

Duck track squads battle Washington

It's back to earth for the Oregon women's track team as they travel Saturday to Seattle for a dual against Washington.

Last weekend, the Ducks were hotter than a sunburned Hayward Field track fanatic, beating UCLA 66-61 and laying claim to the national dual title.

It won't be as tough against the Huskies, who have lost their only dual this year (69-58 to Oregon State) and placed second in a triangular with California and Utah State. Oregon beat Washington last year, 93-33.

"Washington will be able to test our top throwers and distance runners," says Oregon coach Tom Heinonen, "but our strength in the sprints and overall depth will make us the favorites."

Jackie Henry is the strongest field competitor for the Huskies. Her 160-1 discus effort against OSU measures well compared to Oregon's Mary Stevenson (156-7) and Lisha Lass (155-4).

Another Oregon strength is javelin thrower Patty Kearney, who hit 178-7 at the Bruin meet — more than nine feet further than her previous school record. Her toss stands as the nation's best this year. Washington will counter with Deanna Carr, who has a 164-5 lifetime best and 155-4 so far in 1980.

After some radical shifts in the distance events last Saturday, Heinonen will move most of his competitors to more familiar ground. Leann Warren will move down to the 400 after completing an impressive 4:21.4 1,500; 07.1 800 double.

Katy Mountain, who was nursing an injured achilles tendon for a month, will see action against Washington.

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Bill Dellinger and the Oregon men's track team can catch their collective breaths this Saturday for the first time in three weeks.

The Ducks face a Washington team in Seattle that is, at best, a Pac-10 also-ran this year. Oregon will throw five Pac-10 leaders and a horde of distance men against the Huskies.

After watching close victories over Tennessee and Washington State and a loss to Kansas (all were ranked in the top 20 dual meet teams nationally last year), Dellinger will be able to shift his athletes around a bit this weekend without worrying about losing crucial points.

"I can't be disappointed with our performance," says Dellinger of the Ducks' effort against the Jayhawks. "We set two school records and had a number of outstanding performances for the third week in a row, but we were just beat by a better team."

One of those school records was set by Ken Martin in the steeplechase, where he clocked 8:23.1.

Tracktalk: According to pre-meet season bests, the Oregon men's team should defeat Washington 121-42 and the women will win 91-36.

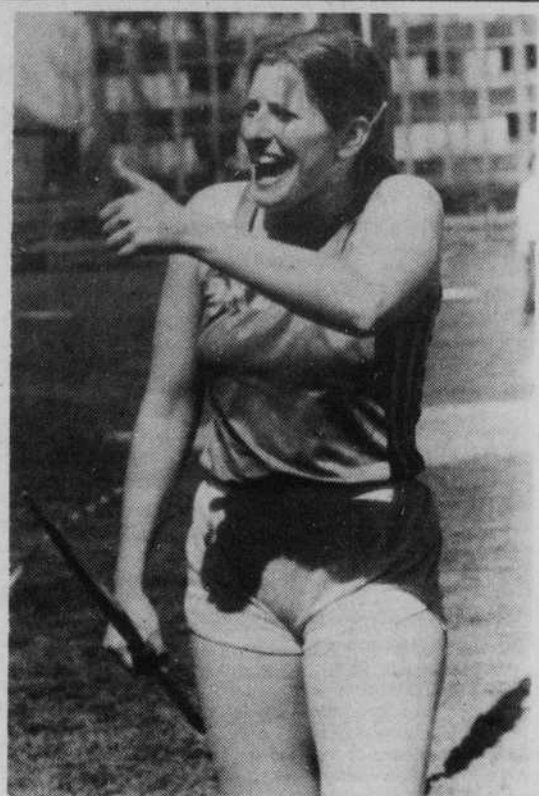


Photo by Martha Stanton

Patty Kearney should have another chance to smile this weekend and Jim Hill and Bill McChesney won't have to face the likes of Samson Kimombwa as the men's and women's track teams face Washington in Seattle.



Photo by Bob Baker

Softball team goes to Reno for tourney

The Oregon women's softball team, 7-7 on the season, will try to defend its crown in the Reno Invitational as play begins today on the University of Nevada-Reno campus.

The Ducks won the tournament last year by winning all five of their games. This year Oregon faces a more difficult task because of the competition, which includes Chico State and the Cal-Berkeley, two teams that defeated them earlier this year.

Chico has won three out of four games against Oregon, while Berkeley swept a doubleheader from the Ducks in March.

Oregon's first game in the tournament is against the winner of today's Hayward State-Northern Arizona contest.

The tournament calls for double elimination. Thus a team could wind up playing as many as nine games in just three days.

This aspect of play could be a positive factor for the Ducks because of their pitchers. Rhonda Revelle and Lori Sweet form a one-two combination that probably is as good as that of any other team. Revelle is 5-2 with an 1.48 earned run average, while Sweet is 1-5 with an 0.32 ERA.

But what has turned Sweet's fine pitching efforts into five losses is a lack of good fielding by Oregon and her teammates' often silent bats. Eighteen errors have been committed at the second base and shortstop positions, while only one regular is hitting better than .300.

Oregon coach Nancy Plantz has maintained that "all" of the team's games are important as the players are still trying to show that they are worthy of going to nationals. She thinks the Ducks are capable of winning the tournament.

Civil War rivalry starts

No matter the sport, the Civil War really is war.

When the Oregon and Oregon State baseball teams meet up this weekend in a Northern Division series, they'll be renewing a hot rivalry that goes back a long ways.

But this year, even more important than the bragging rights awarded to the winner of the series, are the league games at stake — three key games that could be the difference between runnerup and last place.

"It's just a normal Oregon-Oregon State series," says head

coach Mel Krause. "There's a lot of personal pride at stake."

"But the league games are more important. Everybody needs league wins."

To go out and get those wins for the Ducks (10-10), Krause will send Mike Talia to the mound Friday at Howe Field. Saturday in Corvallis, Bill Gwinn and either Jim Givens or Dean Kegler will get the start.

Krause plans some lineup changes for the weekend series. "I want to tighten up the defense in the infield," he says.

Netters win

The women's tennis team blanked Oregon College of Education 9-0 Thursday in a home match.

The Ducks, 6-3 on the year, face Southern Oregon Saturday at 1 p.m.

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