

sports

Greatest American team might not be enough

Will the NCAA cross country meet be the Kenyan National Championships moved from Nairobi? UCLA coach Jim Bush thinks so.

Can a team of six runners from Oregon, whose coach calls it the finest group of American runners ever assembled as a team, beat a squad that has been called the best team of foreign runners ever assembled in this country? The answer comes today.

The NCAA meet in Madison, Wisc., this morning looks to be a battle between two pre-race favorites—Oregon and the University of Texas at El Paso.

"It is easily the best team we have ever had here, including the four NCAA championship teams," Oregon coach Bill Dettinger said of his team. "This doesn't mean though, that we will necessarily win the national title."

A complicating factor in the Ducks' quest for the team title is the international talent assembled by UTEP—five Kenyans, one Mexican and a Tanzanian—all of whom are world-class runners.

Michael Musyoki, from Kenya, won the NCAA 10,000 meters last spring and in 1977 was rated 10th in the world at that distance.

James Munyala, from Kenya, would have won a fourth straight NCAA steeplechase title last spring had it not been for fellow countryman, Henry Rono, from Washington State. Munyala finished 20th last fall in the national cross-country meet.

Rodolfo Gomez, from Mexico, was 19th last year and Kip Sirma, from Kenya, was 25th.

The Miners have two newcomers this year. James Rotich, from Kenya, won the national junior college meet last year, while

Suleiman Nyambui, from Tanzania, was rated ninth in the world at 5,000 meters last year.

"We're going to have four guys in the top 20 and maybe three in the top ten," Dellinger said. "Our scorers may all be in the top 30."

"The question is whether that will be good enough. UTEP is going to have a real low score, so we've got to think in terms of a very low score if we're going to beat them."

"(A bad race by) any one of the six guys (Alberto Salazar, Rudy Chapa, Don Clary, Bill McChesney, Ken Martin and Art Boileau) will hurt us. We're not deep. If we lose one of our first four runners, we'll be hurt."

Last year, Salazar finished ninth in the national meet, Chapa was the 5,000 champ, Don Clary was 12th in the cross country meet and fifth in the steeplechase, and Martin was fourth in the national junior college meet.

Rono is favored to win the individual title.

Devils run over hapless OSU

Oregon State's defense surrendered 521 total yards Saturday, as Arizona State passed and ran at will in coasting to a 44-22 Pacific-10 Conference football victory at Parker Stadium.

The Sun Devils, 7-3, accepted an invitation Sunday to play in college football's newest bowl game, The Garden State Bowl in East Rutherford, N.J., against Rutgers.

While the Arizona State offense—led by freshman fullback Gerald Riggs and veteran quarterback Mark Malone—ran at will, the ASU defense sacked Oregon State's Steve Smith 11 times for minus-81 yards.

The Beavers wound up with 14 yards rushing.

"They changed up on the blitz a lot and did a good job disguising it," said Oregon State Coach Craig Fertig, who saw his team's chances for a .500 season wash away in a second-half rain storm. "We just didn't see it coming most of the time."



Photo by John Harris

The addition of floor leader Suzanne Washington has helped make Oregon's women's basketball more complete, according to Coach Elwin Heiny.

Roundball prelims over

Freshman Bev Smith, with 23 points, 29 rebounds and seven steals led the Green squad to a 70-64 win over the White in the second women's basketball intrasquad game Saturday night at Mac Court.

Kerry Clawson led the White squad with 16 points and Claudia Eaton had 15 rebounds to go along with her 11 points.

"Defense-wise we were not aggressive, but played better team-wise," coach Elwin Heiny said of both teams' overall play. "In the second half, we worked together better and had better concentration."

"We didn't pick the best shots; we hurried (them)," guard Suzanne Washington said. "Playing was a little ragged."

Washington, who has emerged as the Ducks' floor leader over Julie Cushing, adds "a lot" to the team, according to Heiny.

"She's a good runner, she knows what to do at the right time. Julie has a tendency to play too fast whereas Suzanne is usually under control."

Washington, who played at Humboldt State last year, went looking for a bigger school with a better program and found Oregon to her liking.

"I would like to help make the team a fast breaking team," she says. "I think I'll help the team get the ball down the floor on the break."

Washington was a forward at Humboldt State, but now plays guard because the team is deep in forwards. "I've always known I'd be a guard because of my size (5-8). We have a lot of players who are better forwards."

Washington sank 10 of 18 shots from the floor and made 25 points in the team's first intrasquad game Tuesday night.

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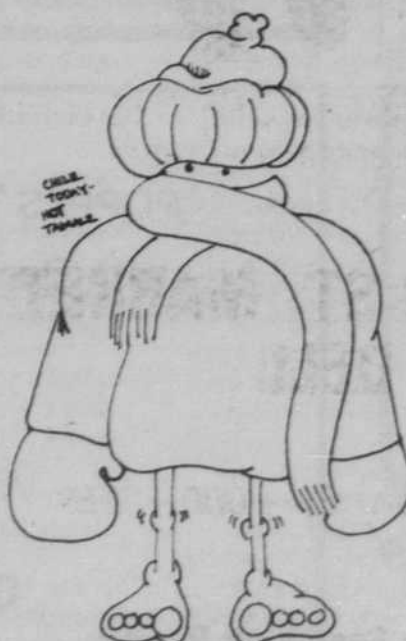
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