

Oregon-Huskie track

Ducks want early lead

Bill Dellinger wants to get an early lead in his first dual meet as Oregon's head track coach.

He may have to if he wants to win the Pac-8 encounter with Washington's Huskies at 1 p.m. Saturday in Hayward Field.

Even though the Ducks took it to the Huskies 109-54 in last year's dual in Seattle, Dellinger knows Washington can give his team all they can handle this year in the high jump (Darryl LaVerdue, 6-10), pole vault (Jeff Taylor and Gary Dankworth, both over 16 feet), javelin (NCAA runner-up Gary Quitsland has the third best college throw in the nation this spring, 251-6) and hurdles (both Terry Lavery and Brian Mondschein handled Oregon's Paul Wilkinson easily in the 440-intermediates at Bakersfield and should score easily against the Ducks' two freshman entries in the 120-highs.)

Knowing all this, Dellinger is going to lead with his strength, putting Steve Prefontaine in the one-mile run.

"We need a victory there to set the tempo of the meet. We need a sure thing and that's why we're running Pre," says Dellinger.

The addition of Pre to a field of Oregon milers that includes on-again-off-again sophomores Mark Feig and Scott Daggatt, should make the early tempo-setter an interesting race. Washington will counter with Bob Brandon, 4:10.1, but eighth in the Pac-8 meet last year, and Rick Albright, 4:10.2 this spring but fourth — and ahead of all Oregon finishers — in the Pac-8 last year.

Daggatt ran the tenth best mile in the nation this spring while defeating Albright in Bakersfield, but both he and Feig have been inconsistent.

"That's why I'm running Pre in the mile. I think Daggatt and Feig could go one-two there, but I'm just not sure... they're so inconsistent."

Other close races Saturday should include the mile relay and the 880-yard run, where sophomore Steve Bence (the nation's third best half-miler and sixth best miler this spring) continues his rivalry with Washington freshman Greg Gibson (1:50.0 and fifth in the nation). Gibson beat Bence indoors at Portland but the Oregon sophomore has come back to beat Gibson the last two times they've met.



Half-miler Steve Bence

He owns third-fastest 880 time in nation (1:49.7), battles Greg Gibson (1:50.0) Saturday in Oregon-Washington dual meet.

Anderson has five RBIs, Ducks win

FOREST GROVE — Bob Anderson was the hitting star Thursday as Oregon beat Pacific 12-7 for its seventh victory in 10 games.

Next is a crucial three-game series with Washington State, beginning today with a single game at Howe Field at 3 p.m. Coach Mel Krause has named Mike Shoup, unbeaten at 2-0 and with a lifetime mark of 9-0, to pitch the opener. Saturday the Ducks will pitch Steve Townsend and Steve Miller in a doubleheader.

The Ducks bounced in front of Pacific after three innings on the strength of Anderson's three-run double and Dave Roberts' bases-loaded walk.

Oregon scored five more in the fourth inning, and Anderson accounted for two of those with a two-run homer.

The Boxers cut it to 9-7 in the eighth, but with two gone in the ninth the Ducks scored three more times to ice it.

A tough act to follow:

Dellinger carries on Bowerman tradition

By BOB WELCH
Of the Emerald

It began in 1904 with a man named Colonel William Hayward. As head track coach at the University of Oregon, Hayward began a tradition of successful cinder squads until he stepped down in 1948.

One of his ex-runners, a lanky lad who had run the quartermile so poorly he admits today "I was lucky to even be on the team," took over the reins. His name was Bill Bowerman and in 24 years he proved he could coach better than he could run. So much better, in fact, that he became the finest track and field coach America has ever seen.

And now, as the legendary Bowerman steps down to concentrate fully on campaigning for the restoration of the creaky west grandstands at Hayward Field, he, like Hayward, leaves one of his ex-runners to uphold the highly-successful Duck track program.

His name is Bill Dellinger, an assistant to Bowerman for the past five years, a one-time national and Olympic distance ace and a track coach at nearby Thurston High School for six years. Most importantly, though, is the fact that



Photo by Steve Twedt

in all three endeavors Dellinger was open to the influence of the great teacher — Bowerman himself.

"Being associated with Bowerman for the last 20 years, some of his influence has to rub off on you," says Dellinger, who turned 40 on the day that Bowerman announced his retirement. "The counsel I've received from him over the years has been... well... there's just no way of putting a value on it."

Dellinger first met Bowerman, who already had a high reputation as a track coach, as a freshman at Grants Pass High School. Moving to Springfield as a sophomore, Dellinger met occasionally with Bowerman for workouts, but in the meantime made plans for attending Oregon State's school of forestry.

Then he changed his mind. After winning the state mile and half mile titles as a senior, he threw away his applications to OSU and "came to Oregon to run for Bowerman."

That he did. Dellinger's college career included winning the NCAA mile championship in 1954, placing second to teammate Jim Bailey in the 1955 NCAA mile and winning the 1956 NCAA 5000 meter championship, besides garnering the PCC (Pacific Coast Conference) distance titles in as many years.

After college, he held the American record for the 1500 meter run in 3:41.5. Dellinger also held two world indoor records at one time in 1959 — the two mile in 8:49.9 and the three mile in 13:37.0.

His encore included three Olympic 5000 meter runs — 1956, 1960 and 1964 — the latter in which he finished a highly-successful third.

Dellinger — like he does so often — compliments his teacher for his success.

"When I was running for him, he (Bowerman) did things for me that I think were largely responsible for me doing as well as I did."

After a three year stint in the Air Force, Dellinger returned to Oregon and completed work for his M.Ed. degree in Education. He then

coached at Springfield's Thurston High School from 1960 through 1966, all the time communicating with Bowerman "at least weekly for tips on improving my own track program."

"In the back of my mind I suppose I always thought it would be nice to be coaching at the U of O someday."

Someday came in the summer of 1967. Dellinger joined the Duck staff as an assistant track coach and head cross country coach. His cross country teams won the NCAA championship in 1971, was runner-up in 1970 and third in 1972 and 1969. His work with the track team was successful. Dellinger had made the grade.

As an assistant coach, Dellinger's praise for Bowerman continued. "He'd give me something to do and allow me to do it without stepping in and trying to tell me how to do it. That's a tough thing for a man to do. I respected him and knew him well enough to do the job to the best of my ability."

Dellinger sees no great changes in the Oregon track program. "My philosophies are very similar to Bowerman's and any changes will probably be only minor ones."

"I'm personally dedicating my coaching on the tradition and building on to the foundation that Bill Hayward and Bill Bowerman have started here at Oregon."

As head coach, Dellinger's duties will not change drastically. The difference is that he must do more of everything — coaching, recruiting and office work.

Bill Dellinger is now a much busier man than before. Last Wednesday is a prime example. . . . He talks with athletic director Norv Ritchey. Once in his office, a room he shares with Bowerman that is clad like wallpaper in All-American awards, Dellinger answers a phone call. Bowerman explains the screw threads of his latest track shoe while Dellinger listens from the phone. A runner comes in. He must miss a meeting. Dellinger says OK. The interview begins with a local reporter. The phone rings. It is UCLA coach Jim Bush and he's unhappy with the scoring system Dellinger has proposed for Saturday's four-way meet with Oregon, Nebraska and Washington State. Dellinger doesn't budge but tells Bush he'll talk to Bowerman and Ritchey and call back. They chat for a while. Bush asks how things are going. "Hectic," says Dellinger. "I'm one step behind the whole way."

Yet while Dellinger is much busier now, he says he doesn't feel much pressure in facing the task of maintaining the outstanding track program developed by Bowerman, one of the nation's best.

"I really don't feel the pressure... maybe I should. I just feel about this job as I would if I were getting ready to compete in a race. I'm here to do my best job in carrying on the tradition of Oregon track."

Bowerman calls Hayward "the most amazing man anyone ever knew."

Dellinger calls Bowerman "the greatest track and field coach in the world."

It makes you wonder what words of praise Dellinger's successor will offer him when he steps down after his reign.

Bill Bowerman is a tough act to follow.



Photo by James Link