

# Burton's bid falls short at Olympic Trials

**Evergreen graduate does not advance to hammer finals**

**By GREG JAYNE**  
*Columbian Sports editor*

EUGENE — Kate Burton chalked up her Olympic Trials performance Thursday to a lack of communication.

"Your mind doesn't feel nervous, but your body reacts in a totally different way," the Vancouver native said after failing to advance out of qualifying in the women's hammer throw.

"My brain was feeling great. My legs felt heavy. They just didn't feel connected."

Burton, a graduate of Evergreen High School and Clark College, was competing in her first national championships.

The University of Wyoming senior qualified for the Trials at Hayward Field this spring, then won the Western Athletic Conference championship.

She was one of 24 women to reach the Olympic Trials, and was ranked 19th this year in the event.

Throwing in the first of two flights, Burton finished 12th among 12 competitors with a top mark of 194 feet, 6 inches. She stood in 12th after a first-round mark of 187-11, intentionally scratched following a poor throw in the second round, and

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Merritt tops  
Wariner in upset in  
men's 400 meters

unleashed  
her best  
throw in the  
final round.

Jessica  
Cosby led  
the 12 quali-  
fiers for

Saturday's final with a mark of 228-8 on her only throw of the day.

Burton had qualified for Olympic Trials with a throw of 209-8 in May at the Front Range Invitational in Laramie, Wyo. That beat her previous best by 12 feet and gave her a ticket to Eugene.

Burton had no expectations of making the Olympic team, but she saw the Trials as a learning experience for possible future national championship meets. She has completed her collegiate eligibility, but has a year remaining before earning a degree in mechanical engineering while deciding whether to continue competing.

"Since I know that I'm not going to make it to Beijing, I look at this as a practice," she said. "It turns out this was a bad practice."

Still, the experience was a positive one.

"It's hard to say that you competed at the Olympic Trials and have it be a negative," Burton said. "I just have to keep in mind I'm one of 24 girls to get here."

MARK YLEN/For The Columbian

**Kate Burton, a former Evergreen High School and Clark College standout, had a top mark of 194 feet, 6 inches in the women's hammer throw at the U.S. Olympic Trials.**