

Lorenzo

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the leap north to the United States.

Event 3: El Papa

Lorenzo's father has played a large part in the development of Lorenzo as an athlete. Gerardo Lorenzo is now 55 and has a two handicap in golf, the kind of handicap a weekend golfer would kill for.

He's never taken lessons.

"I think I got those genes, being competitive, being a hard worker," Santiago Lorenzo said. "I definitely got those genes."

Gerardo Lorenzo will make the trip to Eugene for the first time ever in two weeks for his son's graduation. Ask Santiago Lorenzo, and he says his father's trip is almost as important as the looming NCAA meet.

"My mom has been and my sisters have been, but my dad's always the one that stays home and makes the money so they can come up here," Lorenzo joked.

Maybe next weekend, Lorenzo can finally pay his father back for the genes of a champion.

Event 4:

So this is recruiting?

By the time Lorenzo's two years of training were up, he knew only two things.

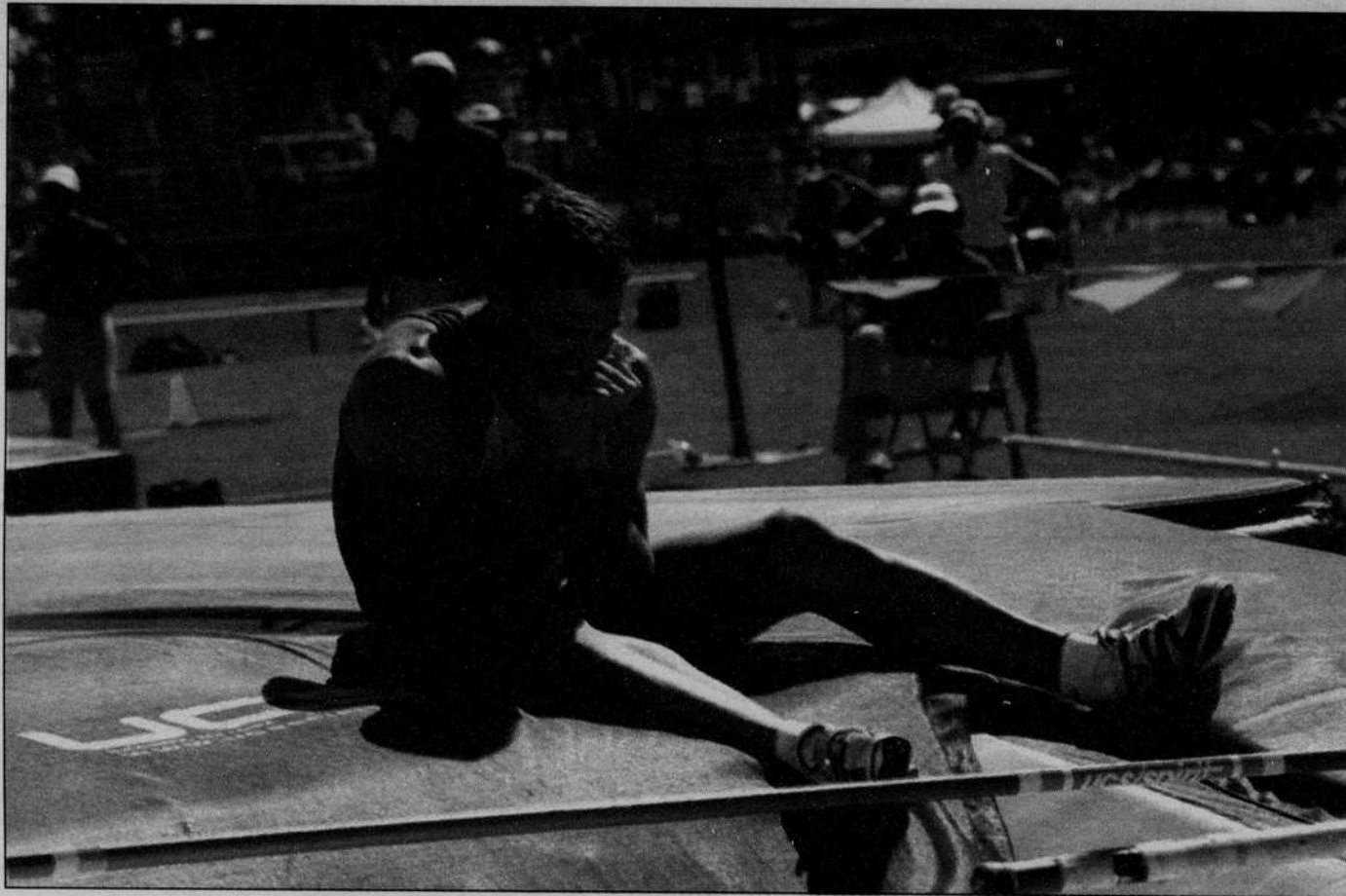
He wanted to come to college in America. And he wanted to run track.

The "where" in the track equation wasn't so important and neither was the "academic" part of the college experience. Luckily, Lorenzo had a state-side friend.

That friend was somewhat of an expert in the decathlon field. Tito Steiner, a three-time NCAA Champion from Brigham Young, screened Lorenzo's recruitment letters and gave the Argentinian advice on where to go.

"He said that people breathe track here," Lorenzo said. "He said the best place to come for track was Oregon, so I said 'OK. Here I go.'"

Lorenzo (or Steiner?) turned down Texas, Colorado State, Cali-



Santiago Lorenzo reacts to a miss in the pole vault at a meet in 2001. He won the NCAA title in the decathlon that year after coming back in the final event, the 1,500. Adam Amato Emerald

fornia-Santa Barbara and St. Louis. He was bound for Eugene.

Event 5: Flair for the 1,500

Lorenzo was reasonably successful in his first three years at Oregon. He finished fifth at the NCAA Championships in 2000, and seemed primed for a run at the NCAA title in 2001.

But Louisiana State's Claston Barnard lurked in the standings. The Tiger was a favorite to win the decathlon and would eventually win the title in 2002 with a hefty score of 8,094 points.

At Hayward, Barnard went down with an injury in the first event on the first day. Suddenly, the title race was more open than an IHOP.

"I knew I had a chance to win it if everything went right," Lorenzo said.

The decathlon came down to the final event, the 1,500, one of Lorenzo's strongest events. He needed to beat Georgia's David Lemen by 20 seconds and Tennessee's Stephen Harris by two seconds in order to win the title.

"I was helping out at the meet, but I made sure to sneak away because I knew he was running," Slye said. "Watching him run was amazing."

Lorenzo knew the big, hulking Lemen would be easy to beat, even by 20 seconds. But Harris had a personal best that was four seconds better than Lorenzo's in the event.

Lorenzo did indeed beat the pants off Lemen. He beat Harris by four seconds, winning the NCAA title with two seconds to spare.

"In sports, that's the number one feeling," Lorenzo said. "I just know how much it means here. I've been a

Lorenzo File

Born: Santiago Lorenzo in Buenos Aires, Argentina on May 4, 1978.

Before Oregon: Competed with Argentinean junior national teams in field hockey and track. In track, holds South American junior record in decathlon and finished first or second at five national meets.

Oregon: Finished fifth at 2000 NCAA Championships and won title in 2001. This season, turned in PR at Texas Relays of 7,911 points, good enough for third on the national list heading into NCAA Championships in Sacramento, Calif., on Wednesday.



Lorenzo

South American champion five times, but people don't care as much about track at home. It's no big deal because nobody cares."

Lorenzo still had a year left at Oregon, but his career was due for a dras-

tic twist in his fourth year. But that will come on the second day of our decathlon story...

Contact the sports editor at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com.

Rice

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opportunities and 58,000 fewer spots in college, as well as \$133 million less in athletic scholarships each year, according to the Women's Sports Foundation.

Football is definitely a part of the problem when comparing opportunities by the number of spots available. For football, there is no equivalent sport that offers 85 or more spots for women.

Thus, football should be taken out of the equation. This is the main

change that should occur in Title IX. After all, it is much easier to compare apples to apples, as Oregon's Senior Associate Athletic Director Renee Baumgartner once said.

Apples like baseball and softball, men's and women's basketball, or men's and women's tennis.

Not a watermelon like football with an apple like volleyball or soccer.

Unfortunately, removing football from the Title IX equation wasn't directly one of the 23 recommendations.

Many of the recommendations did involve changing the three-prong test. Let me back up.

The basic equation of Title IX athletically involves three basic criteria: a "laundry list" of services, proportional scholarship dollars and the proportionality monster.

Proportionality, or having a ratio of male-to-female athletes equivalent to the ratio of male-to-female students, is like a three-pronged fork. There are three different ways to comply, but they all come back to the same handle — in this case, proportionality.

The first prong is plain, simple proportionality. It's the prong in the middle that is most directly an extension of the handle. Play the pure numbers

game and your institution is assured to be found in compliance.

The second prong — the one Oregon attests to comply under — is when the school shows a history and continuing practice of program expansion for the underrepresented gender. Oregon's student body was 53 percent female in fall 2000, yet 37 percent of the athletes in 2001-02 were female.

The third prong is for those who can't meet the first two options. If all else fails, an institution must show that they are meeting the interests and abilities of the underrepresented gender. Schools meet this through interest

surveys to ensure they actually know the athletic interests of that gender.

The speedbump comes when interest surveys aren't held up in court, or when a "history of expansion" is 10 years old at best. Then it all falls back to the middle prong and the handle — proportionality.

After growing up in two athletic circles — the shotput circle and the softball pitching circle — I love Title IX. It just shouldn't be so darn confusing.

Contact the sports reporter at mindirice@dailyemerald.com. Her views do not necessarily reflect those of the Emerald.

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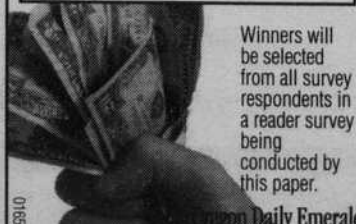
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