

sports

Women runners top pick to win Region Nine race

By MARK STEWART
Of the Emerald

Four Oregon women have a chance of winning the Region Nine cross-country championship in Seattle, Washington Saturday.

According to coach Tom Heinonen, Robin Baker, Irene Griffith, Ellen Schmidt and Cheri Williams have a good chance at winning the individual title that Seattle Pacific's Debbie Quartier has held the past two years. Quartier is not in school this fall and is not eligible to run.

"This race is as important as nationals," Heinonen says. Oregon must finish in the top three to qualify for the national meet in Denver on Nov. 18.

"Since we do most of our competing in the Northwest, we want to establish ourselves as the best team among our peers.

"All the schools have a person to contend for the individual title, but it is depth that wins races."

Coaches from the region's leading teams named Oregon's Baker, Williams and Griffith; Washington's Kathy Adams; Montana State's Laurie Adams, and Spokane Community College's Joanne Lahti as those likely to run away with the individual title.

According to Heinonen, the Oregon team is as fit as it can be at

this point in the season. Heather Telford, who underwent an emergency appendectomy on Oct. 10, will not run, but Griffith, who was held back from strenuous workouts last week because of a knee problem, is running near full strength.

The following are thumbnail sketches of some of the teams that will run in the meet and predictions based on interviews with the team's coaches.

MONTANA STATE — Adams is MSU's top runner and several of the region's coaches say she has a shot at the individual championship. Coach Neil Eliason is non-committal about injuries and his other runners, so it must be assumed MSU has problems. PICK — Fifth.

OREGON — Depth is the strong point. Number one runner for this year has been Baker, who has been Oregon's top finisher in three of four meets. Behind her are Schmidt, who finished second in the region last year, and two high school All-American freshmen in Williams and Griffith. Last year, the Ducks placed all five of their scorers in the top 15 and indications are it will happen again. The split between the first and seventh runners has been below 40 seconds consistently all year. PICK — First.

OREGON STATE — If the regional meet had been two weeks ago, the Beavers would have had a shot at qualifying for nationals. Since then the flu bug has hit the team; that, combined with a leg nerve problem to number two runner Janet Lovelace will effectively kill OSU's chances. Top runner Brenda Cardin has had a touch of the flu, but will be near full strength for the meet. PICK — Fourth.

SPOKANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE — Coach Dale Kennedy has a team with good depth and a runner that could wind up as regional champion in Lahti. The split between the team's first and seventh runners has averaged 45 seconds, probably second best in the region behind Oregon. But Kennedy questions whether his team can run with the Ducks and Washington. If so, SCC could beat Washington for second. Nonetheless, SCC should win a trip to the national meet. PICK — Third.

WASHINGTON — The Huskies are the only team in the region with talent to match Oregon's. Number one runner Adams, Marion Moulijn and Raney Roetman finished fourth, eighth and 14th, respectively, in last year's regional meet. Several of the region's coaches feel Adams could win the individual title.

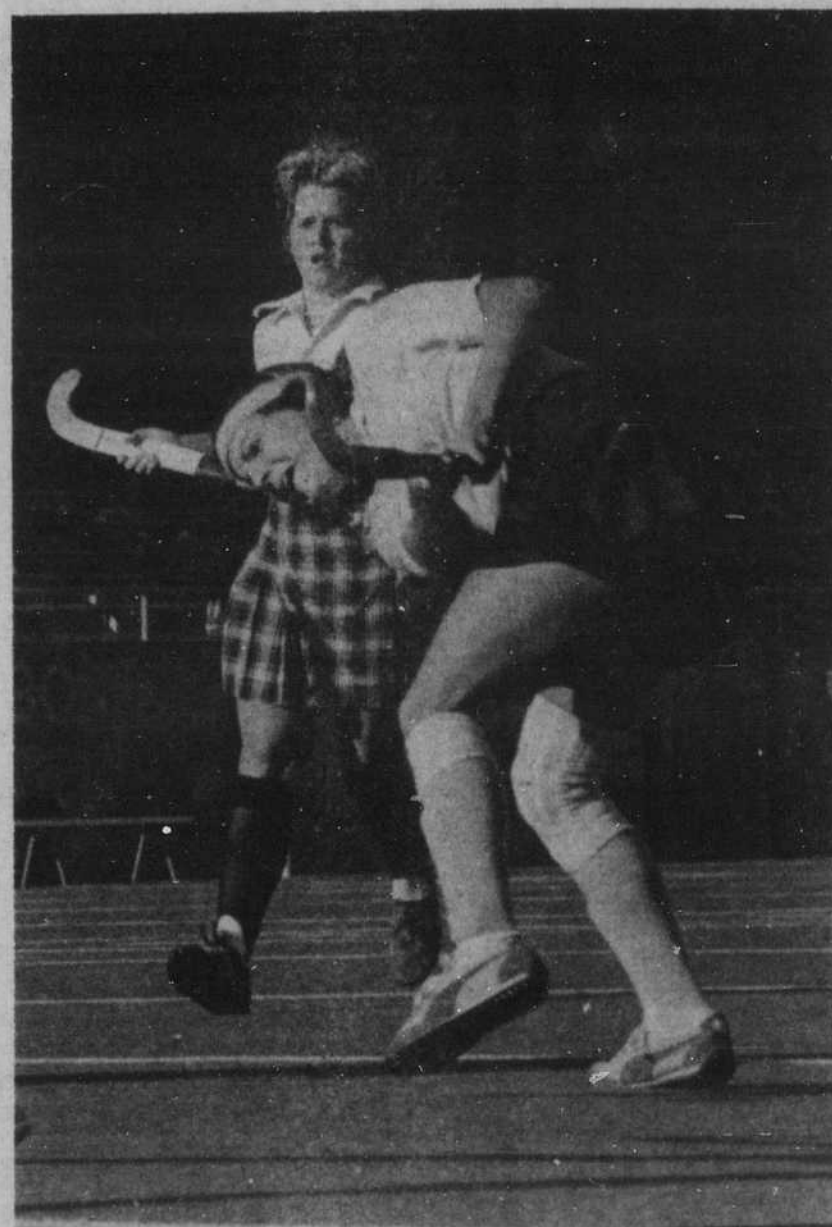


Photo by Steve Dykes

Junior forward Nancy Pedrotti will lead the Oregon field hockey squad against a team of Washington all-stars Sunday as the Ducks tune-up for the Regional tournament next Friday.

All-Stars to challenge women stickers

Nancy Plantz, Oregon's field hockey coach, hopes a group of all-stars comprised of Washington's best club players will give the Ducks a test Sunday when the two squads meet in Portland. The all-stars are former collegiate players and probably won't

be as physically fit as Oregon.

The game will be a tune-up for the Ducks' Tuesday contest against Oregon State in Corvallis and the AIAW Northwest Regional tournament, which will be held Nov. 10, in Moscow, Idaho.

At the Regional meet, which is a

qualifier for the nationals, Oregon will be seeded first, because of its perfect 13-0 mark in Northwest Conference action.

The Ducks are now 15-2-1, their most recent victory coming Tuesday against Oregon College of Education at Monmouth.

The game marked the first action on a grass field for Oregon in three weeks, and Plantz says the Ducks must once again familiarize themselves with natural turf.

Seeds for the regional tourney will be announced Monday night, and other teams certain to be highly rated will be Washington State (virtually assured of the second seed,) Idaho and Southern Oregon State College. The Ducks beat each of these teams 3-0 earlier in the year.

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