

Oregon looks to defend titles at NCAA track championships

By ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Sports Writer

EUGENE — Oregon's NCAA outdoor championship sweep for both the men's and women's track teams last year was unprecedented.

So it follows that the Ducks would like to add to their history with a dual repeat. But it's not going to be easy.

"We need our stars to be stars and we need our stars-in-waiting to show up," Oregon coach Robert Johnson said.

Despite the home-track advantage at Oregon's Hayward Field, the Ducks aren't atop the rankings heading into the championship meet, which opened Wednesday and runs through Saturday.

Oregon's men — two-time defending champions — are ranked No. 4

behind top-ranked Texas A&M, LSU and Florida. The Ducks have 17 entries in 12 events. Favorite LSU's 10 entries on the men's side are loaded in the 100, 200, 400, 110-meter hurdles and the relays.

The Ducks have never won three straight men's outdoor titles.

Oregon's women are ranked sixth, behind Arkansas, Kentucky, Texas, LSU and Texas A&M.

"This is what everybody shoots for," Razorbacks coach Lance Harter said. "It's even-steven. No matter what anybody's done throughout the course of the season, now it's a matter of who can do it on a given day."

FORMAT: It's the second straight season that the championships have been divided by days. Most of the men's events take place on Wednesday and

Friday, while the women compete on Thursday and Saturday. Events for the decathlon are part of the first two days, while the heptathlon events are set for Friday and Saturday.

It's the fourth straight year the championship has been set at Hayward Field, which will also host the Olympic Trials in July.

BACK TO THE TRACK: Devon Allen, receiver on Oregon's football team and rising star in the hurdles, made a splash at the NCAA championships as a freshman. His time of 13.16 seconds set a meet record, besting Olympic gold medalist Aries Merritt's mark of 13.21 set in 2006 for Tennessee. Allen was the first freshman to win the national title in the event since San Jose State's Dedy Cooper in

1976. Last year he was sidelined — from both the track and football teams — because of a knee injury.

"It's exactly the reason I came here. We're the best in the nation in both sports; We played in the national championship (in football) the same year we won the national championship in track," Allen said. "This is the best I could have done — college sports-wise. I'm really happy to be here and everything seems to be working out."

OLYMPIC DREAMS: The season isn't over for many of the athletes, who will try to make the U.S. Olympic team for Rio next month at the Olympic Trials — which are also being held at Hayward Field. Oregon's Allen is among

those hopefuls, as is Texas sprinter Courtney Okolo, a three-time NCAA champion in the 400 meters.

Earlier this year, Okolo became the first college sprinter to go under 50 seconds in the race with a 49.71, the second-fastest time in the world this year.

"I look at everything as a stepping stone to the Olympic Trials," Okolo said Tuesday.

ONE TO WATCH: Keep an eye on Arkansas' Jarrion Lawson, who is taking part in the 100 and 200 meters as well as the long jump and the 4x100 relay. If Lawson does well in all his events, Arkansas could be in position for an 11th overall outdoor title.

Lawson a three-time national champion, while also holding the school record in the 100. He finished third in the event at

the outdoors last year. He's also coming off a title in the long jump at the NCAA indoor championships.

Arkansas won eight straight NCAA men's outdoor titles from 1992-1999. **AND YOU THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A FOOTBALL THING:** The Ducks unveiled their new Nike-designed track uniforms, giving a nod to their 1960s heyday with a tie-dye pattern and the silhouettes of the program greats Steve Prefontaine and Bill Bowerman.

Bowerman, the co-founder of Nike, coached the "Men of Oregon" to NCAA titles in 1962, 1964 and 1965. Pre won seven individual NCAA titles for the Ducks before representing the United States in the 1972 Munich Olympics. He was killed in a car accident in 1975 at the age of 24.

NBA FINALS: Cavaliers opened up 20-point lead in first quarter

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the Western Conference finals.

"We were soft," said coach Steve Kerr. "When you're soft, you get beat on the glass and turn the ball over."

Irving bounced back from two rough games out West, J.R. Smith made five 3-pointers and Tristan Thompson did the dirty work inside, getting 13 rebounds for the Cavs, who improved to 8-0 at home and can even the series with a win in Game 4 on Friday night.

The Cavs hardly missed Love, still suffering from a concussion sustained in Game 2. He wanted to play, but Love is still in the NBA's concussion protocol and has not yet been cleared to return by league and team doctors.

Coach Tyronn Lue started veteran Richard Jefferson and moved James into Love's power forward spot, giving the Cavs a smaller lineup better equipped to run with the Warriors.

The 35-year-old Jefferson gave the Cavs a huge boost in 33 minutes, scoring nine points with eight rebounds.

Leading by eight at halftime, Cleveland took control in the third quarter when James and Irving

combined on a play that symbolized the Cavs' resurrection.

Scrambling on his hands and knees after a loose ball near midcourt, James got to his feet and whipped a pass to Irving on the left side. Irving returned a lob to James, who leaped high and flushed it with his right hand, a basket that seemed to erase all that went wrong for the Cavs in California.

Before taking the floor, James and the Cavs huddled in the hallway outside their locker room and prayed.

James then gave his teammates some instructions.

"Follow my lead from the beginning!" he screamed. "And do your job!"

The Cavs listened, scoring the game's first nine points and opening a 20-point lead in the first quarter. With their season on the line, this was the response Cleveland had to have, but the Cavs fell back into bad habits in the second quarter, rushing shots and not moving the ball.

The Warriors took advantage, outscoring the Cavs 27-18 to pull within 51-43 at halftime.

SAY WHAT? Kerr was startled when the opening question in his postgame news conference was whether he's

considering changes.

"We just lost one game," Kerr said. "Change the starting lineup?"

TIP-INS

Warriors: Shot just 9 of 33 on 3-pointers. ... Thompson left briefly in the first quarter with a bruised left thigh after he ran into a screen by Cleveland's Timofey Mozgov. ... Kerr became emotional before the game when paying his respects to Sean Rooks, his former Arizona teammate who died Tuesday at the age of 46. ... Green has become Public Enemy No. 1 in Cleveland — and elsewhere. He smiled while being booed during pregame warmups.

Cavaliers: James has 82 career 30-point games in the playoffs, third most all-time. Only Michael Jordan (109) and Kobe Bryant (88) have more. ... Smith nailed a shot from halfcourt at the end of the second quarter, but the shot came after the horn and was waved off. ... Lue said he doesn't pay any attention to the all the outside second-guessing about his lineups. "I don't care," he said. "They (critics) should be coaches." ... Legendary Browns running back Jim Brown sat courtside and gave the crowd a thumbs-up when he was shown on the giant scoreboard.



Cleveland Cavaliers guard Kyrie Irving (2) drives past Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green during the second half of Game 3 in Cleveland on Wed., June 3, 2016.

AP Photo/Tony Dejak

WISE: U.S. Open takes place on June 16-19 at Oakmont Country Club

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at Oakmont (Pa.) Country Club. The now former Oregon star will be wearing Callaway gear, as he did Monday, and relinquishing his amateur status.

"I have bigger plans than just making the cut obviously," Wise said. "That would be a great goal to have. Being somewhere near the hunt would be a dream come true. ...

"I better be on my game for that one."

The hero from the Ducks' historic NCAA championship, Sulman Raza, said

he still needs to work on his long game and bunker play before it's his turn to compete at the next level.

The South Eugene High graduate finished 7 over in the sectional qualifier after making the clinching putts in Oregon's semifinal win over Illinois and the dramatic championship win over Texas.

"I was sitting at home just watching the golf videos and stuff, and it just like hit me suddenly. For about 10, 15 minutes I was pretty emotional," Raza said of Oregon's title run. "It's a

little disappointing after something like that to come out today and play the way I did. There's a lot of work to do."

Travis Howe of Charlotte, N.C., finished second at 7 under, and Matt Marshall of Carlton was 6 under to earn the third and final U.S. Open spot from the field of 55.

Wise was 1 over after the front nine of the first round before a sizzling 30 on the back nine with seven birdies. The powerful push put him in a tie for second place, one shot behind Marshall.

"On the back nine my

putter got hot, just like it did when I shot that 64 at NAAs," said Wise, who pulled away on the final 18 with five birdies and only one bogey. "I had nine putts on the back nine, which is just, you know, unheard of."

Oregon assistant Van Williams caddied for Wise on Monday and plans to join him at Oakmont.

"If Casey gives him the week off," Wise joked.

That shouldn't be a problem. Williams used to caddie for Casey Martin, Oregon's coach, at some prestigious PGA Tour events,

but never the U.S. Open.

"I guess the next best thing to playing in the U.S. Open would be looping in it," Williams said.

"I think it will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I'm super pumped to do it. More than anything, another week to hang with Aaron. Aaron and I have become really good friends, like brothers. He's just a joy to be around, and we have a blast doing it."

Martin won a sectional qualifier at Emerald Valley Golf Club in 2012, and Oregon senior Brandon

McIver qualified for the 2014 U.S. Open.

Wise will carry on the recent tradition with plenty of momentum after producing some lifetime memories with the Ducks.

"That's no surprise to me. I never doubted for a second that the kid was going to come out and win this thing," Sulman said of Wise's latest performance.

"His game is so good and he's so confident with every aspect of his game. He just always wants to go out and win. He's just so determined."

BULLDOGS: Arstein aims to change culture of Bulldog boys program

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board in April and since that time he has gotten well-acclimated to the team and to the position, and currently has the program busy with summer workouts and tournaments.

Arstein said his Bulldog teams will "play a solid half-court defense with a good motion offense. We're going to be an athletic group that can get the rim a lot."

He inherits a team that went 13-13 overall in 2015-2016 and saw its season end in the play-in round of the Class 5A postseason. The Bulldogs lost four seniors from last year's team, but return key players such as Chance Flores, Dayshawn Neal, and Andrew James.

But what is Arstein's main goal in Year 1 of his tenure? "We want to change the culture of the Hermiston program," he said. "We want to get the kids' experience and teach them how to compete at their best every single day."

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SCOREBOARD

Local Slate

LEGION BASEBALL			
Ashlee Hodgen Memorial Tournament Friday			
Milton-Freewater vs. Baker, 11 a.m. (at Bob White Field)			
Hermiston vs. La Grande, Noon (at BMCC Field)			
Baker vs. Hodgen Distributing, 1:30 p.m. (at Bob White Field)			
Meridian vs. Hermiston, 2:30 p.m. (at BMCC Field)			
La Grande vs. Sandy, 4 p.m. (at Bob White Field)			
Central Valley vs. Hodgen Distributing, 6:30 p.m. (at Bob White Field)			
Saturday's Games			
Meridian vs. Sandy, 8:30 a.m. (at Bob White Field)			
Hermiston vs. Sandy, 11 a.m. (at Bob White Field)			
Meridian vs. La Grande, 11:30 a.m. (at BMCC Field)			
Milton-Freewater vs. Central Valley, 1:30 p.m. (at Bob White Field)			
Central Valley vs. Baker, 4 p.m. (at Bob White Field)			
Milton-Freewater vs. Hodgen Distributing, 6:30 p.m. (at Bob White Field)			

Basketball

NBA			
Playoff Glance			
FINALS			
(Best-of-7; x if necessary)			
Golden State 2, Cleveland 1			
(all games on ABC)			
Thursday, June 2: Golden State 104, Cleveland 89			
Sunday, June 5: Golden State 110, Cleveland 77			
Wednesday, June 8: Cleveland 120, Golden State 90			
Friday, June 10: Golden State at Cleveland, 6 p.m.			
Monday, June 13: Cleveland at Golden State, 6 p.m.			
x-Thursday, June 16: Golden State at Cleveland, 6 p.m.			
x-Sunday, June 19: Cleveland at Golden State, 5 p.m.			

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE			
Atlanta	W	L	Pct
New York	6	2	.750
Chicago	4	4	.500
Indiana	4	4	.500
Dallas	4	4	.500
Washington	4	6	.400
Connecticut	1	7	.125

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Minnesota	W	L	Pct
Los Angeles	8	0	1.000
Dallas	8	0	1.000
Seattle	3	5	.375
Phoenix	2	6	.250

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE			
East Division			
Baltimore	W	L	Pct
Boston	35	23	.603
Tampa Bay	34	25	.576
Toronto	32	29	.525
New York	29	30	.492
Tampa Bay	27	31	.466
Central Division			
Cleveland	W	L	Pct
Kansas City	32	26	.552
Detroit	30	29	.508
Chicago	30	29	.508
Minnesota	29	30	.492
Minnesota	18	40	.310
West Division			
Texas	W	L	Pct
Seattle	36	23	.610
Houston	31	26	.549
Los Angeles	29	32	.475
Oakland	26	33	.441
Oakland	25	34	.424

Baseball

MLB			
AMERICAN LEAGUE			
East Division			
Baltimore	W	L	Pct
Boston	35	23	.603
Tampa Bay	34	25	.576
Toronto	32	29	.525
New York	29	30	.492
Tampa Bay	27	31	.466
Central Division			
Cleveland	W	L	Pct
Kansas City	32	26	.552
Detroit	30	29	.508
Chicago	30	29	.508
Minnesota	29	30	.492
Minnesota	18	40	.310
West Division			
Texas	W	L	Pct
Seattle	36	23	.610
Houston	31	26	.549
Los Angeles	29	32	.475
Oakland	26	33	.441
Oakland	25	34	.424

Baseball

NATIONAL LEAGUE			
East Division			
Washington	W	L	Pct
New York	36	23	.610
Miami	32	26	.552
Philadelphia	30	29	.508
Atlanta	29	31	.483
Atlanta	17	42	.288
Central Division			
Chicago	W	L	Pct
Pittsburgh	41	17	.707
St. Louis	32	27	.542
Milwaukee	31	28	.525
Cincinnati	28	31	.475
Cincinnati	22	37	.373
West Division			
San Francisco	W	L	Pct
Los Angeles	36	25	.590
Colorado	32	29	.525
Arizona	27	32	.458
San Diego	26	36	.419
San Diego	25	36	.410

Soccer

COPA AMERICA			
FIRST ROUND			
GROUP A			
Colombia	GP	W	D
Colombia	2	2	0
United States	2	1	0
Paraguay	2	0	1
Costa Rica	2	0	1
GROUP B			
Brazil	GP	W	D
Brazil	2	1	0

Motorsports

NASCAR Sprint Cup Series			
Points Leaders Through June 8			
1. Kevin Harvick, 490			
2. Kurt Busch, 465			
3. Brad Keselowski, 442			
4. Carl Edwards, 437			
5. Kyle Busch, 416			
6. Jimmie Johnson, 415			
7. Chase Elliott, 410			
8. Joey Logano, 410			
9. Martin Truex, Jr., 403			
10. Matt Kenseth, 382			
11. Dale Earnhardt, Jr., 381			
12. Denny Hamlin, 372			
13. Austin Dillon, 348			
14. Jamie McMurray, 342			
15. Ryan Blaney, 340			
16. Ryan Newman, 338			
17. AJ Allmendinger, 334			
18. Ricky Stenhouse, Jr., 325			
19. Casey Mears, 325			
20. Trevor Bayne, 319			