

SPORTSNEWS



Kaylene Wagner (left) and Sharon Day. (Photo taken April 26, 2005. Sacramento Bee / Bryan Patrick)

WITH THE GREATEST OF EASE

BY JOHN SCHUMACHER

One comes from Costa Mesa, the other from Goleta, two laid-back ladies soaring high in their days at Cal Poly.

Meet Sharon Day and Kaylene Wagner, a pair of 20-year-olds who keep raising the bar in their high-jumping careers with the Mustangs.

Day won the NCAA Division I Outdoor Championship in Sacramento in June, setting a school record with a personal best 6-foot, 4-inch clearance. She then jumped 6-2 3/4 to finish third at the USA Outdoor Championships in Carson.

Wagner, third in the 2004 NCAA Division I Outdoor Championships and fifth in the U.S. Olympic Trials last year, struggled down the stretch in 2005. She placed 10th in the NCAAAs

and finished eighth in the USA Outdoor Championships, her 5-10 3/4 clearance in both meets well off her personal best of 6-3 1/2 set last year.

The good news is both plan to jump again for Cal Poly, with the 6-foot-1-

inch, 135-pound Wagner heading into her senior year, and the 5-foot-8-inch, 145-pound Day preparing for life as a junior.

"I can't be any happier: a win and a personal record," Day said after winning the NCAA title. She then celebrated with a Cal Poly tradition, apple pie.

And after finishing third in the USA Outdoor meet, she was once again all smiles. "I'm very pleased with it," she said of her breakout season.

Day, an all-around star athlete in her high school days in Costa Mesa, was an all-Big West Conference pick in soccer last season at Cal Poly. Yet she talks with a healthy dose of modesty. So does Wagner, who looks forward to regaining her top form.

"I think I did so well last year that I expected a lot from myself this year," said Wagner, from Goleta. "I've learned a lot."

As they seek new heights, Day and Wagner remain supportive of each other.

"It's awesome having someone at the same level with the same hopes and desires," Wagner said.

Said Day, "There's always someone to push you higher, so it's really good for us."

And really good for Cal Poly.

"We're very fortunate to have them," said Terry Crawford, Cal Poly's head track coach. "These are two outstanding young ladies."

Both kinesiology majors fit their track workouts around their class schedules. When not studying or working out, Wagner enjoys outdoor recreation; Day likes to shop, dance and hang out with friends.

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"It's certainly worthy of pursuing because they are capable," Coach Crawford said. "That's a very realistic goal for those two jumpers." ■