



Senior Bree Fuqua will be Oregon's only athlete to compete in the women's shot put and discus events at the NCAA West Regional Championships this weekend.

LAUREN WIMER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

PERFECT FIT

Bree Fuqua threw at Wisconsin before transferring to Oregon, where coaches have helped her succeed

BY STEPHEN MILLER
SPORTS REPORTER

It was just another cold, rainy day of track and field practice at Hayward Field. A group of athletes dodged raindrops as they polished their technique in various throwing events.

As post-collegiate athlete Cari Soong recalls, the rainfall stopped when senior Bree Fuqua walked onto the track.

Fuqua arrived. The rain stopped. They stood in the House of Prefontaine. It finally clicked for Oregon

throws coach Lance Deal.

Then and there, the play on words began, and the creative juices started flowing.

"(Deal) was like, 'We should make Stop Bree shirts!'" Soong said. "I thought it was a great idea."

Soong said she became the designated screenprinter, but she only had enough resources to make four shirts.

At the Oregon Invitational, Deal guided Fuqua's attention to fellow throwers Sarah Malone, Britney Henry

and Soong, who cheered from the West Grandstand, sporting shirts with their spin-off of a classic idea.

"I thought it was cool that they wore it, and it pumped me up to see them wearing it," said Fuqua, who refused to wear the fourth shirt and instead stuffed it in her duffel bag. "I'm not cocky enough to wear it."

The shirts' statement, however, motivated Fuqua. The 23-year-old said it was refreshing to see support for her efforts, especially because none of her teammates were competing beside her.

"That's one thing that was really hard for me at Pac-10s," Fuqua said. "I

FUQUA, page 11B

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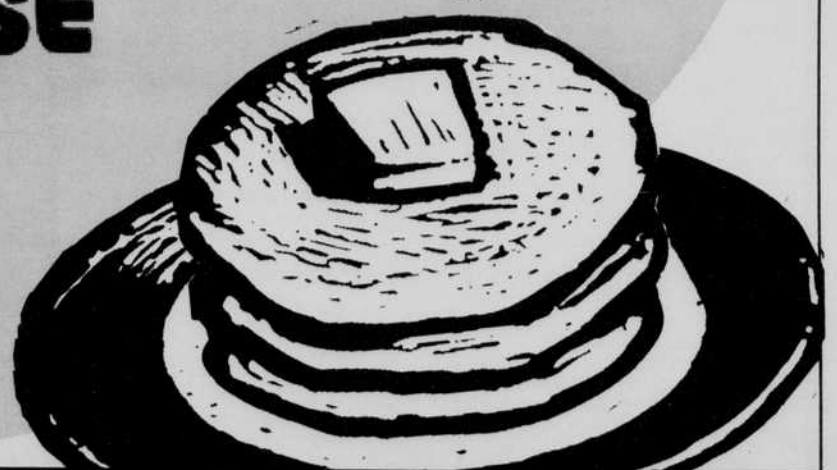
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