

SOFTBALL

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In the top of the fifth, Arendsen played the odds and brought Nyhus in to relieve Harris after the Wildcats got two on base with two outs. Nyhus came in to face Mackenzie Vandergeest after Vandergeest struck out the first two times she faced Nyhus on Saturday. The odds worked in Oregon's favor as Vandergeest popped up to catcher Jenn Poore on the first pitch she saw.

Nyhus remained in the game, striking out two and allowing two hits in the final two innings. She picked up the win to improve to 19-8 on the season. The start for Harris was her second in the Pacific-10 Conference this season.

"Today I just went out and decided to forget about the name on the uniforms," Harris said. "Each team, on any given day, could beat any team in the Pac-10. There's no sense going out there and being afraid of anyone. The pressure's on their shoulders — they're Arizona, they're No. 1 in the nation, their goal is to beat us and we just didn't let that happen today."

The win against Arizona came on the heels of a loss to the Wildcats on Saturday. After Nyhus opened the game with two strikeouts, first baseman Wendy Allen hit a solo shot into the batting cages past the right center field wall.

Poore led off the bottom of the inning with a line-drive home run over the center field wall to tie the game at one.

Arizona and Oregon traded strikeouts for three innings before the Wildcats put together a two-out, five-run rally in the top of the fifth. The Ducks couldn't answer, giving Arizona the 6-1 victory in front of a packed Howe Field crowd of 1,016.

Oregon opened its weekend with a 1-0 win against Arizona State. The only run of the game came in the bottom of the second. Right fielder Kayleen Hudson hit a two-out double and scored when Sun Devil first baseman Kari Reidhead misplayed a routine throw from a teammate on a ground ball hit by Kristi Leiter.

Contact the senior sports reporter at mindirice@dailyemerald.com.



Sophomore Amy Harris (right) pitched a gem before switching with junior transfer Ani Nyhus in the fifth inning on the way to the No. 12 Ducks' 1-0 victory against No. 1 Arizona.

Danielle Hickey
Photo Editor

WOMEN

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in the event with a mark of 160-5. Afterward, however, Hoxmeier expressed disappointment with her effort, saying she hoped for higher marks coming in.

"I wasn't feeling as good as in practice," Hoxmeier said. "I'm never satisfied. I've been wanting to throw 164 for a couple weeks."

The women went on to continue their strong showings through the twilight session of the meet after the break.

The first event of the evening saw more personal records fall in the hammer throw. First-year Ducks Megan Kriz and Katie Kersh gained more than a foot on their bests, despite placing fourth and sixth in the event, respectively.

Kersh climbed up to sixth all-time in Oregon history with her throw of 174-11. Kriz, a transfer from Portland

State, earned a mark of 184-01, which moved her into third all-time.

Kriz, whose sister Rachael is also a member of the Oregon track and field team, said she had a tough week of practice going in and felt unsatisfied after the Invite.

"I didn't feel very good coming into it," Kriz said. "My first two warm-ups were in the cage. (My PR) was all right, but it didn't go far enough."

In other field events, redshirt junior and former All-American Sarah Malone dominated her competition again in the javelin with a mark of 174-5. The throw was almost 10 feet more than the second-place finisher, Sherbrooke Club's Dominique Bilodeau.

Malone is not only one of the top javelin throwers in the country, but is ranked among the best in the world. Her Oregon record of 179-7, achieved at the Texas Relays earlier this year, is the third best mark in the nation and also places her 26th in the world among throws in 2004.

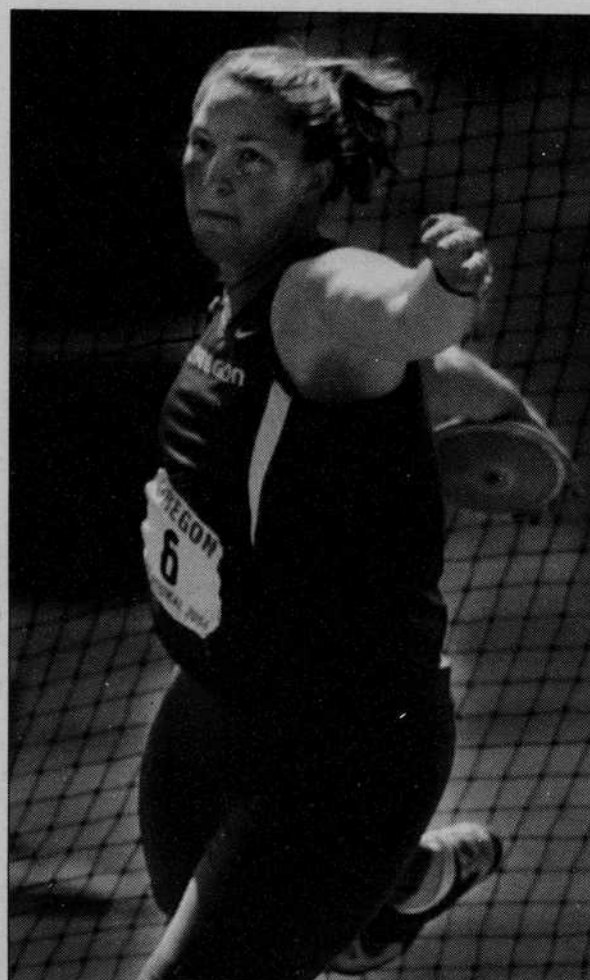
However, the Invite's late start — around six in the evening — had an effect on Malone as she said she felt a little slow with her delivery but was helped out by the strong winds.

"Overall, I did good," Malone said. "It was good conditions, great crowd, but it was a little late for me. I enjoy throwing in headwind, so I used it to my advantage. I know a lot of the girls struggled with it, but I don't mind it at all."

Other notable showings included redshirt sophomore Sara Schaaf and redshirt junior Taylor Bryant earning Pac-10 qualifiers and new personal bests in the 1,500-meters with times of 4:38.04 and 4:38.06, respectively.

"The women need to continue taking another step up in the next three weeks (heading into Pac-10s)," Smith said. "And they've been pretty consistent doing that."

Contact the sports reporter at alexam@dailyemerald.com.

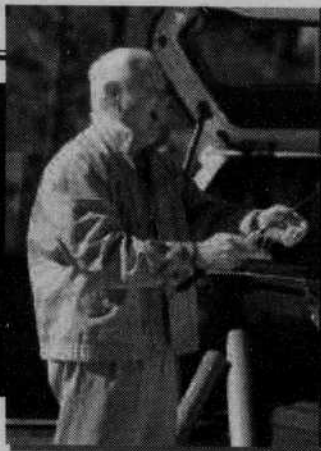


Junior and first-year Duck Bree Fuqua won the discus event with a new Oregon best of 164-1 at the Oregon Invitational on Saturday.

Erik R. Bishoff
Photographer

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