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Pole vaulters battle wind, find success at UO Invite

Trevor Woods and Jon Derby place second and third respectively Saturday and both set outdoor season bests

By Jon Roetman
 Sports Reporter

With winds gusting harder than three meters per second Saturday, a pair of Oregon pole vaulters made the necessary adjustments for a quality showing at the Oregon Invitational.

Senior Trevor Woods improved his 2004 outdoor season best, clearing the bar at 17 feet, 1 inch en route to a second place finish behind Matt Phillips of the Willamette Striders (first, 17-9). Woods' previous outdoor season best was 16-9 1/4, which he set at the Pepsi Team Invitational.

The Coos Bay native garnered All-American status during his sophomore and junior seasons and is poised to make a run at a third such honor.

"Trevor's getting back with that vault over 17 feet," Oregon head coach Martin Smith said.

Redshirt sophomore Jon Derby finished third while setting a 2 1/2 inch personal best at 16-9 1/4. The North Bend native was especially happy with his mark after recording no heights during his last two meets.

"It felt pretty good," Derby said. "Coming off of two no heights, it's nice to actually come into a (personal record). It helps the confidence a lot."

Derby said the reasons for his success were his choice to drop down to a shorter pole and his ability to adjust his footwork to compensate for the gusting wind.

"I've never felt wind that strong," Derby said. "It's hard to actually adjust your step to it. A couple of times you take off really far under and a couple of times you take off really far out. It's hard to get the step on, but after that, the wind helps a lot. It's like having somebody throw you."

Taking a break

Sophomore Eric Mitchum won the 400-meter hurdles (52.30 seconds) for the second time in three weeks at Hayward Field but did not compete in his signature event, the 110 hurdles.

Smith said the Oregon coaching staff didn't want to overuse Mitchum on a windy day with the Pacific-10 Conference Championships only three weeks away.

"We don't want to overrace him," Smith said. "He's really in a rhythm in the 110 hurdles and we needed to do work in the intermediates without overworking him or overextending him. We were hoping there would be a little less breeze, because that's really a factor in the intermediates. I mean, he had tights on out there. I said, 'Eric? You're getting soft out there kid!'"

Mitchum said he was happy to win the 400 hurdles, but he won't bring his time into consideration be-

cause of the heavy winds.

"The temperature was all right, but the wind was kicking," Mitchum said. "It was real hard on the backstretch."

Back to work

While Matt Scherer was happy with his 2004 outdoor debut Saturday in the 400, the sophomore knows he has a lot more work to do.

The Sumner, Ill., native won the event (47.11) after nursing a right hamstring injury. Scherer said the meet's purpose was to continue working toward the Pac-10s.

"I just wanted to come out here and give my leg a really good test," Scherer said. "My main focus right now is the Pac-10s. I just want to be ready for that."

Oregon coaches were impressed with Scherer's race and feel he can make considerable progress during the next three weeks.

"Coach (Dan) Steele was really pleased with Matt's first race since indoors," Smith said. "It was really windy and he ran a 47.11 and stayed healthy. We'd like to think he'll take some more steps over the next couple of weeks."

Contact the sports reporter at jonroetman@dailymerald.com.



Dance Oregon is organizing a week of workshops, performances and collaborations celebrating dance. All workshops are free for students. Donations of \$1-5 are encouraged.

Wednesday, April 28

Tap Jam with Jean Nelson	2:30-3:30 pm	outside Gerlinger Annex
Contact Jam	5:30-7:00 pm	Agate Hall
Musical Theater Workshop	8:00-9:30 pm	Gerlinger Annex

Thursday, April 29

Makeup Workshop	5:00-6:00 pm	Gerlinger Annex
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Saturday, May 1

Conjunto Flamenco performance and workshop with Roy Brewer, Eva Brewer, & Chela Marx	7:00 pm	Gerlinger Annex
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- site-specific collaborations will also be performed on campus throughout the week. If you are interested in participating, please sign up at the Gerlinger Annex. All dance levels are welcome.
- Also, come see Paul Taylor II, sponsored by White Bird, performing at the Gerlinger Annex on Tuesday, April 27 at 8:00 pm. Tickets may be purchased at the EMU Ticket Office.

North Campus
 579 E. Broadway
 686-1166



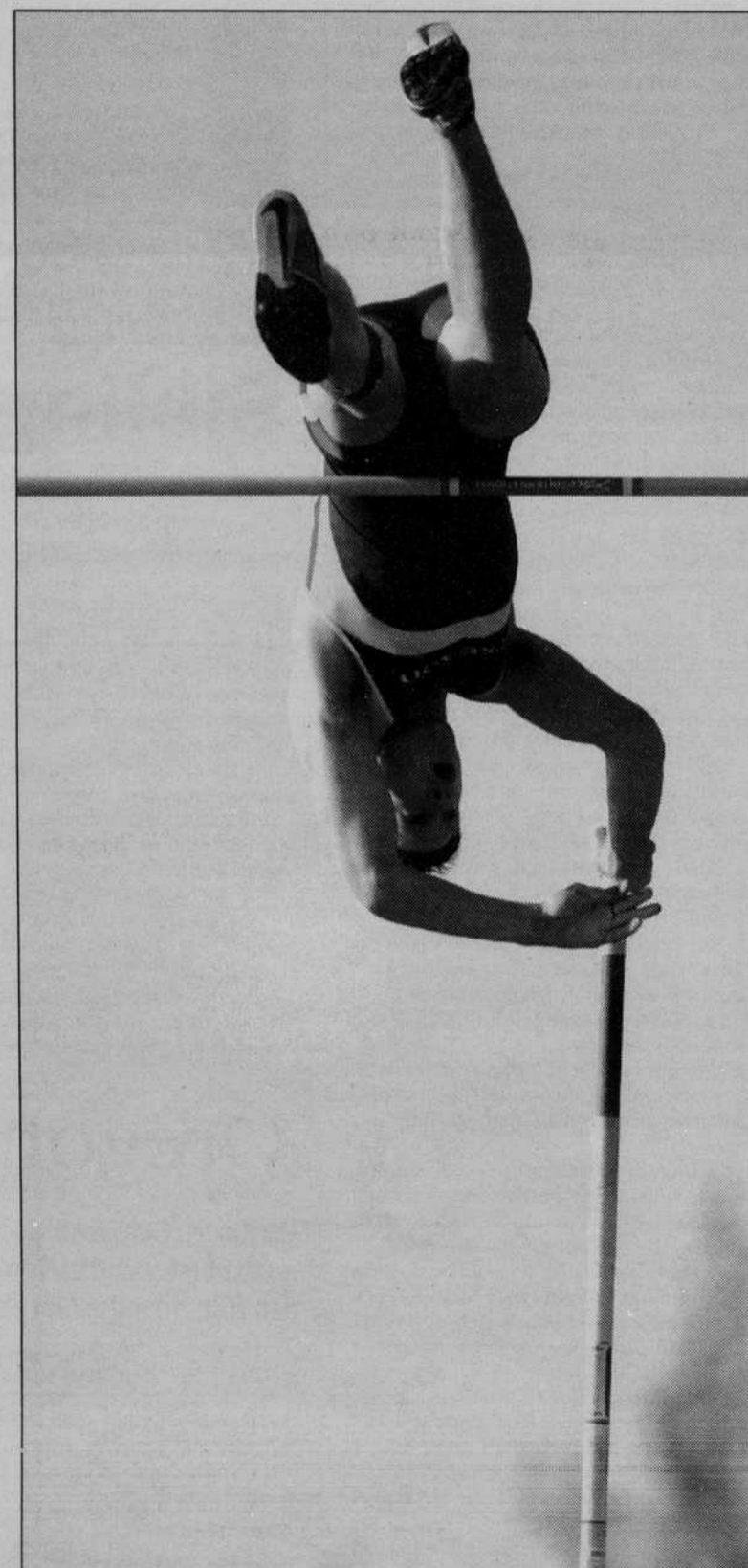
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Senior Trevor Woods cleared 17 feet (17-1) for the first time this outdoor season.

Danielle Hickey Photo Editor