

ONE OF HAYWARD FIELD'S GREATEST RACES EVER!!



For those track fans who roared in delight two summers ago at the Olympic Trials when the state

of Oregon placed three 800 meter runners on the US Olympic team in what was called one of the "most thrilling finishes ever," nothing more could come close. Nick Symmonds finished first and his Oregon Track Club Elite teammate Christian Smith made a great stretch run to get third in a lunge at the tape.

But it was the mad sprint of the University of Oregon's Andrew Wheating, who finished in second place, that brought the crowd to its feet letting out a roar that has been heard ever since at storied Hayward Field. After, Wheating observed, "They [Hayward crowd] really pushed me through that last 100...all I heard was the crowd. I believe Oregon was 1-2-3 because of this crowd."

Leave it to Wheating, now a senior, to "shake down the thunder" once again, this time in the 1500 meters, at the NCAA Track and Field Championships that were held at Hayward Field before an all-time NCAA record attendance. Wheating, who earlier had won the 800 meters championship, doubled in the 1500, along with teammates A.J. Acosta and Matthew Centrowitz. The Oregon trio blazed the last 400 meters, igniting the crowd with a swelling cascade

of sound that carried the Ducks just barely ahead of New Mexico's Lee Emanuel and Ohio State's Jeff See.

Wheating made his move and blew down the Bowerman Curve with Acosta in the lead, and his burst got Centrowitz going at the same time. The record will show that Wheating topped Acosta by .07, who barely nipped Centrowitz for second. Centrowitz said the 1-2-3 scenario was on their minds going into the race, which at that point in the meet, seemed almost anti-climactic. "The coaches were telling us before we had a [33%] chance. We all knew it was realistic to finish 1-2-3, we all had different strategies but it all worked out down the stretch."

Wheating said of the sweep. "I was like, 'Well, that's not very good odds.' But I pulled the guys aside and said, 'Hey guys, it's our race, it's our home town, you've got 11,000 people here, they're all here for us, let's give them a show. I'm not losing to anyone but a Duck, all right.'" "We all got pumped up off that and went out and performed."

Wheating and the Ducks went into the race discouraged by the fact that key performers in the javelin and relay had less than stellar performances and Oregon had apparently dropped out of contention for the team title with eventual winner Texas A&M and runner up Florida. But what happened next shook Hayward Field and put Wheating and the two other Ducks in the record books forever, the first runners to finish 1-2-3

in the 1500 meters, giving Oregon an astounding 24 points in one race to go ahead in the team competition, 44-38 over Florida.

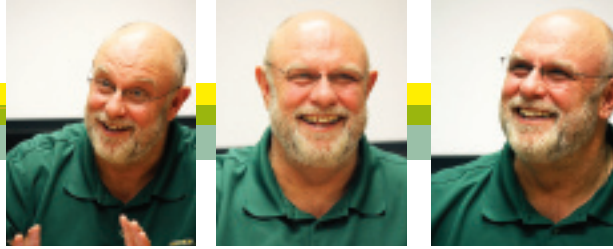
Once again, Wheating, running his final race as a Duck, observed that the Hayward Field crowd had given him the wind on his heels. "At the Olympic Trials, I didn't really pay a lot of attention to it, because it was such a focus getting to the finish," he said. "Here, I came to the turn and it was 'get to the finish' and the vibration of the crowd noise shook me sideways. It was so loud, I got so excited, and it pushed me the full 100 meters. My legs were dying, they were totally rubber. If that race was two meters longer I would have gone from first to fifth. I have to thank the crowd a million times."

Vin Lananna, Oregon Associate Athletic Director and Track and Field Director, was happy with the results of the race and the meet, "It was a fantastic meet; the athletes did really well. A great crowd that was really supportive. Track Town, USA is really awesome, especially with the record crowd."

For track fans in general and Oregon fans in particular, those "Wheating Moments" will thrill for a lifetime. The next question is: who will be the next runner (s) who will break the Hayward Field sound barrier and enter the all-time halls of destiny for Duck track and field? Stay tuned. 🕒

President's Corner

message from Don Stone



It's the start of a new athletic year at the University of Oregon and early results seem to indicate a great time ahead of us. Again, we have been hosting tailgates for all of the home Duck football games. Stop by at one of our games and get your complimentary drink coupons, sandwich and other treats, and of course, visit with old teammates and friends. Members of the Order of the O Board will be there to greet you and answer questions you may have about our organization. Bring a teammate along to sign up for the club. Don't forget, we are located in the southwest corner of the Moshofsky Center.

I am proud to announce the winners of this year's scholarship. The recipients are Rick Maier from The Dalles and Margaret Wilcox from Tualatin. Both of these young people are outstanding students with amazing credentials and accomplishments. We also hope to give a post-graduate scholarship to one of our deserving seniors in 2011.

As many of you already know, Jeff Eberhart is our new liaison to the Athletic Department. After meeting with Jeff, I found out he shares many of our visions and goals. One vision is the establishment of a mentoring program to help our graduating seniors contact former letter winners for guidance and help with their future careers. Both Jeff and I are excited about this project. The Order of the O and Oregon Athletic Department recently signed on with

"Career Athletes." We hope you participate with this organization and website. It is the venue that allows you to mentor Duck athletes, network with old teammates, and do your own career exploration. We know this will enhance the Oregon Athletic Legacy and will continue to make our University a very attractive place for future athletes.

Coming in the near future, the Order of the O website will be part of the "GoDucks" website. When that happens, our site should be more up-to-date and interactive. Our goal this year is that you will be able to renew your membership online.

This past summer, I flew to Notre Dame for the National Letterwinners Conference and soon afterwards traveled all over our nation ... 9700 miles in a car. Everywhere I went with my Duck wardrobe I was greeted with "Go Ducks." People around this country are truly taking notice of the success of all our Duck athletes and teams.

Well it's time to quit writing and focus on our new projects. Again, I look forward to serving you as your President this coming year and contact me if you have questions. My email address is dstone71@comcast.net.

Remember our club's slogan ... "athletes helping athletes; athletes honoring athletes" and as always "GO DUCKS."

Duck Runners Top NCAA Again

For the second straight season, the Oregon men's and women's track and field and cross country programs were awarded the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association named the Ducks as the recipients of the Terry Crawford women's program of the year award and the John McDonnell men's program of the year award.

To be eligible for the award, teams must qualify for each of the NCAA championships in cross country, indoor track and outdoor track. Scoring is based

on the team's finish at each of the national meets.

The Duck women ended their season with a second-place finish at the NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships on their home track at Hayward Field. Earlier in the year, Oregon claimed its first NCAA indoor championship in Fayetteville, Ark., and the Ducks finished ninth at the 2009 NCAA Cross Country Championships in Terre Haute, IN, last November. 



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Printing: **QSL Printing**

Photos: **Jack Liu, Eric Evans, John Guistina, Brian Wright, & UO Athletic Department**

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The LetterWinner is the official publication of the Order of the O and the University of Oregon Department of Intercollegiate Athletics. If you have stories, ideas, or articles about Order of the O members, address changes, or other suggestions for the please send correspondence to:

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Under Westhead

Women's Basketball Turns the Corner



Under the wise tutelage of Paul Westhead, the most senior coach in women's college basketball, the Oregon Ducks team made a tremendous comeback this season.

In contrast to their disappointing performance in 2008-09 with an 18-16 mark, they made the invitation list for the Women's National Invitational Tournament, losing out to California 71-57. The Ducks had their most wins since the 2004-05 season utilizing a run-and-gun offense which can drive opposing teams crazy. The Ducks' offense ranked among the top ten in the nation throughout the season and gives Oregon fans a lot to hope for in the seasons ahead.

The Ducks were lead by senior Taylor Lilley, who ranked among

the leaders in points per game throughout the season. Lilley ended the season with 124 three-pointers, the third all-time in NCAA history and a new Oregon and Pac-10 season record. For her four year career, Lilley made 270 three pointers which is a new Oregon record that ranks her third all-time in the Pac-10.

The Ducks found themselves outmanned underneath the boards, not boasting the big, physical players that conference champion Stanford had or California, but Westhead's offensive philosophy and his players rising to the challenge made Oregon competitive. "They never wavered," he said, "If anything, their approach to the fastbreak system and the full court press got better as the weeks and games went on."

The top returning player, forward Amanda Johnson, was third in scoring with 12.7 points per game, led the Ducks in rebounding with 8.5 rebounds per game, 45 blocked shots, third in steals, three pointers and fourth in assists. Johnson was also honored as a second-team Academic All American.

Much will be expected for the Ducks next year after a long stretch of frustration. "They as a group made the transition to a team that now expects to win," observed Westhead. "I think they needed to feel a new sense of confidence. I was happy to be on that ride with them." With confidence, a stellar coach and a new arena to play in, the sky's the limit for the Oregon women's hurricane offense and defense. Stay tuned. ☺

Women's Athletics & 19th Hall-of-Fame

New Hall-of-Fame Members



The University of Oregon Athletic Department is launching an effort to celebrate the past, present and future of Women's Athletics at the University of Oregon. Plans are underway for a campaign that will culminate with the presentation of varsity "O" letters to former female student-athletes at a celebratory banquet. Varsity letters will be awarded to female student-athletes who did not receive a varsity letter after participating on a varsity sports team or in intercollegiate athletics competition.

Hall-of-Fame Banquet was at the Portland State 2010 Football game

Three national champions, one World record-holder, one of the school's best softball players of all time and a football All-American were among the headliners who were inducted into the University of Oregon's 19th Athletics Hall of Fame circle during the weekend that the Ducks hosted Portland State in Autzen Stadium.

Five individuals, along with the 1984 NCAA men's track & field champions, formally joined the elite collection of the university's former athletics standouts at a Sept. 17 banquet in Autzen Stadium, before being introduced at halftime of the next day's football game.

Selected to the university's 2010 Athletics Hall of Fame were World and American record-holder Roscoe Cook, first-team All-America offensive lineman Tom Drougas, two-time Olympic hammer thrower Ken Flax, 1978 NCAA men's gymnastic national champion Scott McEldowney, four-time Pacific-10 all-conference shortstop Kathy Stahl, and the 1984 NCAA men's track and field national champion team.

The University of Oregon Athletic Hall of Fame was founded in 1992 to honor and recognize some of the greatest achievements of all time by Duck athletes. The formation of the Hall was brought to fruition by former director of athletics Bill Byrne. The select few elected for induction represent the very best the

University of Oregon has to offer and whom have brought honor to themselves and teammates.

The Order of the O sponsors the Hall of Fame banquet as a reminder to our fellow athletes that we honor and cherish the memories we have with former teammates, and respect the outstanding athletic achievements which have garnered them a place in the Hall of Fame.

We also honor another group of outstanding individuals who have given a great deal of energy and time to bring University of Oregon Athletics to one of the nations most competitive and respected schools in the nation. Honorary Hall of Fame members are selected by the Oregon of the O based on strict criteria, and they are presented a very special award during the Hall of Fame Banquet. ©

Kathy Stahl



Dave Frohnmyer was chosen as 2010's Honorary Member by the Order of the O

DANA ALTMAN

Named Oregon's Mens Basketball Coach



Dana Altman, the head basketball coach for Creighton University the past 16 seasons, was signed as Oregon's new coach following the dismissal of Ernie Kent at the end of the 2010 season. Altman was the winningest coach ever at Creighton, with a record of 327-176 (.650), winning 20 plus games eleven years in a row and earning post-season appearances in 13 consecutive seasons. "I think this place can be special," said the 51-year old Altman, "I'm not going to make any bold predictions, I'm not going to sit back and say 'it's going to take a while.' We're going to compete and try to find a way next year."

Altman's success with the Bluejays attracted the interest of the University of Oregon and Pat Kilkenny, the former UO director of athletics who headed up the search for Kent's replacement. It was a job Altman did not apply for: "This is a job you don't apply for, if they want you they'll come and get you."

The energetic Altman won Coach of the Year four times in three different

conferences before coming to Oregon, but there were other reasons for hiring him. "In addition to the hiring of a basketball coach with strong ethics and solid personal values, there were three criteria that were very important to me and this university during the search," interim Athletics Director Lorraine Davis emphasized. "First, we wanted someone who recruited students of high quality and character as individuals, academically as well as athletically. Secondly, we sought someone who ran a clean program with integrity. And third, we went after a coach who had experience with building and maintaining winning programs with the reputation as a great coach. We have that in Dana Altman. It's a great day for Oregon Athletics."

Altman's Creighton team finished in the top thirty in the country in attendance the past seven years, with an average of 14,495 fans per game the past season. This is an area where Oregon fans are looking for a boost, as home attendance lagged uncharacteristically the past two years at Mac Court. With 12,500 seats to fill in the Matt Knight arena in 2011, there is a need for a competitive basketball team right off the bat.

Coach Altman's teams won three conference championships during his tenure, but went on to win six post-season conference tournament titles. His best season may have been 2008-09, when the Bluejays won 27 games, averaged 15,930 fans per game at home and a conference record 302,676 fans for the season.

Counting five years as head coach at Marshall and Kansas State, Altman racked up a career record of 410-243 (.628) at the Division I level. The

total for his 25-year career as a head coach is a resounding 533-267 (.666). Duck fans obviously hope Altman can bring the same kind of results to the Oregon program, which reached the Elite Eight twice under former head coach Ernie Kent. When asked about the possibility of getting the Ducks into the March Big Dance, Altman said, "We've got a couple of seniors who hope it's right away. I'm not going to sell them short. The seniors want to go next year."

As a player, Altman began playing at Southeast Junior College in 1976. He completed his college basketball career at Eastern New Mexico University and earned an associate degree in business administration and graduated magna cum laude in the same field in 1980. He continued his education at Western Colorado State where he earned a master of business administration degree while serving as an assistant coach from 1980 - 1982.

The personable Duck coach played quarterback on the football team and guard on the basketball team at Wilber (Nebraska) High School and was all-conference in both sports. Altman was born in 1958 and he and his wife, Reva have three sons: Jordan, Chase and Spencer, and one daughter, Audra.

Altman makes no promises for next year: "My job is to put our team in a position to win and if I have to make adjustments to do that, we will. We can play a lot of different ways. I'm not hardheaded, we'll figure out a way to win a game." Sounds like the kind of attitude Oregon fans are looking for as they say goodbye to Mac Court, and welcome a new era to Matt Knight arena and Duck basketball. ☉



ALMOST REACHING FULL POTENTIAL

Oregon's men's basketball team, an Elite Eight team three years ago, struggled to an eighth-place finish in the Pac-10 this past season, ultimately costing Ernie Kent the head coaching position. The Ducks won their first game in the Pac-10 conference playoffs, an overtime win over Washington State, but lost to the ultimate conference champion California in the quarterfinals.

Oregon struggled all season, winning only 3 of 9 conference games at McArthur Court, traditionally one of the most difficult venues for visiting teams to play in all of college basketball. Under Kent, the Ducks were off to a 10-4 season start and 2-0 in the conference, only to go 6-12 the rest of the season, finishing eighth in the

PAC-10. Kent ended his career as Oregon's all-time winningest coach with a 235-173 record in 13 seasons, which included a Coach of the Year award in 2002, but the lack of improvement over the past two years did him in.

The Ducks were mediocre shooting from the field and abysmal from the three-point line. They were not able to contain the stars of the various Pac-10 teams that prevailed in what was the last conference season for the Ducks' 83-year old arena. Although pre-season games and a few conference games will still be played in Mac Court next season, the majority of the 2011 season will be played in the Matt Knight Arena under new head coach Dana Altman.

The lone bright spot for the Ducks was the play of senior guard Tajuan Porter, who broke the Pac-10 record for three-point shots made in a career (345 in 126 games), passing the former record holder Salim Stoudamire who made 342 in 2002-05. Porter also broke the record for most three-pointers attempted with 896 during his career.

The diminutive guard, who only measured 5'6", also finished fifth in Oregon history with 1,803 points, eighth in field goals made (584), and ninth in steals (103). ©

Lauren Goss Seeks Female Alums' Input

"As the daughter of an Order of the O member, Carol H. Goss, as well the recipient of the 2008 Order of the O Scholarship, I believe in the importance of providing opportunities for female athletes in sports. I participated in several sports throughout my life, and know

that the enormous opportunities for female athletes, such as myself, were direct results of the historic Title IX legislation. Consequently, I am in the midst of research for my Robert D. Clark Honors College thesis about the impacts of Title IX on University of Oregon female athletes. A significant portion

of my research is focused on oral interviews. If you would like to share your story, please contact me at lgoss@uoregon.edu. I look forward to hearing and recording your experiences."

Thank you,
Lauren Goss

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NEWSLETTER | FALL 2010

GREAT RACE

HAYWARD FIELD

DANA ALTMAN
NEW BBALL COACH

COACH WESTHEAD
WOMEN'S BBALL

Hall-of-Fame Banquet | BBALL TEAM

