

REBUILDING

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section of the women's pole vault. The Snohomish, Wash., native earned a personal outdoor best in the event with a mark of 12-9 1/2.

"I didn't have the best of practices early (last) week," Enders said. "But I saw the big winds the guys had yesterday, and that got me excited (technique-wise)."

"My first jumps were better technically, and I was able to get a good plant, takeoff and rock back, but I wasn't as sharp on my last make. The wind wasn't as big as it was, but (it) still helped since they were still mostly from behind."

Redshirt junior Laura Harmon is another piece of the rebuilding and transition process for the women's program. Harmon, a middle-distance runner,

knocked almost 26 seconds off her 5,000-meter personal best two weeks ago at the Stanford Invitational with a time of 16 minutes, 46.97 seconds.

Harmon said she is happy and sat-

"I think we're going to get a lot better consistently. I think things are starting to come together more with our coaches."

Laura Harmon
Oregon runner

isfied with her performance thus far and hopes to continue improving after each meet.

"It's good to start on the right foot and to start off on the right track," Harmon said.

Harmon also credits the new coaching staff for the new-found success of the women's squad this year.

"I think we're going to get a lot better consistently," Harmon said. "I think things are starting to come together more with our coaches. They're helping, and people are improving."

Other Ducks that are seeing those improvements in their efforts are red-shirt juniors Bree Fuqua and Rachael Kriz. Fuqua, a transfer from Wisconsin, where she holds the Badgers' shot put record, also obtained an outdoor Oregon personal best of 50-11 1/2 in the shot put at the Texas Relays.

Kriz added a regional qualifier at the Stanford Invitational with a mark of 137-2 in the javelin.

The women look forward to the Pepsi Team Invitational meet Saturday at Hayward Field.

Contact the sports reporter at alextam@dailyemerald.com.

TAM

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disappointing loss to Michigan in the NIT semifinals?

Two stats illustrate the value of the Ducks' big men, who are forwards Mitch Platt and Adam Zahn and centers Jay Anderson and Ian Crosswhite.

When those four combined to score more than 20 points, the Ducks had a winning record of 12-7. When the quartet failed to score at least 20 points, Oregon was simply average with a 6-6 record.

In two of the three wins during the NIT Tournament, the bigs joined to throw in 21 points. In the Michigan loss, they combined for only 16 points.

Also, in games where the defense

had at least two blocks, the Ducks went 12-6. When Oregon failed to record at least two blocks, they went 6-7.

With Platt, Zahn and Crosswhite returning next season, one of those three will need to step up and be a leader on the both ends of the floor. Much like Okafor and Schenscher.

My pick to have the breakout year: The 6-foot-8 Zahn.

Zahn has all the potential of becoming a quality low-post scorer and shot-blocker, but potential can be a scary word if expectations are not fulfilled.

Time will only tell if Oregon can return to the national stage behind their big men.

Contact the sports reporter at alextam@dailyemerald.com. His opinions do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

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