

Oregon hosts first Pac-8 coed dual meet

By STEVE GEIGER
Of the Emerald

The University men's track team will attempt to continue its dominance over Washington Saturday afternoon when it takes on the Huskies at Hayward Field in a 12:30 p.m. meet.

The meet will also include competition between the Oregon and Washington women's teams in the first Pac-8 co-ed dual meet ever, beginning at noon.

The Ducks open their regular season against a team they've beaten 20 times in the last 23 meetings since 1954. The last time the Huskies defeated the Ducks was two years ago, 90-73, but Oregon won in 1975, 95.5 to 67.5, and last year by 84 to 79.

The opening competition for the men's meet will be the hammer throw at 12:30, followed by the long jump, pole vault, javelin and shot put, all beginning between 1:15 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.

The running events will begin with the 3,000 meters at 2 p.m., and the meet will culminate with both men and women mile relays at 4:15 p.m.

The hammer throw could be the toughest event for the Ducks to win, even though three Ducks are entered to just one Husky, Scott Nielson, who won the 1976 NCAA title in that event as a freshman. Nielson also holds the Pac-8 record with a 221-5 toss.

Ray Burton, John McArdle and Ron Perkins will challenge Nielson, with Burton's 177-10 lifetime best as the top throw among the three Ducks.

The event most people will be waiting for is the 5,000 meter run, which will give Eugene track enthusiasts their first close-up look at freshmen Rudy Chapa and Alberto Salazar. The pair starred in cross country last fall, both gaining all-American status with Chapa finishing ninth in the NCAA title race.

Salazar, who won the 5,000 meter event in the USA-USSR Junior Track and Field Meet in 1976, will probably challenge Washington's Steve Surface for the top spot in the race. Salazar's best is 14:04 while Surface has managed to lower his personal best from 14:17.4 to 13:56.6 this spring.

Sophomore Steve McChesney, with a best of 14:22.6, also will run in the 5,000 meters, as will Washington's Tim Murray, who has a 14:08.0 best, and Gordy Braun. The race will be Chapa's first attempt at 5,000 meters.

Another big challenge for the Ducks will be Washington's Robert Gaines in the 110 high hurdles. Gaines is the defending Pac-8 champion with a lifetime best of 13.57 seconds and a season's best of 14.1. Stan Whigham and Phil Bransom will be running against Gaines for Oregon.



Graphic by Steve Sandstrom

The Ducks have four Olympians back this year, all will be running Saturday. Matt Centrowitz and Peter Spir will be a one-two punch expected to take the 1,500-meter run, while Dacre Bowen and Al Dukowski make another good combination in the 200 meter dash.

Bowen will also run in the 400, and Dukowski will compete in the 100-meter dash. Centrowitz was the only U.S. Olympian, while the other three ran for Canada.

Saturday's meet is the first of five dual meets over the next five successive weekends. Next week the Ducks host UCLA, then travel to Washington State April 16. Oregon hosts Arizona State April 23 and travels to Oregon State April 30. UCLA, WSU and ASU are three of the top eight teams in the nation, along with Oregon.

By KIM SPIR
Of the Emerald

Track is back at Oregon, and for the first time in Pacific-8 history Duck fans can watch both the men's and women's teams competing simultaneously on the same track.

Yet, rather than preoccupying themselves with trend-setting, coaches Tom Heinonen and Peter Thompson eagerly await the chance to present their "incredibly improved" squad to an appreciative audience as the women's team opens its season against Washington Saturday at Hayward Field.

Sprint coach Thompson is particularly anxious to see how his sprinters perform despite the noticeable absence of Mary Officer in her standard five events. Because of possible ligament damage to her foot, Officer is limited to the 400-meter run and the long jump.

She'll pit her 400 best of 55.7 against teammates Deliene Wikoff (59.23y), Georgine Rose (60.8) and Washington's Maggie Garrison (58.0).

Carol Amaral, Dawna Rose and Kathy Guiney are Oregon's entries in the 100-meter sprint. Amaral, with a best of 11.9, highlighted her indoor season finishing second by 200ths of a second to Canadian Olympian Margo Howe in the Portland Indoor 60-yard dash.

Amaral will also run the 200 with teammate Georgine Rose (25.1) and newcomer Rose Ann Klingerman (26.2).

Though Amaral hasn't run the 100-meter hurdles since high school, she'll fill in for Officer in

that event Saturday facing two Washington hurdlers with outstanding 13.8 and 14.3 marks. Oregon sophomore Kori Hasselblad (14.9) and senior Mary Lou Armstrong will compete as well.

Armstrong is listed among the 400-meter hurdle entries (68.2) with teammate Sandy Trowbridge (68.5).

Ellen Schmidt, state AAA 880 champ from West Albany, Ore., (2:11.6) highlights the women's 800-meter run with senior Debbie Roth (2:10), sophomore Dala Ramsey (2:13.6) and Washington's Tracy Rottingham (2:19.5).

Roth, a veteran of several international cross country teams and a competitor in the 1976 summer U.S. Olympic Trials, will also run the 3000 meters. Oregon's Jennifer Daniell, a marathoner with a two-mile time of 11:49, and Linfield transfer Leslie Hillman also will run in that event.

The 1500 includes OSU transfer Robin Baker (5:03y), and her teammates Cheryl Bates (5:02y) and Kim Spir (4:38.1).

Oregon's field events are dominated this year by several Oregon high school state champions including Mary Stevenson, Oregon state A discus champion from Bonanza and a two-year member of the U.S. Junior National team. Her best throw is 156-8½, while freshman Kathy Picknell from North Bend dominated the state AAA discus last year at 138-11. Both will compete for Oregon Saturday.

Senior Lesley Winbigler and freshmen Katie McLaughlin and Lori Parsons will compete in the javelin for the first time.

Second after compulsories

Ducks close to NCAA title

By MIKE MARINO
Of the Emerald

TEMPE — Scoring a team total of 211.75 points to stand in second place, Oregon is in excellent position to possibly capture the crown after the compulsory round of the 1977 NCAA gymnastics finals.

"I thought we did extremely well," said Oregon coach Bill Ballester. "The all-around guys; everybody did a super job."

Oregon is second to Oklahoma, who leads after the compulsories with a total of 215.65, with Indiana State third and Southern Connecticut fourth.

Oregon leads two events after

Tourney draws lone woman

The University Spring Tennis Championships has received almost 100 entries and drawn men players from around the Northwest, but only one woman sent in an entry.

Also Oregon's only returning lettermen, Jim Wilson and Steve Hard, will square off about 9 a.m. Saturday.

the first round, Curt Rodgers on top as expected on his specialty, the pommel horse, and Don Lester leading in his top event, the floor exercise. Oregon's Tom Truedson stands third in the horse with a 9.3 to Rodgers 9.5, and Scott McEldowney is trailing Olympian Curt Thomas of Oklahoma on the still rings 9.45 to 9.4.

Ballester pointed out that after the first round not only Oregon but indeed the whole Pac-8 is well represented in the standings, with Washington's Melvin Cooley leading the high bar and the Huskies' Steve Wejmar in first place in the vault.

Although Ballester was not necessarily pleased with the scoring by the meet officials, he was very pleased with some of the individual efforts of his Ducks, notably freshman Jim Vokurka. "Jim had, or is having, an outstanding meet," said the coach, "he contributed counting scores in all four events he entered." Vokurka had been bothered by both the flu and a sore shoulder since the Duck's Pac-8 conference triumph, and if he is healthy for the remainder of the nationals he could prove a pivotal factor in Oregon's title hopes.

Ballester, who was named western region coach of the year this week in Tempe, thinks Oklahoma's lead is not too much to overcome. "Tomorrow night's scores are added to tonight's and then averaged, so their lead is really not much," he said. "If we keep up the good work, we'll be right in there."

The meet continues tonight with the optionals and concludes Saturday with the individual finals.

Team — Oklahoma 215.65, Oregon 211.75, Indiana State 210.95, Southern Connecticut 208.30, Minnesota 208.25, Southern Illinois 206.15, Louisiana State 206.00, Arizona State 204.80.

Pommel Horse — Curt Rodgers, Oregon, 9.5, Tony Hansen, New Mexico, 9.35, Tom Truedson, Oregon, 9.3, Blaine Dahl, Louisiana State, 9.2, Curt Thomas, Indiana State, 9.15, Chuck Walter, New Mexico, 9.15.

Floor Exercise — Don Lester, Oregon, 9.5, Ronnie Galimore, LSU, 9.5, Peter Kormann, Southern Connecticut, 9.25, Steve Economides, ASU, 9.0, John Parades, Fullerton, 9.0.

Still Rings — Curt Thomas, Indiana State, 9.45, Scott McEldowney, Oregon, 9.4, (tie) Doug Wood, Iowa State, and Steve Blush, LSU, 9.4, (tie) Pete Belguth, Minnesota, and Bob Fischer, Indiana State, 9.2, Steve Fuchs, ASU, Yoshi Tomita, Long Beach State, 9.2.

Vault — Steve Wejmar, Washington, 9.55, Ronnie Galimore, LSU, 9.5, Mark Trippel, Iowa State, 9.45, Don Laurber, Western Michigan, 9.4, Bob Newland, Ohio State, Jay Silverstein, Temple, Yoshi Tomita, Long Beach State, 9.4.

Parallel Bars — Jim Corritone, Michigan, 9.4, Mike Wilson, Oklahoma, 9.3, Curt Thomas, Indiana State, 9.25, Jeff LaFleur, Minnesota, 9.25, Warren Long, Cal, 9.15. **Other finishers:** Gene Christensen, Oregon 8.75.

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