

Ducks chipping the ice for Alaskan swim meet

Swimming in Alaska in the dead of winter? Come on now, everyone knows Alaska is frozen over this time of year. It's so cold up there people don't even set foot outside their igloos, much less chip the ice off the water for a swim.

But as luck would have it, Oregon's swim team is currently engaged in just that. No, not chipping ice off the water, but rather swimming against the University of Alaska at Fairbanks.

After an excursion to Pullman the Ducks headed for "Seward's Folly" Wednesday and their second and final away meet of the season. But after such blessings from the schedule maker, perhaps it is

just as well. Of course the Ducks could always write a book about those out of the way winter vacation spots.

But the trip is by no means a waste for the Ducks. Alaska has put together their best team of the short swimming history of the school and the Ducks will face several fine swimmers. Additionally, the meet will have a format like that of the Pac-8 meet which is now only two weeks away. Thus, for the second time this season Oregon has the opportunity to swim under championship conditions and the practice is bound to be of help.

Both Alaska and Oregon have begun to taper off their training schedules in order to help their swimmers meet the post season qualifying marks. This should help to make a weaker Alaska squad more competitive with the Ducks. Alaska has the added incentive of "homecoming." And it truly is for them, since it will be their first home meet ever.

One of the match-ups that should be very interesting is in the 500 yard freestyle. Oregon's freshman distance ace Steve Williams will be matched against Alaska's Alan Cardwell. In competition, both swimmers have recorded nearly equal times in the 4:56.0 range. Cardwell however has dipped some six seconds below that time in recent practice sessions and is looking for a berth in the NCAA's. In the 400 individual medley, Pat O'Malley, Oregon's senior co-captain, will be looking to lower his time in the event while facing Alaska's Max Hoberg. Both have already qualified for the national championships with times in the 4:20.0 range and the race should be close.

'Flying Ducks' due for wins

The "Flying Ducks" should get back on the winning track this weekend, as they are rated to outpoint both Portland State and Washington State without much trouble. They have already disposed of Portland State once this season, and they shouldn't be pushed very hard by the Cougars.

Due to scheduling difficulties, the dual meet originally set for today has turned into a three way affair to be held Saturday evening at 7:30 in Portland. However, the Ducks will have two home encounters next weekend.

A few wins should be a welcome change for the Oregon team, as they have dropped five of their last six matchups, although all to nationally ranked teams. The recent road swing, albeit rather lean in the won-loss department, did accomplish several goals. The team had a chance to take on the best competition available, hopefully a taste of things to come for the Oregon program. They continued to score fairly well, although they were somewhat weak in Illinois.

Finally the coaches and competitors met a number of outstanding high school gymnasts who are now interested in the Oregon program. This, in addition to coach Ballester's contacts made through clinic work in the summer, should give a big boost to recruiting. Assistant coach Makoto Sakamoto summed up the trip as "a good learning experience for everybody."

Saturday's meet will give the squad a chance to improve their seasonal team best of 151.20, set last month against Central Washington State.

Club Sports

Table tennis team, soccer's Coots, Mallards home

Home games will be scarce this weekend as the club sports schedule unfolds with just soccer and table tennis on campus. masters of the green netted table will host the University of Port-

land and hopefully display the form that recently won them the Region XIV doubles championship and carried them through their last meet with a record of 25-3-0. Things will start bouncing at 1:30 p.m. in room 350 of the Gerlinger annex.

Also in seventh day activity the Coots and the Mallards will host a double header in Autzen Stadium. The Coots will kick off the soccer action as they host the Bavarian Blitzers, a Eugene city team, at 1 p.m. Immediately following that game the Mallards will take on the newly formed African All-Stars. The All-Stars are a campus team made up primarily of Nigerian students on campus and two years ago were members of the Willamette league.

Several teams will take to the road for their activities this

weekend. Among those are the rugby team who is on the way to Canada for a three day stay and games Saturday with the University of British Columbia and Monday with the University of Washington. Injuries and class scheduling will weaken the team somewhat but they hope to do fairly well in spite of missing a few key players.

The judo team will split into two groups as six competitors head for Ontario, Oregon and the Ore-Idaho Championships. Three other Ducks will be on the highway headed for the Bay Area and the University of California Invitationals. They are hopeful of bringing home several medals from the Ontario meet but unsure of what to expect in Berkeley.

Monday the bowlers will continue competition in the City Tournament at Empire Lanes

where they currently are in first and third places for the team event with a little over half of the teams having completed their games. That will be night competition in singles and doubles beginning at 6.

The fields are set for two soccer tournaments to be held at Autzen Stadium within the next few weeks. February 26 and 27 the Mallards will host five teams in the Oregon Undergraduate Invitational tournament and a week later the Ducks will entertain a four team field in the Oregon Senior Invitational.

For the first contest the field will be highlighted by Simon Frazier (13-1-1) who will bring down two Olympic competitors with them and Portland State (17-3-1) who are out to set the NCAA record during this tournament. They presently have scored 108 goals and need only eight more to tie the old mark.

Also in the running will be Malaspina Soccer Club (8-1-1) from Canada, Humbolt State (7-3) from California and Lewis and Clark (7-1-2). Oregon's Mallards sport a record of 7-5 but have been playing much better soccer lately.

The six teams will compete for two days with Saturday action beginning at 9 in the morning and running most of the day. The finals will begin at 10 Sunday.

Just a week later it will be the Ducks turn to play against some of the best European and Canadian soccer players in the area. Norburn's Soccer Club from Vancouver B.C. will bring down an old Duck with them as Rick Houghton is on their roster. Houghton played both baseball and soccer for Oregon the past two years.

Also on the roster are Western Washington State and Germania Soccer Club of Portland. The latter team, made up of many German and Dutch players, is a perennial powerhouse in the area and in two meetings with the Ducks have lost narrowly and tied once.

Meet cancelled

The gymnastics match with Washington State, scheduled for Friday in McArthur Court, has been cancelled. Oregon's "Flying Ducks" will meet the Cougars, along with Portland State, in a three-way meet, Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in Portland.

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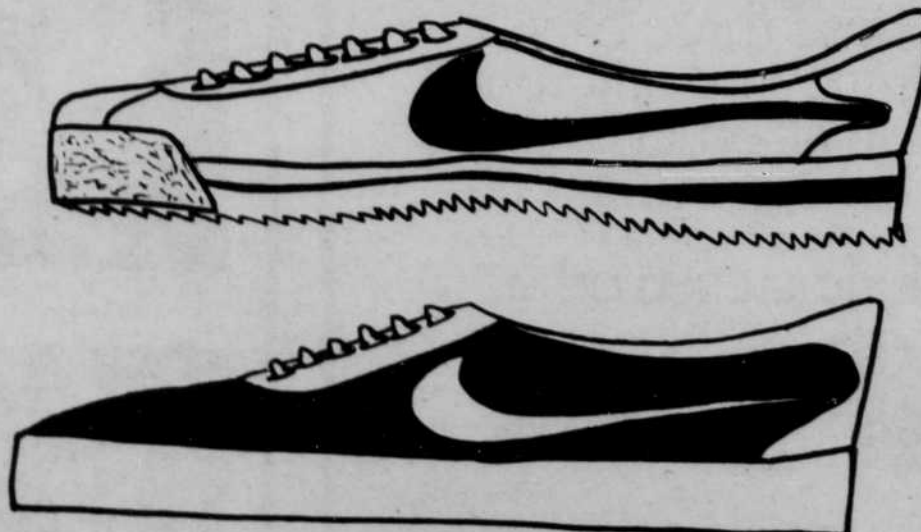
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