gives a damn about track," Lorenzo said. "It's all about soccer."

That made it tough for a young Argentinian named Santiago to choose track over soccer and the whole host of other sports he played as a kid. By mid-high school, Lorenzo was a member of Argentina's junior national teams in both field hockey and track.

Every day for a year, Lorenzo went to school until 5 p.m., jaunted over to the national training facility and worked out with the field hockey team for a couple hours, then walked 150 feet to the track, where he threw the javelin and vaulted for an hour.

Something had to give.

Event 2: Hockey... field hockey

Lorenzo said field hockey is tied with rugby and tennis as the silver-medalist sport in the hearts of Argentinians.

Lorenzo's father, Gerardo Lorenzo, was a two-time Olympian for the Argentinian field hockey team. That, and the country's apathy toward track, made it tough for Santiago Lorenzo to leave field hockey behind.

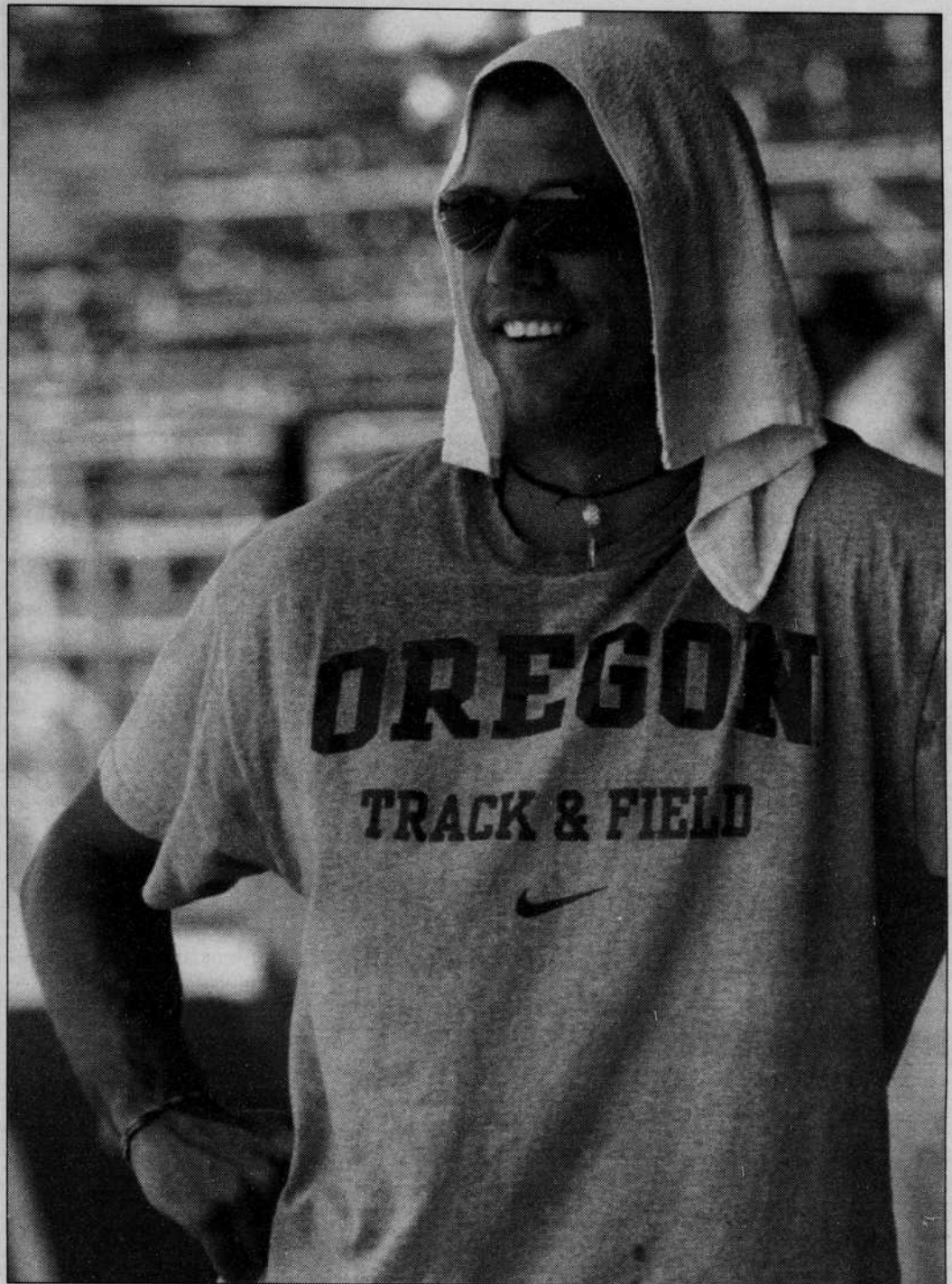
But he did so at his father's urgings.

"My dad always told me, 'Do whatever you want in sports because you have the ability to succeed in whatever you want,'" Lorenzo said. "He said just do only one."

So Lorenzo focused on track for the rest of his high school career and soon found the decathlon. He finished as the best Argentinian decathlete in 1997 and 1998, and finished in the top two at five different South American championship events.

He took two years to train after high school, with the full intention of making

Turn to **Lorenzo**, page 16



Adam Amato Emerald

Santiago Lorenzo had several choices of schools, but ended up winning a national decathlon title for the Ducks.

Milking Title IX for all it's worth

I hate Title IX.

Not because the legislation, originally passed in 1972, adds women's sports or "forces" institutions to cut men's sports, but because there's so bloody much of it that it's confusing.

Have you ever tried to milk a chicken?

Wonder why anyone would try?

Good. Now you're confused enough to talk about Title IX.

In February, the President George W. Bush-appointed Commission for Opportunity in Athletics released its recommendations about changes to Title IX after 31 years.

Many of the changes were agreed on by all 15 members of the committee. However, eight of the 23 recommendations were not kosher with two committee members.

Donna de Varona, a former Olympic gold medalist, and Julie Foudy, a U.S. women's soccer player and the only current athlete on the commission, issued a minority report the same morning the Commission's report was released.

"The findings and recommendations of the Commission's report fail to address key issues or to reflect an understanding of the discrimination women and girls still face in obtaining equal opportunity in athletics," the minority report said.

Despite 31 years of Title IX, there is still a lack of opportunities for women and girls in sports.

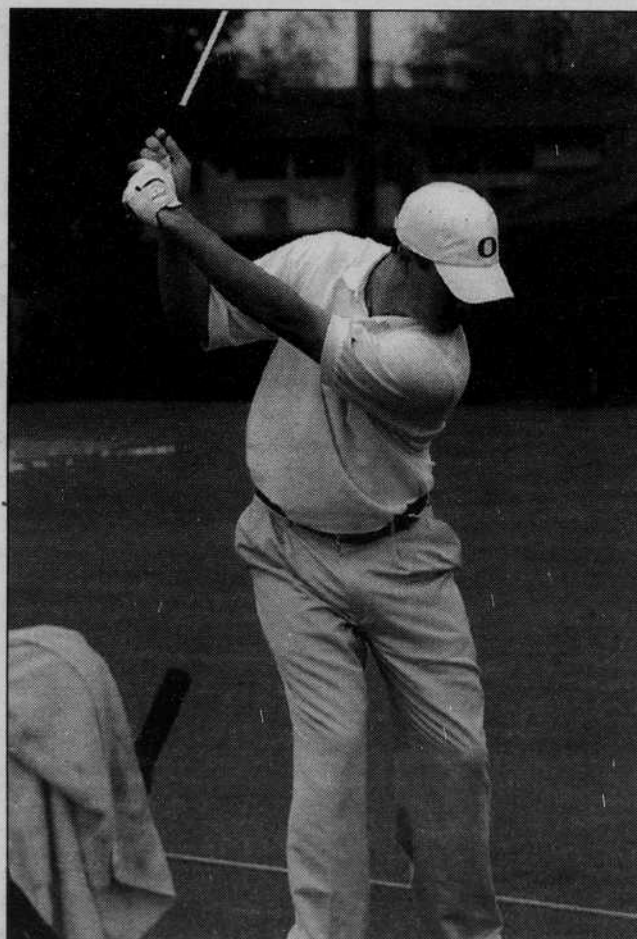
There are 1.1 million fewer high school participation

Turn to **Rice**, page 16



Mindi Rice

The girl and the game



Danielle Hickey Emerald

Junior Mike Sica provided many bright spots for Oregon this season.

Golfers remember 2002-03 campaign

Oregon men question the season that could have been; the women look to a brighter season next year

Golf

Scott Archer

Freelance Sports Reporter

In a year that saw the Oregon men's golf team reach the pinnacle of collegiate golf, few if any quarrels about how the season turned out could be made. However, that is the notion that has the team wondering "what if?"

Oregon reached the NCAA Championships last week, ending a four-year hiatus. The tournament run included many brilliant individual performances but never culminated in anything more. After a horrendous opening-round performance in the championships, the Ducks regained their form, shooting a second-best team score in round 2, followed by another top-10 score in round 3.

However, prior to teeing off in the third round, Oregon learned that it would need to finish in the top 18 to make the surprising cut implemented midway through the tournament by the NCAA.

"We were disappointed we didn't play better in the first round," head coach Steve Nosler said. "We lost control of our destiny, but we thought we could play back. If we had a first round score more similar to the second round, we would have been right there."

And it is with that speculation the Ducks ended their season.

The NCAA tournament was a microcosm of the entire Oregon season, as the team progressed through "many ups and downs," as Nosler put it.

"However, it was quite a successful season," he said.

Turn to **Golf**, page 14