

Baker takes first

Women runners sweep at regional meet

By MARK STEWART
Of the Emerald

SEATTLE—Like a high performance engine in peak tune, the Oregon women's cross country team hit on all cylinders to win its third straight Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women's Region 9 title here Saturday in Woodland Park.

"I knew someone from Oregon was going to win," second place finisher Ellen Schmidt said. "We knew there was no one here that was better than our team."

"I'm happy," Baker said of her championship run. "I'm glad the team finished one through five. It's nice to go out and have a teammate close by; it gives me more confidence and I can relax."

But Baker only waited until the one mile mark to pass the leaders. Washington's Kathy Adams and

Raney Roetman took the lead at the start, followed by Baker, Schmidt and Oregon's Cheri Williams and Jody Parker. At the mile post, Baker, Schmidt and Williams passed Adams and Roetman and were not challenged again in the 5,000 meter (3.1 mile) race.

"Some people mentioned the possibility of a sweep," coach Tom Heinonen said, "but I didn't think about it."

"There's not a heck of a lot you can say about a team that gets a perfect score," Al Bonney, coach of second place Washington, said. "They came to our course and ran us into the ground."

"It was not a good day for us," he continued. "Roetman had a heck of a race and Adams didn't run poorly, but our next three didn't cook. We were running to peak for this meet, but got de-

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Photo by Mark Stewart

Oregon's women cross-country runners were waiting at the finish line to congratulate each other after sweeping the first five places in Saturday's Region 9 meet. Robin Baker, left, won the race, while Molly Morton, center, finished 17th, and Katy Mountain, right, placed fifth.

Ducks gain ground while losing

Last week Oregon football coach Rich Brooks kept saying he felt the Ducks had a realistic chance of beating league-leading UCLA if they could prevent the Bruins from breaking any long runs for touchdowns.

Brook's pre-game evaluation could not have been more on the money if he had made the comments following Oregon's 23-21 loss to UCLA Saturday in the Los Angeles Coliseum. The Ducks might very well have won if it had

not been for scoring jaunts of 74 and 68 yards by the Bruins' 220-pound junior fullback Theotis Brown, who ended the day picking up a school-record 274 yards.

Brown's performance overshadowed an outstanding effort by Oregon. The Ducks amassed 404 total yards of offense, including 225 rushing yards, which is the most given up by UCLA all season.

Sophomore fullback Vince Williams again led the Oregon runners, gaining 83 yards on 17 carries to raise his season total to 727 yards. Williams, who had been hobbling all last week with a severe leg bruise, played more than expected, because Jeff Wood, the Ducks' other fullback who has played so well the past three weeks, injured a knee early in the second half. Before leaving the game with what may be a season-ending injury, Wood had picked up 75 yards on 15 carries, the best performance of his career.

Oregon played the Bruins so evenly nose to nose that a missed extra point and a failed 29-yard field goal attempt by freshman Pat English were all the Ducks would have needed to hand UCLA its first conference loss of the season.

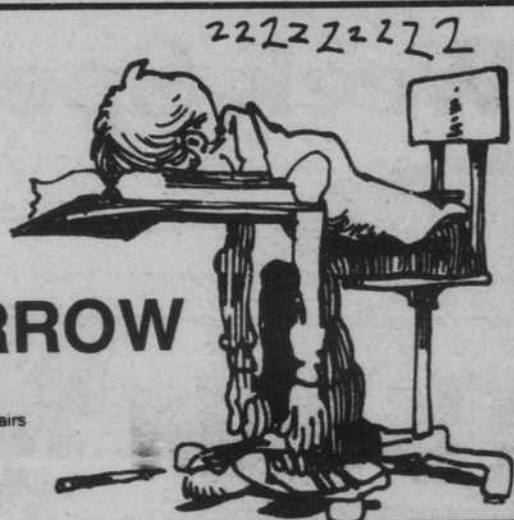
As it turned out though, UCLA upped its record to 6-0 in the Pac-10 and 8-1 overall, setting up a Nov. 18, UCLA-USC possible battle for the Roses.

Oregon, on the other hand, returns home with another moral victory and 1-8 record. But the young Ducks also return home with something that has been missing in Oregon football for a long time—the knowledge that the gap between themselves and the best is rapidly closing.

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