

# Emmies

continued from page 19

"We had a disagreement," Joseph said after he was suspended late in the season for an argument with coaches.

"At that time, my mental wasn't ready," he said about a bad performance in a game.

"Can't not one man do it," he said after a stellar individual performance. Cheers, Andre. You made our interviewing lives a little better this year.

**Best Athlete You've Never Heard Of:** Shane Webster. During the winter months, basketball isn't the only sport that uses Mac Court. So does wrestling. And Webster turned the most heads of any of the wrestlers.

Webster, only a sophomore, finished sixth at NCAAs at the 174 weight class, after a regular-season record of 31-8. All eight losses came at the hands of ranked opponents. We have a feeling Webster won't be so unknown in future years.

**Best Game:** 2003 Pac-10 Tournament. You mean you want us to pick one? You want us to differentiate between Luke Ridnour's sweet little floater to beat Arizona State and Luke Jackson's ice-cold three to beat UCLA? You want us to judge those against the final two minutes of the title game against USC, when the Ducks stopped a huge Trojan run like a brick wall stops a bicyclist? The tournament was, undoubtedly, the highlight of the men's basketball season. Over three days, the Ducks turned in three thrillers and came back to Eugene as champions.

**Men's Rookie of the Year:** Eric Mitchum. The freshman came from virtually nowhere and jumped his way to the top of Oregon's all-time list in the 110-meter hurdles. He currently sits second all-time at Oregon and is close to breaking a hallowed 110-hurdles mark, 13.70 seconds. He sits 16th on the national list heading into next week's NCAA Championship. He was invited to this year's Prefontaine Classic, a testament to his maturity as an athlete. There's more Mitchum to come.

**Women's Rookie of the Year:** Amy Harris. How good is Amy Harris? After only one year at Oregon, the freshman sits eighth on the Ducks' career strikeout list. She had so many K's this season, she should open a K-Mart.

Nobody represents Oregon's softball turnaround this season more than Harris, who finished the year with a 17-13 record and a 1.97 ERA. A pure pitcher, Harris is sure to make her presence felt around the Pac-10 for years to come.

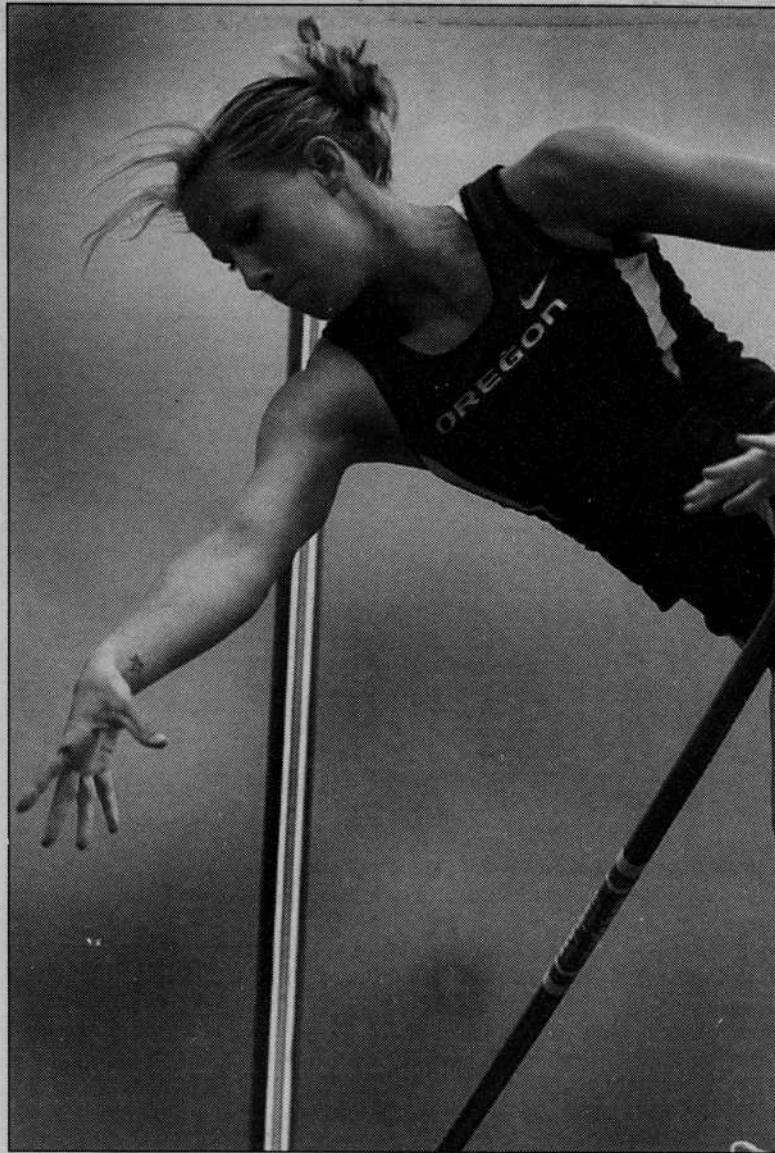
**Coach of the Year:** Tom Heinonen. He hates the hype, Heinonen does. The legendary women's track coach announced his retirement early this year and he gets tired of every move being his last. His last home meet. His last Pac-10 meet. His last NCAAs.

But Heinonen deserves every bit of the hype. His track record (pun intended) is longer than a Mary Eter hammer toss and every bit as heavy. He led the Ducks to three national team championships and nine conference titles. He is quite simply the best women's track and field coach ever at Oregon.

We'll miss you, Tom.

**Most Valuable Female:** Becky Holliday. Her season isn't over yet, and that's perhaps the most exciting part about Holliday. You never know what the pole vaulter will pull off next. She already set the Oregon record and broke it a couple times. Then she set the NCAA record at the NCAA West Regionals two weeks ago.

Holliday had buzz even before she came to Oregon. As an underclassman at Clackamas Community College, she came to Hayward Field for invitational meets and blew the socks off the Ducks. Now she's wearing the green and yellow of Oregon, and the Ducks couldn't be happier. Her Oregon career will end at the NCAAs, and it's a career that was too



Mark McCambridge (Harris) and Adam Amato Emerald

Shane Webster (top right) lost only to ranked opponents this year, which earned him an Emmie for Athlete You've Never Heard Of. Becky Holliday (top) won the female MVP award and Amy Harris (bottom) earned Rookie of the Year honors.



short. Good luck, Becky.

**Most Valuable Male:** Luke Ridnour. He won every other award possible, but we thought we'd add a prestigious Emmie MVP to Ridnour's trophy case. Is there anybody else who deserves it more?

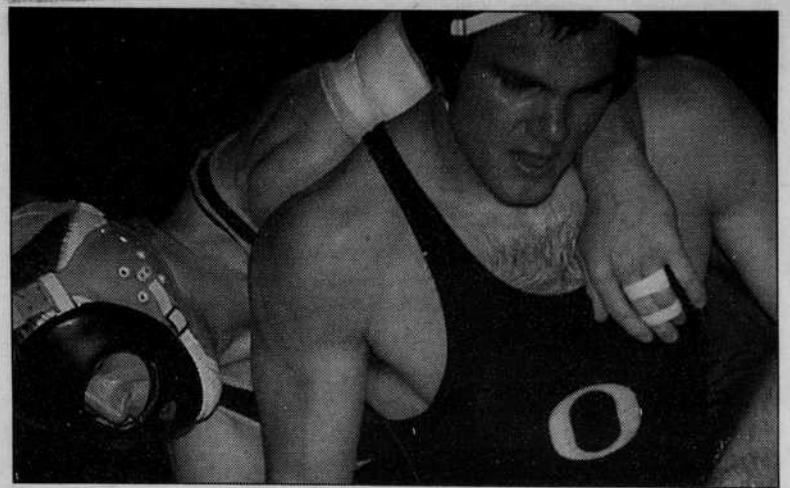
Ridnour came to Oregon three years ago as a clean-shaven Washington point guard and left for the NBA as a mop-topped Duck hero. With his incredible ability to run a game like a Hollywood director, with his trademark flip-shot, with his passion for the game, Ridnour attached himself to the hearts of many Oregon basketball fans in his three years as a Duck. The outcry over his early exit to the NBA is only another example of that connection.

Fans chanted "one more year, one more year" during his final home games. What they really meant was "thanks for three."

Thanks for three, Luke. Now kick the NBA's butt.

And with that, we conclude another year of Ducks. Maybe it wasn't the "Year of the Duck," but we'll still remember the highlights. For those of you moving on Ridnour-style, check out Emerald sports on the web at [www.dailyemerald.com](http://www.dailyemerald.com). For those of you coming back next year, just hope for a thrilling end to the trilogy. Can the Ducks be Lords of the Pac-10 Rings again? We'll see.

Contact the sports editor at [peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com](mailto:peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com).



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