

Ducks finish fifth, but take 1-2-3 in 1,500

Oregon goes the distance in Berkeley



Peter Spir (64) collected the only Oregon win of the meet as teammate Matt Centrowitz (49) picked up second place in the 1,500. Both runners were clocked at 3:42.0.

Oregon scoring (10-8-6-4-2-1)

Friday

HAMMER — 2, Rich Perkins, 197-10. 5, Ray Burton, 162-10. **STEEPLECHASE** — 6, Gary Barger, 9:10.8. **LONG JUMP** — 6, Teddy Farmer, 22-11½. **JAVELIN** — 2, Jeff Carter, 244-0. **SHOT PUT** — 4, Dave Voorhees, 58-6½. **10,000** — 6, Terry Williams, 30:27.2.

Saturday

DECATHLON — 5, Jim Smith, 6:55.1. **400 METER RELAY** — 5, Oregon, 40.6. **1,500** — 1, Peter Spir, 3:42.0. 2, Matt Centrowitz, 3:42.0. 3, Randal Markey, 3:48.7. 6, Gary Sievers, 3:49.9. **400** — 5, Dacre Bowen, 46.7. **800** — 5, Mark Perry, 1:55.3. **DISCUS** — 5, Dave Voorhees, 183-10. 6, Ray Burton, 181-8. **200** — 6, Chris Brathwaite, 21.5. **HIGH JUMP** — 4, Greg Fries, 6-11½. **5,000** — 2, Dave Taylor, 13:51.2. 4, Don Clary, 14:10.0.

TEAM TOTALS — Southern California 180, Washington 99, UCLA 95, Washington State 88, Oregon 77, California 53, Oregon State 38, Stanford 21.

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BERKELEY — Oregon's track team, crippled by injuries, again relied on a tradition — quality distance runners — to eke out 77 points for a fifth-place finish in the Pacific-8 track and field championships here Friday and Saturday.

Peter Spir, Matt Centrowitz and Randal Markey, three Ducks who went into the meet with the best times in the conference, finished 1-2-3 in the 1,500 meters Saturday. That, coupled with teammate Gary Sievers' sixth place finish, gave Oregon nearly a third of their total points (25) in one race alone.

Then, in the next-to-last event, the 5,000, Dave Taylor gave the Ducks eight more as he ran down everyone but Washington State's John Ngeno to finish in 13:51.2, a personal best that was also Ngeno's winning time.

Duck freshman Don Clary finished fourth in that race, outkicking WSU's John Kineto for a time of 14:10.0.

There were other high points for Oregon, such as Jeff Carter's second in the javelin, Rich Perkins' second-place hammer finish and Greg Fries' personal best of 6-11½ in the high jump, good for a fourth-place tie with USC's Rod Conner.

But there were also blue moments for the Ducks — and many of those as they sunk to their worst Pac-8 finish ever.

While Craig Brigham didn't even make the trip south, defending champion Gary Barger placed far back at sixth place in the steeple behind eventual winner Graham Barr of Washington.

Dave Voorhees, who managed a fourth place finish in the shot Friday, could hardly move his knee the next day as he armed the discus to a 183-10, fifth place spot.

Oregon head coach Bill Dellinger was pretty quiet about the whole affair.

"I have mixed emotions about the meet," said Dellinger. "We missed our key guys, but I'm not unhappy. The people that didn't have injury handicaps competed very well.

"Voorhees threw well for his knee being the way it was, Taylor ran well and Fries scoring was good. I think you can't read the entire meet into the point totals."

Southern California set a new meet record by scoring 180 points, more than UCLA's total of 156 in 1973. Washington, after capturing all the throwing events, finished a surprising second with 99, while UCLA was third (95), Washington State finished fourth (88) and then came Oregon.

Other Ducks, healthy to a degree, were pleased with their performances. After Washington's Rod Ewaliko threw a new Pac-8 record of 265-3 on his first javelin attempt, Carter went out and insured his second-place spot with a toss of 244-3 after a foul on his first throw.

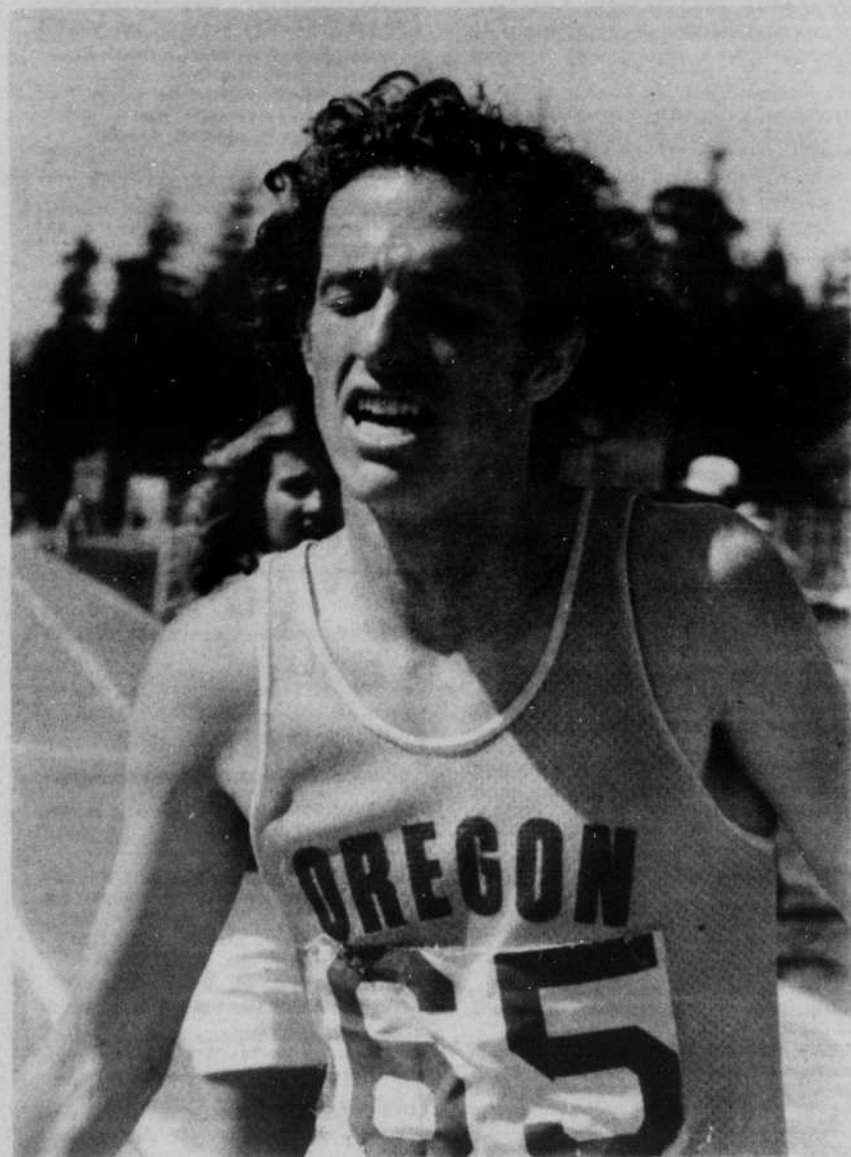
"I'm hoping for that (265) myself," said Carter. "Rod's throws were low, and mine were hanging up and dying. My elbow's been bothering me for three weeks now. I'm pleased — real pleased, though. It's just a matter of concentrating on what I'm doing."

Spir and Centrowitz, however, were concentrating so much they didn't know who won until after the race. Both runners were clocked at 3:42.0, but Spir leaned to the win.

"We didn't know who was first until we got on the award stand," said Spir. "He (Centrowitz) deserved to win as much as I did after leading all the way."

After a couple more meets, the Ducks will attempt to regain some lost pride in the NCAA championships June 3-5 in Philadelphia.

And, with a little luck and a lot fewer injuries, Oregon may be able to continue a tradition in more than its fine distance running.



Second place finishes by Dave Taylor in the 5,000 (above) and javelin thrower Jeff Carter (right) contributed needed points as the injured Ducks struggled to a fifth place Pac-8 finish.

