

track

Women tracksters aiming for all the marbles

By KEVIN HACKETT
Of the Emerald

It will be a familiar story this weekend at the NCWSA regional women's track championships in Bozeman, Montana — Oregon's depth vs. Seattle Pacific's thin but national-class athlete dominated squad.

Oregon will be looking for its first regional championship ever.

Coach Tom Heinonen hopes his contingent of 22 athletes can place in enough events to defeat the Falcons, who nosed out the Ducks for their third consecutive regional crown last year.

Heinonen sees Seattle Pacific as the team to beat once again with injury-plagued Washington, Spokane Community College and host Montana State having an

outside shot at the title.

Oregon and Seattle Pacific met in a dual meet at Hayward Field earlier this year. The Ducks were handed their only loss of the year when an apparent victory in the mile relay was nullified by a controversial lane change violation.

If Oregon is to gain its revenge it must continue its season-long domination in the sprints. Freshman Debbie Adams is undefeated at 100 and 200 meters and her stiffest competition has usually come from fellow freshman Melanie Batiste. If Adams leaves Montana with her record unblemished then the first place trophy may come with her.

Oregon is the defending champion in both the 400 and 1,600 relays as well as the two mile relay. The Rose sisters, Dawna and Georgene, ran on the 400 and 1,600 mile teams last year and the addition of Adams and Batiste should only improve their showing in those events.

"We look to be really tough in the sprints and better than ever before in the distances and the weights," Heinonen says. "But Seattle Pacific has to be the favorite based on the presence of their national class athletes."

One of Seattle Pacific's national class athletes is its relentless dis-

tance star, Debbie Quatier. Quatier powered her way to easy wins in the 1,500 and 3,000 at Hayward and has run the fastest 3,000 in the nation this year. Quatier may be untouchable so Heinonen will try to counteract her first-place points by flooding the distance events with his stable of young runners. Freshmen Debbie Richie, Heather Telford and Mooly Morton plus junior Jennifer Daniell will run both the 3,000 and the 5,000.

Ironically, Oregon's only returning defending champion will not run in the event she won. Ellen Schmidt set a meet record in winning the 800 meters in 2:11.5. This year she will run the 1,500 and the 3,000, leaving the 800 to Katy Mountain, Jenifer Bates and Jody Parker. Heinonen had hoped Schmidt would meet the qualifying time for the nationals in the Twilight Meet 1,500. She came up short so he'll give her another shot.

Patty Kearney, who keeps meeting javelin throwers with bet-

ter lifetime marks than her own and continues to defeat them in head-on competition, will face one woman she hasn't been able to defeat this year. Spokane Community College's Pam Thompson beat Kearney in the opening meet of the year and did it again on a rain-slick grass runway at the Mt. Hood Relays. Heinonen feels that with a dry track, the outcome will be different this time.

Other Oregon competitors include; 100 meters, Rose Ann Klingerman; 400 meters, Dawna Rose; 100 meter hurdles, Kerry Clawson; 400 meter hurdles, Klingerman, Georgene Rose, and Mary Lou Armstrong; 1,500 meters, Mountain, Schmidt and Sandy Trowbridge; pentathlon, Kori Hasselbald; long jump, Adams and Joan Walton; shot put, Maggie Bonn; high jump, Clawson; discus, Mary Stevenson and Kathy Picknell; 2 mile relay, Morton, Bates, Parker and Trowbridge.

Heinonen said he will have two teams running in all the relays.

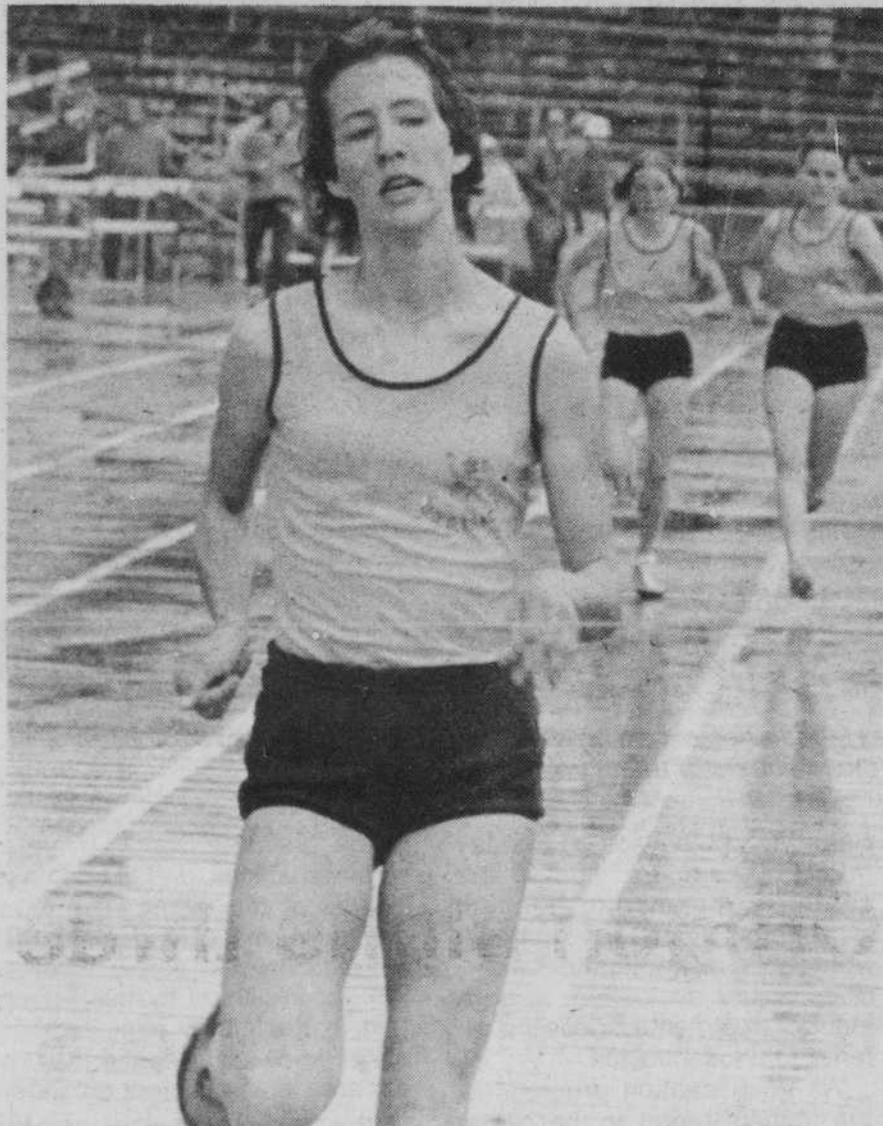


Photo by Neil Gruenfelder

Ellen Schmidt will try to set a qualifying mark in the 1,500 meters in this weekend's NCWSA meets.

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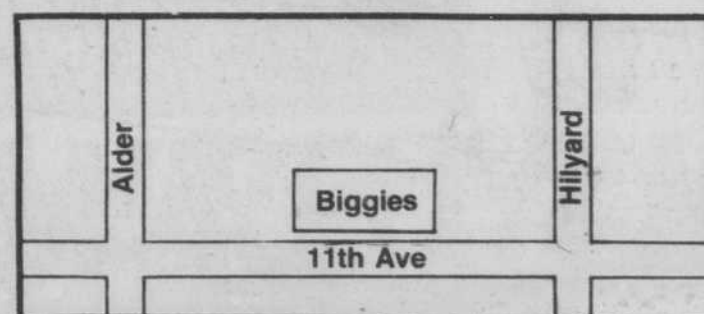


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