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THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

Wednesday, May 10, 2000

Clackamas Community College

Oregon City, Oregon

Volume XXXIII, Issue 23

Clackamas athlete breaks national record

David Lemen breaks the national junior college record in the decathlon and wins his third conference title

JOHN THORBURN
Editor-in-Chief

Spokane has Dan O'Brien, a man who went on to win gold in Atlanta in 1996.

Lane has Tom Pappas, a man who broke O'Brien's national junior college record and is now the NCAA champion and record holder.

Clackamas has David Lemen.

A man who has bettered both O'Brien and Pappas in the decathlon event.

Lemen, a '97 graduate of Jack-

son High School in Mill Creek, Wash., won his second Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges [NWAACC] championship in the ten-event competition known as the decathlon.

On the way, the 6'2" blond-haired sophomore decided to break the national junior college record.

A goal that he had set since last fall, Lemen toppled the mark with a score of 7532—bettering the 7499 record set by Pappas.

"My original goal was

to break Dan O'Brien's NWAACC meet record of 7257 which was set back in the early 90s—he set that at the NWAACC championship meet," said Lemen. "Then we found out what the national record was so I decided to step my goal up a little bit more to break O'Brien and Pappas' records. Whether it's at the same meet or two different meets, either way I was going to try to achieve both of those goals. I've kind of been training hard for that. When NWAACCs came around, I was able to achieve both of those goals by working hard and train-

ing like a madman."

Training like a madman is something that this young man has grown accustomed to over the years.

A week before the state championships his senior year, Lemen broke his ankle. He still decided to compete, however, and placed second in the pole vault. Without having high marks in high school, he was recruited only by then first year Head Coach Jack Kegg.

"He was my first recruit as a head

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