

SPORTS

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Best bet
NBA Finals:
New Jersey at San Antonio, Game 2
5:30 p.m., ABC

Friday, June 6, 2003

Ridnour readies for Chicago draft camp

Luke Ridnour's participation at the NBA pre-draft camp Saturday may not hurt much, but it could help him

Hank Hager
Sports Reporter

The biggest decision Luke Ridnour has ever had to make in his basketball career has already passed.

Now it's time for the former Oregon guard to put his skills to the test at the NBA's pre-draft camp in

Chicago. Ridnour, along with a whole host of prospects for June's draft, will start the physical portion of the camp Saturday, even though it opened Tuesday.

In essence, said ESPN.com's Andy Katz, the tryouts in Chicago could most benefit players who are considered second-round material.

"The play of those invited to Chicago will affect at least the late, if not second half, of the first round on June 26," he wrote earlier this week. "And that is why the atmosphere

Tuesday through Friday will be intense, and at times anxious, for the 65 players who know every high-profile NBA executive is deciding whether they are worthy of a guaranteed contract."

From Saturday to Monday, Ridnour — along with LeBron James, Kirk Hinrich, and a number of potential lottery picks — will be evaluated on the NBA's physical-only portion of the camp. This same group was also invited by the NBA to be evaluated by teams off the court.

For Ridnour, where he goes in the draft will most likely not be influenced by the Chicago workouts. Because most points guards attending the week-long session are below him in draft predictions, his first-round status should not change.

However, his exact status may be in question. Chad Ford, who writes an NBA draft insider column for ESPN, has Ridnour going in the lottery, and at the very least, as a mid-first round selection. He also writes that Milwaukee, expected to lose

point guard Gary Payton in the off-season, has been working out a number of collegiate point guards.

The Bucks draft eighth, although NBADraft.net has the team selecting Central Michigan center Chris Kaman. That leaves Ridnour to be selected by Boston with the 16th overall pick, even though he at one point was projected to go 10th to Washington.

Confused? Well, until his name is posted on the board, Ridnour could Turn to **Ridnour**, page 9A

END OF THE *Heinonen* ERA

Tom Heinonen retires after almost 30 years and leaves Oregon as one of its greatest coaches

Track and field

Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

On the back corner of the window sill in Tom Heinonen's office is a green and yellow card that reads, in glitter, "Who's the BEST coach around, TOM."

Picture frames line the walls with pictures of past and present stars he has coached.

Annette Peters, former Olympian and American record holder at 5,000 meters is shown with a large bouquet of flowers and her son at her side. Kathy Hayes has her special spot on the wall as Oregon's first woman to win an NCAA Championship.

All are a representation of milestones that Heinonen has seen come and go with the Oregon women's track and field program since 1977.

After 27 years as head coach, Heinonen will soon reach his final milestone: retirement.

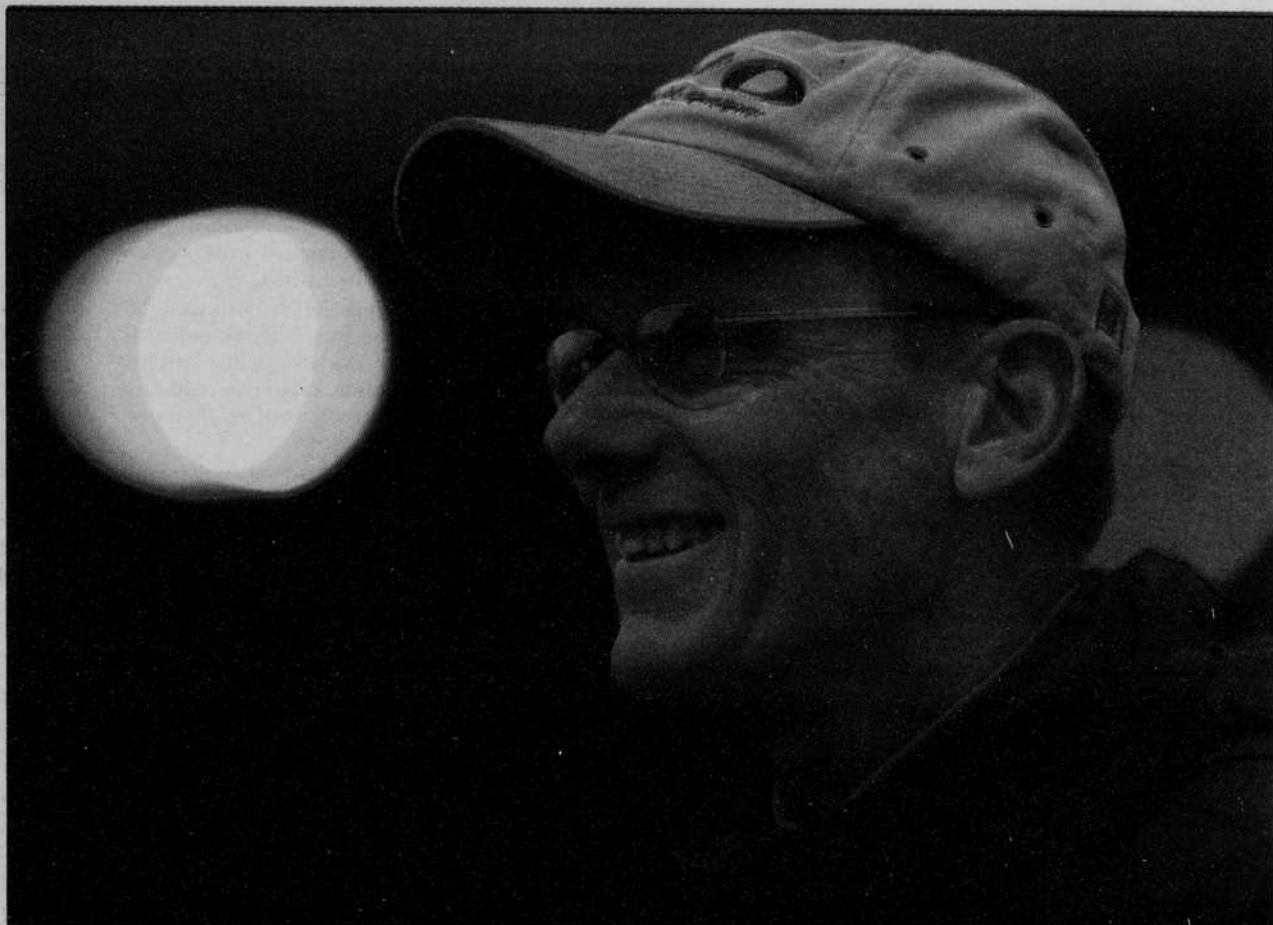
"Yeah, it's time," Heinonen said. "I've had eight or 10 months to get ready for this, and we're getting down to where each time I do something for the last time, it's something that's pretty important."

The men's and women's track and field teams will merge into one program at the conclusion of the 2003 season.

"It's a logical step, virtually everybody in the country has done it," Heinonen said. "It makes sense to simplify things, it makes sense to have six coaches using their expertise across both genders rather than having two people who are really good hurdle coaches or two people who are really good long jump coaches."

Heinonen leaves Oregon without regret, as he has thought about retirement for five years.

"He's comfortable with the fact that it's his time to go," assistant coach Mark Stream said. "I think, in a sense, he's go-



Adam Amato Emerald

Tom Heinonen has spent almost 30 years coaching at Oregon and he won't stop now; he's slated to coach UO Club Running next year.

ing to be able to leave it behind, but he will never leave track and field behind."

The 57-year-old has done it all as a coach. He has led his teams for nearly three decades and won every award and honor there is.

As the women's cross country head coach and in track and field, Heinonen's distance crews have accounted for 86 All-American honors, 33 Pacific-10 Conference titles and seven NCAA crowns.

"At some point or another, we won about everything you can win," Heinonen said. "At the same time we haven't been very good lately, and that's been hard, but we try really hard."

On the track this season, no runners advanced to next week's NCAA Championships. Heinonen's harrier squad finished fifth in the conference in 2002-03 after taking eighth the year before.

But despite limited success recently, Heinonen has had a

personal impact on his athletes of today.

Freshman Nicole Feest recently finished her first track season as a Duck and was attracted to Oregon because of the two-time Pac-10 Track and Field Coach of the Year.

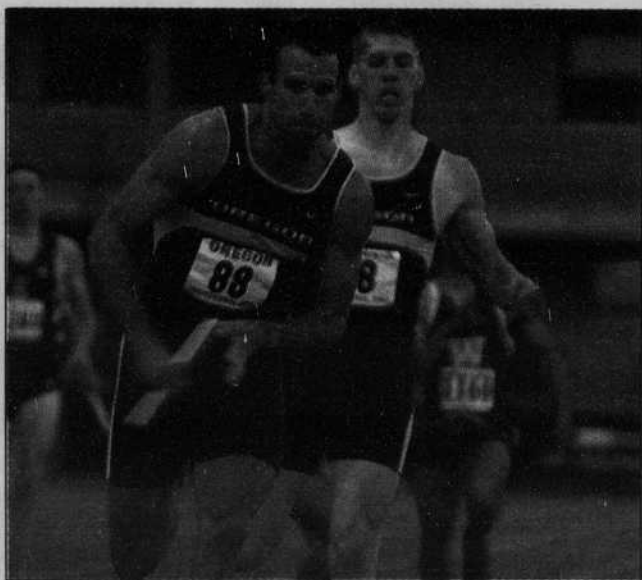
"That was the biggest, if not generally, the reason why I came here," Feest said of Heinonen's stature. "I knew that coming here to walk on, Tom would take me to the level I needed to be at."

"I had great confidence in him, he's very successful, and when I think Tom Heinonen, that's women's track and field right there."

Feest improved from a 10 minute 59 second personal best in the 3,200 meters as a prep to running 16:57.94 in the 5,000 meters on the track.

So what makes Heinonen a good coach?

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Santiago Lorenzo (88) takes a baton at a meet earlier this year. Lorenzo is ranked third in the nation heading into NCAAs and says he'll need a personal best next week to take the national title.
Emerald

Lorenzo shoots for NCAAs

The senior decathlete says he'll need to score 8,100 points to win his second NCAA title

Men's track and field

Peter Hockaday
Sports Editor

In between the first day and the second, that's when Santiago Lorenzo wins a decathlon.

Well, not completely. He wins a decathlon by running faster, jumping higher and throwing longer than his competition. But in the 10-event, two-day decathlon, his best events are mostly on the second day.

"Being able to be behind and come back the second day, it takes a lot of brain," Lorenzo said.

And Lorenzo has brain coming out his ears...

but we'll get to that. Without further ado, we present the final events in the 10-item, two-day story of Santiago Lorenzo.

Event 6: Killer quad

After winning the 2001 NCAA decathlon title, Lorenzo was the key component in a 2002 Duck squad that was shooting for a Pacific-10 Conference title.

With Lorenzo's virtually-guaranteed 10 points at nationals, the Ducks looked like they could again make a top-10 finish at the national meet like they did in 2001.

But then Lorenzo injured a quadricep muscle in February. He tweaked it again several weeks later. Then John Stiegeler, the Ducks' other national champion in 2001, went down with a knee injury.

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