

Oregon ends SPU's reign garnering NCWSA track title

BOZEMAN, Mont. — Oregon coach Tom Heinonen was depending on his squad's depth to offset Seattle Pacific's expected first-place points in the NCWSA regional women's track championships Friday and Saturday.

Seattle Pacific got its firsts — eight in all — but Oregon countered with 19 of 22 athletes contributing points and the Ducks came away with their first regional title ever, beating the Falcons 142-126.

With the championship came a little bit of revenge for Oregon. Seattle Pacific was the defending regional champion and also had defeated the Ducks in a dual meet at Hayward Field earlier this year.

The key for the Oregon victory was its ability to get the big points it was expected to get in the sprints and the distances. The Ducks were aided by the fact that Bozeman's 5,000 foot altitude proved to be Seattle Pacific distance star Debbie Quatier's toughest competition all year.

Quatier was expected to take two firsts, and possibly three. She was true to form Friday, winning the 3,000 meters and breaking her meet record in the event.

The wind was gone Saturday

and so was Quatier's strength. She ran a disappointing fourth in the 1,500. In that race, Oregon's depth made its initial appearance. Ellen Schmidt, Katy Mountain and Sandy Trowbridge went two, three and six.

Quatier scratched from the 5,000 and Oregon moved in for the kill as Heather Tolford, Debbie Richie and Molly Morton, a trio of freshmen, scored 18 points in the event while Seattle Pacific came up empty.

The clincher was Oregon's domination in the sprints. Debbie Adams lost her first collegiate race running second to fellow freshman Melanie Batiste in the 200 meters. Batiste broke the meet record with a time of 24.37.

Adams and Batiste switched places in the 100 with Adams nipping Batiste with a time of 11.74. Batiste was timed in 11.79. Adams won the long jump as well, capping an awesome individual performance for the freshman from Seattle.

The other members of Oregon's sprint quartet, Georgene and Dawna Rose, measured up to expectations as well. Georgene, one of the few seniors on the team, finished second in the 400 meter

hurdles with a lifetime best of 61.6. Younger sister Dawna placed third in the 400 meters.

Oregon finishers

High Jump — 6, Kerry Clawson, 5-4
3,000 — 4, Molly Morton, 10:28.59. 5, Heather Tolford, 10:34.62.
440 Relay — Oregon (Melanie Batiste, Georgene Rose, Dawna Rose, Debbie Adams), 46.73.
1,500 — 2, Ellen Schmidt, 4:38.24. 3, Katy Mountain, 4:39.59. 6, Sandy Trowbridge, 4:45.06.
Long Jump — 1, Debbie Adams, 18-8½.
400 — 3, Dawna Rose, 56.25.
Javelin — Patty Kearney, 143-7.
100 — Debbie Adams, 11.74. 2, Melanie Batiste, 11.79.
800 — Katy Mountain, 2:18.05.
400 Hurdles — 2, Georgene Rose, 61.6.
200 — 1, Melanie Batiste, 24.37. 2, Debbie Adams, 24.75.
Discus — 4, Mary Stevenson, 143-9. 5, Kathy Pickness, 143-4½.
5,000 — 2, Heather Tolford, 18:07.0. 3, Debbie Richie, 18:12.25. 4, Molly Morton, 18:13.6.
5 Mile Relay — 2, Oregon No. 1, 3:48.7. 5, Oregon No. 2, 4:02.2.
Pentathlon — 5, Karla Hasselblad, 3,245 points.

Ducks fall flat in regionals

PULLMAN, Wash. — Oregon's men's tennis team didn't exactly start out in the best way in the Pac-8 Northern Division tennis championships over the weekend.

For the first time in 11 years, Oregon fell to Washington State, 7-2, for a loss in the opening-round of the tournament. It was the first loss to the Cougars in Buzz Summers' tenure as the Ducks' coach.

The Ducks fell again on Saturday, losing to the powerful Washington Huskies, 9-0. In that rout, Oregon could manage just one set victory, that coming in the number one doubles match for the Ducks' Russ Childers and Tom Greider.

Against the Cougars, Oregon's Eric Lehto was the only singles winner, while Jim Wilson and Tom Goldman, the Ducks' number two doubles team, also won.

Women netters take second

SEATTLE — The Oregon women's tennis team finished just about where it expected to finish in the NCWSA tournament — second.

Washington's domination of the division was made complete with its first place finish, while the Ducks tied for second place with Washington State.

Oregon had 43 total points, as did the Cougars. The Huskies ended the weekend with a whopping 87 points. They had beaten Oregon twice this season.

Commentary

It was nothing to cheer about

Mike Marino

It wasn't pretty.

In fact, at times it was downright awful. But if the Oregon Varsity-Alumni football game served any useful purpose — and 2,110 fans who blew their Saturday afternoon might disagree — it at least put things in perspective.

"I guess," said Rich Brooks, the Oregon head coach, "that this gives everybody a lot to think about between now and Colorado."

Certainly, the Ducks reached new levels of confusion in eaking out the sloppy 10-7 win over the grads. About the kindest thing you could say about the 48-minute fiasco was that Oregon's defense wasn't that bad, allowing but 139 yards. "We had some breakdowns there in the first half," Brooks said, "but in the second half we got a lot better. In the defense I was not totally displeased."

That leaves the offense, or at least what masqueraded as an offense Saturday. "I was hopeful that I could come out of spring with a number one quarterback," Brooks said, "but I don't know who's number one at this point."

If the choices were a) Mike Kennedy; b) Dan Daly; or c) get me another choice, the latter would look awfully good right now. "It's been the thing that has concerned me the most," Brooks went on. "As I said, we're right now without quality at the quarterback position."

Kennedy, the redshirt of a year ago, was the first to agree. "I'm embarrassed, anyway," he said. "I take the blame for the offense. I mean, it's my job to get the ball in the end zone. The offensive line was great, the running backs were great, but I was terrible."

It wasn't one of his more stellar passing performances. Seven of sixteen of his passes found someone, but three of the recipients were Alums. "Today Mike never went to his secondary receiver," Brooks said. "He got nervous and was pressing it and trying to do it all himself."

Basically, Kennedy forced the ball. "Coach Brooks rode my tail pretty good for that," he said, trying to smile. "I thought it would work like it did before, but I guess I've found some bad habits."

It might have been a cheerier day, for Brooks at least, if Daly had also played well. The sophomore-to-be didn't pass badly (he completed three of six passes), but he made a big error in the Ducks' one good chance for a touchdown in the fourth quarter.

With a fourth-and-one situation at the Alumni two, Brooks sent in the full house backfield, and Daly took the snap looking to go wide. But instead, he turned it up the middle — the heart of the crowd — and lost a yard and the chance to score.

"He should have pitched," Brooks winced. "He thought he could put it in the end zone, but he should have given it to the halfback. He made a bad decision."

The only niceties Brooks could summon about the offense were, fittingly, about a guy who was playing lame, fullback, Vince Williams. The freshman starter of last fall had his left thigh wrapped up due to a bruise that required him to sit out last week's practice. Yet he led the Ducks' offense with 81 yards on nine carries.

"I'm feeling it now," sighed Williams. "When I almost hit my top speed, then it starts to hurt a lot." It was noticeable in Oregon's final drive, which Williams helped set up with a 35-yard gallop to the Alumni 10. In the last 10 or so yards, he slowed.

"I hurt it in last Saturday's scrimmage," he said, "and last week I was redshirted (he didn't practice) and just did conditioning running. I couldn't even make half-speed."

Neither could most of the grads, or so it seemed. But despite the effects of Friday night hoopla, the Alums for the most part generated more interest than the current Oregon breed. Although Ahmad Rashad didn't suit up — no one, was really sure if he made the game — they had their moments. In fact, the Alumni had the game in 1 and until late in the fourth quarter when things happened to make even the most naive people suspicious.

First, with 5:26 left in the game quarterback Norval Turner was hog-tied in the end zone by Scott Setturlund for a safety that made the score 7-5 Alumni. When the varsity offense could not score, graduated punter Roy Geiger did it for them by dropping the ball in the end zone for another safety, 7-7.

It got a bit exciting with a minute left, when Alum safety Bruce Jensen stepped in front of a Daly pass and ran 44 yards for a score. But a flag on the play cited too many men and the play was gonged.

"That was a fine play by Bruce Jensen," Brooks said. "Too bad it had to be nullified."

True. In keeping their drive alive, the Ducks managed to save a little face in the final quarter when Mitch Hanan booted a 20-yard field goal (that somehow took six seconds off the clock — a real slow kick). With seven points in the last quarter, it looked on the surface like the Ducks made a gutsy rally.

No such luck.

"Look around here," Kennedy said in the locker room. "None of these guys is happy that we won. We should learn from today."

"If we do play this way though," he added, "Coach Brooks will play all freshmen before this happens again. Or maybe we'll get lucky and Colorado will take us lightly."

Maybe Oregon should take this more seriously.

Softball tourney nixed by rain

TACOMA — The NCWSA softball tournament, scheduled here over the weekend, was postponed due to rain.

The tournament will be rescheduled for Tuesday, with the games to be played at different sites. Oregon will meet Portland State on Tuesday in Portland. The other sites for the opening round games are unnamed as yet.

Monday, May 15, 1978

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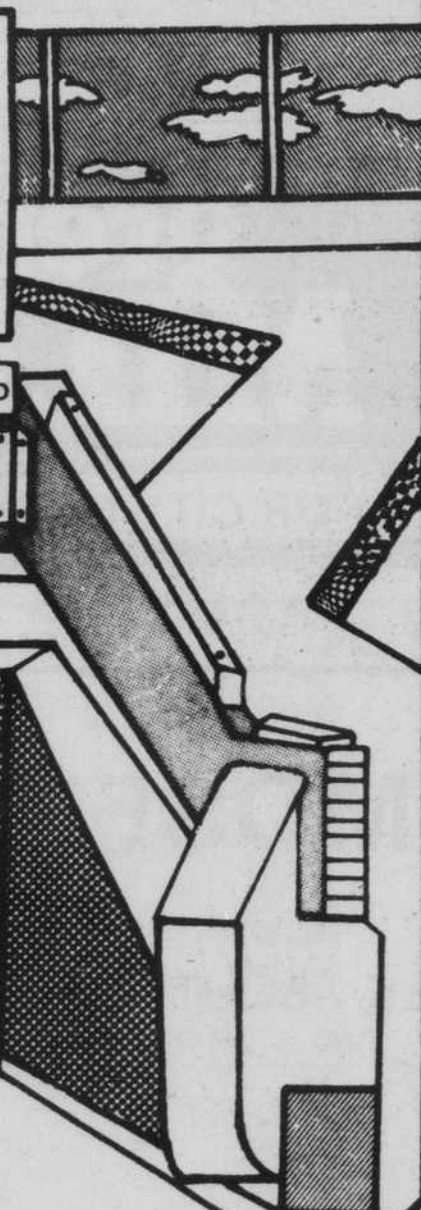
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