

Women test Beavers in four-way gym meet

The women's gymnastics team will be looking for improved performances on the beam and uneven bars when the undefeated Ducks take on the Northwest's top team, Oregon State, as well as Washington and Eastern Washington, in a four way meet Saturday.

Coach Henriette Heiny says the team's other advantage in the meet will be having all its performers, (except Darla Jones who is out with an elbow injury), entered in the competition.

"It's so seldom we've had everyone there for meets," says Heiny. "I think we have a very good chance of beating Oregon State, although it will be very tough."

The Ducks will have their regular lineup of all-arounders back for the meet, including senior Wendy Halberg and freshmen Dawn Haberland, Sara Gustafson and Sharon Blanchard.

Leading Oregon State team are Mary Ayotte and Connie and Laura Shuya, all recruited from Calgary, Canada. Ayotte holds the highest all-around score in the Northwest this season.

Washington, last years' AIAW Northwest champion, has not fielded a strong team this time around. Eastern Washington, third in the Northwest last year, remains a strong team this year.

The meet should preview the Northwest AIAW championships this year, which will be held on the Beavers' home floor March 9-11.

Aqua Ducks eye title

After compiling a 9-2 regular season record, the men's swimming team is trying for its first Nor-Pac title in Moscow, Idaho, today through Saturday.

Under second-year coach Rich Schleicher, the Aqua Ducks finished the regular season with their best mark since 1960, and the coach says the team has a shot at the team title.

Schleicher says his team will be prepared. "I'll be looking for a good team effort. We will be rested and ready to go. Twelve swimmers have already qualified for the Pac-10 championships and hopefully we will have some more before the meet is over."

Oregon's strongest events will be in the freestyles, says Schleicher. Senior Paul Bunick is a two-time defending sprint champion and freshmen Wade Mucke also has a chance to win, adds the coach.

The 200-yard breaststroke will be one of the featured races of the meet, as Oregon's George Koch is matched against Hawaii's Steve Foley, an NCAA finalist last year. Koch currently has the third fastest time in the conference, and Schleicher says Koch may have a chance to score at the NCAA meet, which will be held March 22-24 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Flying Ducks host WSU

Oregon's men's gymnastics team makes its final appearance at McArthur Court this weekend in a meet with Washington State. Optional competition begins at 8 p.m. Saturday, with compulsories on Sunday at 2 p.m.

The Ducks, now 14-1, swept three road meets last weekend against New Mexico, Louisiana State and Houston Baptist. Oregon went into the road trip ranked fifth in the nation.

Last Thursday, Oregon clipped New Mexico 215.1-208.0 despite being "fairly rough all the way around," according to coach Bill Ballester.

Ducks grab 20 recruits

University head football coach Rich Brooks had plenty of reasons to be happy yesterday — 20 of them — as the top high school prospects signed their first letters of intent Wednesday.

But Brooks also had some cause to be upset as highly — touted linebacker David Lewis of Grant High School in Portland decided to play for the University of California this fall. Lewis' prep teammate, defensive back Kevin MacMillan, will also leave the state, and play for Stanford.

However, the Ducks added 20 more recruits to this year's class, Wednesday including several who can fill the team's holes on the defensive line and secondary.

"On the whole quite a few good kids came through for us," said Brooks at the end of his long day on the telephone lines. "We would have liked to get the two kids from Portland, but I'm pleased with the players we've gotten so far."

Among others, the Ducks also signed Todd Palmer, a 6-8, 270-pound lineman out of tiny Marsh Valley High School in

Inkom, Idaho.

"We got some very good athletes, like Palmer, from some small schools," added Brooks, "away from the big recruiting areas."

Brooks, of course, feels it's too early to evaluate the incoming talent, but feels he has every reason to be happy.

Except for the two that got away.

Those signing with the Ducks Wednesday include Clement Williams, a 6-1, 175-pound defensive back from Los Angeles; a pair of linemen from Chicago, 6-4, 225-pound Paul Perez and 6-3, 240-pound Paul Sanborn; Eugene (Choo Choo) Young, a 5-8, 160-pound speedster from Richmond, Cal.; James Nutt, a 5-11, 180-pound quarterback from Merced, Cal.; Terrance Jones, a 6-2, 215-pound fullback from Sacramento; Ron Arca, a 6-1, 190-pound defensive back from Sumner, Wash.; Ed Rhone, a 6-4, 230-pound defensive end from Seattle; Steve Johnson, a 6-4, 215-pound tight end from Kalama, Wash.; Scott Shepard, a 6-3, 222-pound lineman from Prineville, Ore.; Mike Waller, a 6-4, 200-pound linebacker from Eugene's Sheldon High School; Swight Ford, a 6-3, 200-pound linebacker from Long Beach, Cal.; Tim Ellis, a 6-4, 22-pound linebacker from Turner, Ore.; Paul Marty, a 6-3, 217-pound lineman from Portland; Steve Baack, a 6-3, 195-pound linebacker from John Day, Oregon; Joe Hill, a 6-1 defensive back wide receiver from Florence, Ore.; Thomas Osborne, a 6-1 defensive back from Los Angeles; Harry Billups, a 5-11, 180-pound tailback from Irvine, Cal.; and Darren Cooper, a 6-2, 178-pound wide receiver and defensive back from Fontana, Cal.

19 swim teams compete

Ducks host regional meet

The University of Washington swim team has come to Eugene with the intention of beating its host, and keeping the Northwest College Women's Sports Association swimming and diving championships for the sixth straight year.

The Ducks will face 225 swimmers from 19 regional schools in the three-day meet. Last year the University swimmers came in second to top contender Washington, and are considered to be the strongest challenger again this year.

At a meet earlier this spring, Oregon lost to the Huskies by a narrow margin. Coach Virginia Van Rossen thinks there may be a chance for Oregon to win this one.

"We'd have to swim as well as we did last year and have some lucky breaks along the way," she said. "We may be able to win 15 events again, but in this meet you have to have depth to go along with those firsts."

The University swimmers who stand a good chance to bring in firsts include three team members who currently rank in the collegiate top ten nationally in their events.

Backstroke Tina Helm, breaststroke specialist Tama Cuddeback and Robin Wheeler, who ranks seventh in the butterfly stroke, will all compete.

Duck swimmers who won against Washington last year include Kathy Hemmer, who swims the backstroke, medley and butterfly, and diver Debbie Sill, who took the one-meter competition. Van Rossen also expects sophomore All-American Kelly Peyton to do well.

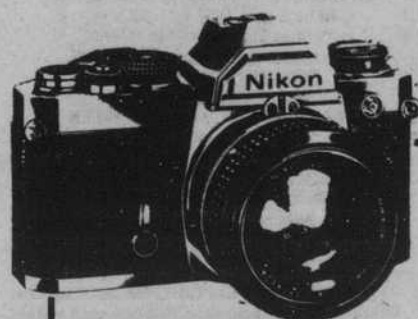
The meet starts today at the University's Leighton Pool, with preliminary competition beginning at 11 a.m. and finals at 7 p.m. The format will be the same each day; eight swimming or diving events are scheduled for a total of 24 in the regional meet.

Tickets are available daily and for the entire meet. A reserved all-session pass is \$10. Daily prices are: general admission, \$1 for the preliminaries and \$2.50 for the finals; reserved seat, \$3.50 for each session; and students, \$.50 for the preliminaries and \$1.50 for the evening finals.



Photo by Suzanne Aigen

The University women's swim team will try to best Washington for the next three days, in the Northwest College championships. The Huskies have held the title for five years.



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