

Women: Ducks already have six team points

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collecting team points last weekend. Oregon juniors Lauryn Jordan and Lundeen rustled up six points that will go toward the team score this weekend and "may prove crucial," Oregon assistant coach Rock Light said.

Light has Jordan slated to compete in the long jump, high jump, triple jump and 4x100 relay.

"I'm going to definitely try to get top-three in all the jumps," Jordan said. "I'm going to go out there and cheer on my teammates and hope everybody gets good marks and we

place higher than last year."

In 2004, Oregon finished seventh for the second-straight season with only 58 points. The Ducks have not won the championship meet since 1992.

Seniors Clarice Hayward-Lee and Maegan Traver will be working to score points for Oregon and also regional qualifying marks for themselves in the triple jump.

"Usually the big meets are my thing so I'm hoping this is the case," Traver said. "It's not like I'm on top with a lot of pressure, so I can relax and do my thing."

Oregon is looking for scoring contributions from events other than jumping and throwing. Light said Kayla Mellott and Kasey Harwood give Oregon a "really solid one-two punch" in the 400-meter hurdles.

Both are running the 4x100 and the 4x400 relays, but they are only expected to finish with mediocre times and to scavenge leftover points.

"The relays are not our strongest events; we're just not there right now," Light said. "This is their opportunity to show what they can do."

Seniors Laura Harmon and Magdalena Sandoval are two of the Ducks' three distance runners competing this weekend. They are scheduled to run the 5,000-meters.

"Pac-10s is always exciting; the environment there is different and anything can happen, which adds a really nice element to it," Traver said. "It will be nice to get out in the sunshine and put up some good marks."

Portions of the two-day meet will be televised May 21 on Fox Sports Northwest from noon to 2 p.m. and May 24 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.



TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTOGRAPHER

Oregon senior Sarah Malone holds the Pac-10's best throw of the season and is favored to win the javelin title at the Championships this weekend.

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Men: Oregon comes in with a three-point team advantage

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"I think it's us, UCLA, Arizona State and USC," Oregon senior distance runner Brett Holts said. "I think any one of the four teams could take it. It's definitely going to be close, and it might come down to the last two or three events. Even though we might have a lead, we can't hold back anything."

Oregon comes into the weekend's events with a three-point lead in the team race, thanks to second and fourth place finishes by decathletes Andy Young and Cody Fleming, respectively. Young and Fleming captured 13 points in last week's Pac-10 decathlon championships, finishing ahead of Washington State, who earned 10 points.

The Ducks will be lead by returning Pac-10 champions Tommy Skipper and Eric Mitchum. Skipper, the reigning pole vault and decathlon champion, will be competing in only his second event of the outdoor season after missing nine weeks due to minor knee surgery.

Last week, Skipper competed in his first event of the season — the Oregon Twilight — and finished third, clearing 17 feet, 3/4 inches, something he knows won't get done this weekend.

"Around the country, there are a couple of guys that jump 18-6, 18-2," Skipper said. "But you know, a consistent 18-footer will take home most of the meets."

Mitchum, who won last week's Oregon Twilight 400-meter hurdles title, will turn his attention back to the 110 hurdles and look for his second straight Pac-10 crown. Mitchum is ranked first in the conference in the 110 hurdles and has already eclipsed last year's time of 13.62 with a season best of 13.56.

Also on the track, Oregon's Matt

Scherer is looking to move further up Oregon's all-time list in the 400-meters with a personal best this week.

Scherer will be chasing Arizona State's Domenik Peterson, who owns the top 400 mark this season (45.15) and will be well rested after getting last week off.

"It's ready," Scherer said. "We had a tough indoor season and we came off that and did some more base training and (sprints) coach (Dan Steele) has done a real good job of getting us to peak again. So we've been taking it real light lately and now we're ready to open up."

Oregon will also look to get points from its long-distance runners, led by a pair of seniors, Eric Logsdon and Holts. Freshman Galen Rupp, fresh off his U.S. Junior record run at last week's Oregon Twilight, will add another potential point scorer for the Ducks.

Logsdon is coming off a personal-best time in the 5,000-meters at the Cardinal Invitational two weeks ago.

Holts returns for his fourth steeplechase, an event in which he has finished third, second, and fourth in the three years he has competed. The senior, who currently ranks second in the conference with a time of 8:47.11, said there's nothing different about this year's race.

"I haven't changed anything, haven't done anything different," Holts said. "At this point of the season, it's just whoever's not hurt, whoever's got legs, and this year the Pac-10 is more loaded than any other year that I have run it. There are five guys that run 8:45 or better and I just have to go out there and not have the pressure of trying to win it. I just have to go and run, get into the mix of things, and go from there."

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DANIELLE HICKEY | PHOTO EDITOR

Redshirt senior Davina Mendiburu has compiled 73 career singles victories, which ranks her second all-time in team history.

Mendiburu: 24 singles victories a new career high

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After battling hard to come back from her ACL injury, Mendiburu, a redshirt senior, has returned to have her best season. She set a new career-high with 24 singles victories, adding to her career total of 73, which ranks her second all-time at Oregon. She then capped her Pacific-10 Conference career by winning the Pac-10 doubles invitational championship with Bak on April 24. The Ducks are also headed to the NCAA Tournament, which begins today against Fresno State.

"I learned a lot from that (injury), like being a stronger person, and it made me realize how much I love tennis and how much it was important to me," Mendiburu said. "When you're a senior and you're on the court, you appreciate every moment you have and you just give it your all."