

Only Rono finds solution to Ducks' 'magic'

By BILLIE-KAY KREWSON
Of the Emerald

Planning how to beat Henry Rono is one thing — going out and doing it is quite another, as Alberto Salazar and the rest of the Ducks found out Saturday. The phenomenal distance

runner from Washington State University won his fourth straight individual title in the Northern Division cross country championships at Lane Community College, making the 10,000-meter race look like little more than a jog around the field. The Ducks had less trouble

with the rest of the pack, as they took seven of the top nine places and won their fourth straight Northern Division team title and their sixth in seven years.

Salazar, who finished with a time of 28:47.4, led the race until about midway through when Rono put on his famous Kenyan surge and swept by the Duck star. Salazar stayed close to Rono.

Salazar said the WSU star went out about 200 yards sooner than he expected. "That was my (same) mistake last year. I didn't put as much of an effort into it. I let him get too far away," he said.

The Duck star said Rono is in a lot better condition than he was last year and added he (Salazar) will have to make some adjustments for the Pacific-10 Conference championships. "I'll try to bring it out a little harder and get him tired. I have to really concentrate and know that I have to stay with him. I can't let him get by me," he said.

After those two it was nearly all Oregon, with one lone Washington runner breaking up a sea of green and yellow.

The Duck's Bill McChesney captured third with a time of 29:56.1 — an impressive showing reminiscent of his prep days when he was a three-time state cross country champion. Right behind him were Rudy Chapa (fourth), Ken Martin (fifth), UW's Bill Stolp (sixth), Jeff Nelson

(seventh), Don Clary (eighth), and Greg Erwin (ninth).

McChesney said he did better this year because he wanted it more. "I'm tired of seeing people's backs. I was pleased because I've been sick. I didn't have much strength work. I really didn't know how I'd do today," he said.

Oregon Coach Bill Dellinger was pleased with his team's performance but said that the Ducks need to close the gaps between their runners before the NCAA meet next month. "The second through fifth men — all of them have got to get closer to Alberto for us to be a

real contender at nationals," he said.

One key for the Ducks could be Don Clary, who has been plagued by an injured foot since last spring. Clary has always been a high scorer for the Ducks at nationals, and will be critical for them if they expect to do battle with the University of Texas at El Paso.

Dellinger admitted Rono is almost impossible to beat but added that if anyone can it's Salazar. "I think he's (Salazar) capable of being closer to him (Rono) and beating him. There aren't too many people who can run with Rono."

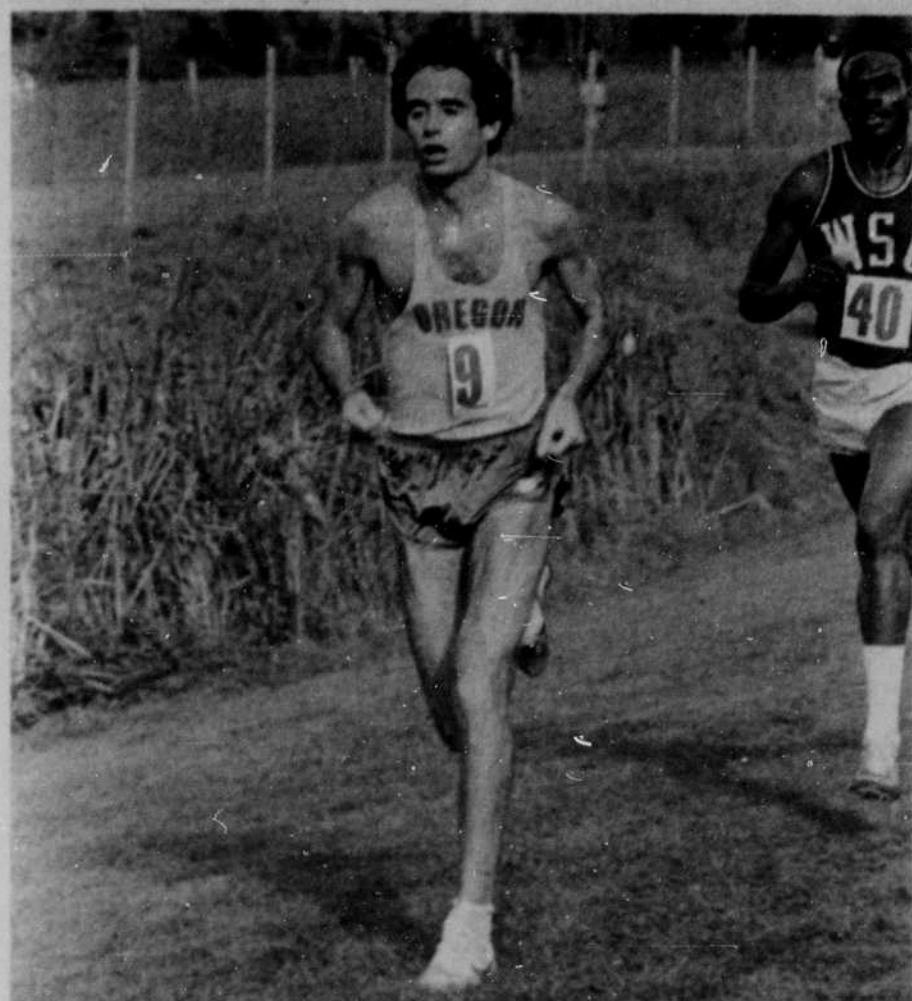


Photo by Bob Baker

Alberto Salazar, in the foreground, battled Washington State's Henry Rono for 10,000 meters Saturday at Lane Community College in the Northern Division cross country championships.

Stickers

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Ducks had three times as much penetration time (minutes of possession inside the opponent's 25 yard line) as the Spartans. The Ducks also had a 13-2 penalty corner advantage and a 16-11 shot advantage.

Perhaps the first half served as an indication of what was to follow, when Oregon controlled the ball more than 75 percent of the time, yet was trailing 1-0 at halftime. The Spartans had the ball infrequently, but got off a flurry of shots in the space of about 20 seconds, and managed to get the ball in for the score.

"We outplayed them," said

Plantz. And it's true — they did. But two good field hockey teams were playing and the Ducks needed to outscore San Jose — and they didn't.

The Ducks defeated Arizona and California by identical 2-1 scores to secure a winning record and their third place finish. Despite the loss to San Jose, the tournament was successful for Oregon.

"We played well," said Plantz. "I'm really happy with the way the reserves played — I think we did an outstanding job." Plantz added that Berry, Ronnie DelaMotta, Vicki Headington, and

Kathy Webb "played their best hockey so far (this season)."

Before the tournament, Plantz said that San Jose State is in a class by itself on the West Coast, because it hasn't lost a game in three years to a West Coast team. The Ducks didn't beat the Spartans, but they proved that San Jose is no longer in a class by itself.

A tired Ducks squad beat Chico State 2-0 on Sunday to end their road trip on a positive note. Oregon's record on the season is now 16-2-1, with the team traveling to Pullman, Wash., next weekend for another tournament.

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