

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

# Freshman breaks conference pole vault record



Lauren Wimer Senior Photographer

Tommy Skipper's outdoor record-breaking vault of 18-10 1/4 is second only to Washington's Brad Walker, who cleared 19-1 1/4 during the 2003 indoor season. Skipper's three attempts to better the mark (19-1 1/2) failed. Skipper is pictured earlier this season.

Tommy Skipper sets the Pac-10 outdoor pole vault record while only wanting to work on technique

By Jon Roetman  
Sports Reporter

Tommy Skipper entered the weekend's NCAA West Regional Qualifier in Northridge, Calif., saying that improving his technique in the pole vault was all that mattered.

Having taken care of his NCAA qualifying mark with a vault of 18 feet, 8 3/4 inches during the indoor season, the freshman phenom simply wanted to iron out some rough spots before nationals.

## MEN'S TRACK

"I'm just looking to work on my technique, and I know people are getting tired of hearing that and I keep repeating it," Skipper said the week preceding the meet. "... Coach (Mark) Vanderville has been working hard with us, and it may come together this week or it may come together later."

For Skipper, "it" came together sooner than later as the Sandy native broke the Pacific-10 Conference outdoor pole vault record with a clearance of 18-10 1/4 Saturday, regaining the national lead and winning the event by more than a foot over UCLA's Yoo Kim and Brigham Young's Robbie Pratt (second-tie, 17-7).

The previous outdoor conference record of 18-9 1/4 was set by Stanford's Toby Stevenson in 2000. The only Pac-10 vaulter to go higher was Washington's Brad Walker, who cleared 19-1 1/4 during the 2003 indoor season.

Skipper cleared his opening bar of 17-3 on his second attempt, after passing on the initial three heights. After a first-attempt clearance at 17-7 and a successful third attempt at 17-11, the freshman got into a groove, clearing each of the next three bars (18-3, 18-6 1/2, 18-10 1/4) on his first attempt.

He then went in search of his first-ever 19-foot clearance but missed three attempts at 19-1 1/2. The pole Skipper used on his final three attempts was the biggest in his bag, but was arguably too small to adequately clear 19 feet.

"I had no idea that something like this would happen today," Skipper said. "Mark told me to only worry about technique today, not heights or places. It's easy to say that, but I was actually

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# Duck women show strength at NCAA West Regional

Pole vaulter Emily Enders edges out teammate Kirsten Larwin to take an NCAA invite

By Alex Tam  
Sports Reporter

The Ducks exceeded their expectations once again with this weekend's performance at the NCAA West Regional in Northridge, Calif.

The Oregon women tallied four top five finishers en route to a ninth place, 29-point finish. More importantly, four Ducks, in addition to heptathlete Abby Andrus, will automatically

## WOMEN'S TRACK

head to the NCAA Championships in Austin, Texas, in less than two weeks. Another Duck is expected to

receive an at-large bid.

UCLA won the meet (141 points) over Southern California (second, 79 points) and Stanford (third, 74 points).

"The women had another impressive showing, and I'm not surprised," Oregon head coach Martin Smith said. "Coming in, they only had three people that were ranked top five in their events, so to look forward to six NCAA invites is again a testament to their hard work."

One of the invites includes freshman pole vaulter Emily Enders, who continued her impressive first season at Oregon. The Snohomish, Wash., native earned an automatic NCAA invite at the expense of fellow Duck Kirsten Larwin in a jump-off for fifth place. Both tied after clearing the bar at 13 feet, 1 3/4 inches on their second attempts.

Enders edged out her teammate on the ensuing jump-off when she cleared 12-5 1/4, while Larwin failed to capital-

ize at the same height on three attempts.

"I really wanted to make NCAAAs, but the thing that I wanted more was for Kirsten to make it, too," Enders said. "In the jump-off, it was hard because I was excited for myself but nervous for her. When I found out about the jump-off, I asked if I could defer and let her go automatically. But Mark (Vanderville, pole vault coach) told me to focus and

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Hank Hager

Behind the dish

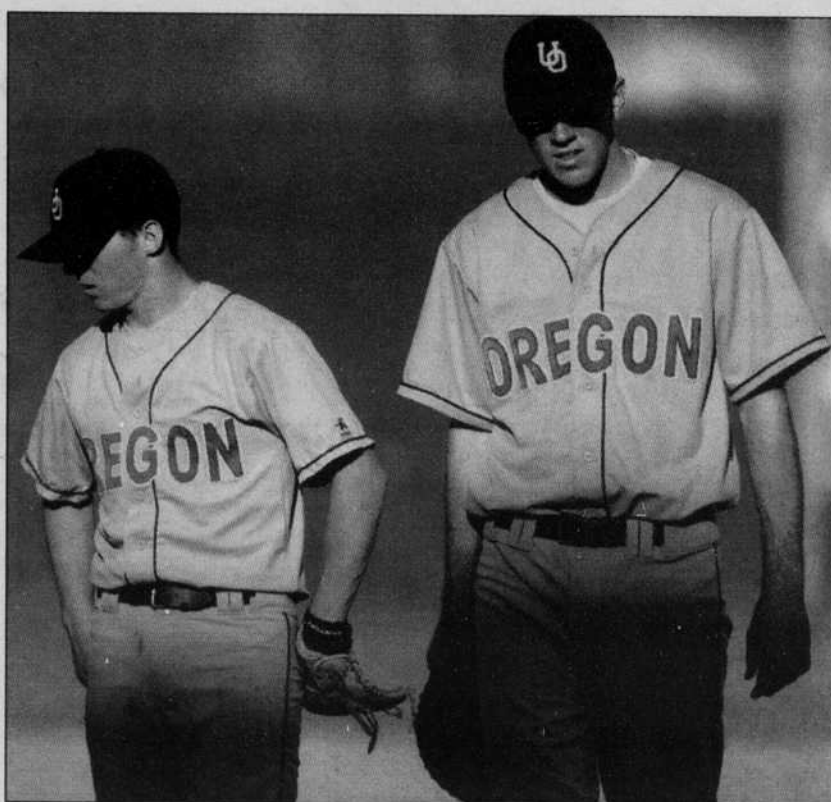
# Pac-10 rep is good sans Colorado

Colorado football is in the news again. What, should we be surprised?

Five of eight administrators suggested Sunday to The Denver Post that a top administrator, or more, should have been let go for alleged incidents that have been brought to the public in recent months.

Laughable, right? The situation is

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Erik R. Bishoff Photographer

Right fielder Brad Ficek (right), seen here earlier this season, recorded one hit along with an RBI.

# Central Michigan gets better of UO at World Series

With a 9-6 loss to No. 4 Central Michigan, Oregon is ousted from the 2004 NCBA World Series

By Kirsten McEwen  
Freelance Reporter

It was an uphill battle, and Oregon's baseball players seemed too inexperienced to stay alive.

Battling against the possibility of being eliminated from the 2004 National Club Baseball Association World Series, No. 8 Oregon (19-8 overall, 13-5 Pacific Mountain Conference) took on No. 4 Central Michigan (18-10 overall, 9-1 Great Lakes North Conference) in the first game of the consolation round on May 28.

But a 9-6 loss Friday put Oregon out of the tournament at McKechnie Field — a Spring Training venue — and the experience of playing among seven of the best teams in the country was over in only two games.

Going into the matchup, Oregon hoped to fix some of the mis-

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## Club Sports