

Bruins, Ducks clash for national title

Winner claims dual meet superiority

By JODY MURRAY
Of the Emerald

UCLA — the so-called "Impossible Team" of women's track and field — has been reduced to the "Improbable Team."

At the start of the this season, anyone would be hard-pressed to defeat this Olympic-class squad, including the Ducks, who meet the Bruins Saturday at Hayward Field.

But injuries have chopped the giant down a few notches. Gwen Loud, Cheri Williams, Jackie Washington, Kathy Mintie and Sherrie Howard will either stay home or sit in the stands Saturday.

The Oregon-UCLA dual has now taken on a significance that is reminiscent of last year's clash between the two teams, which ended in a 66-61 Oregon victory.

For the second straight year, the winner of this meet can claim the national dual meet title.

But where once the Bruins were the obvious choice, it is now the team which makes the right breaks that will win.

"That's what I told the team Tuesday," says Oregon coach Tom Heinonen. "They look impossible on paper, but substitute some people and they're not impossible anymore. Maybe they're the 'Improbable Team' now."

The breaks fell Oregon's way last year, when the Ducks upset UCLA in the 400-meter relay and "finished the meet according to schedule," says Heinonen, who hopes the same thing happens Saturday.

"UCLA's men's and women's team have a tradition of making it hard on themselves in the 400 relay."

But while the Ducks hope for a Bruin miscue in the short relay, they can depend on some strong performances by Leann Warren, Grace Bakari, and the entire discus crew.

Warren, entered in the 800 and 1,500, has the best chance for an Oregon double. Her 2:03.52/4:15.16 marks stack up against UCLA's Ann Regan (2:04.1) and Linda Goen (4:12.8). Goen, however, will be coming back after running the 3,000 50 minutes earlier.

"They'll be hard-pressed to beat Leann," Heinonen says.

Bakari will play an important role in Oregon's effort to defeat UCLA's ultra-deep 400-meter contingent. Her 53.7 time last year compares well to Bruins' Arlise Emerson (53.6) and Deann Gutowski (53.8).

In the discus, the Ducks have their best chance for a sweep. School record holder Karen McDonald (164-6) leads a group that includes Quenna Beasley (153-7) and Lori Dresser (135-7). UCLA's best is Heidi Kauti (133-4).

UCLA's strongest events are the sprints. Jeanette Bolden (11.51), Oralee Fowler (11.55/23.7) and Florence Griffith (11.51/23.1) form the core of an awesome speed crew.

Oregon's Melanie Batiste (11.77/23.7) is still recovering from a hamstring pull but will compete Saturday, Heinonen says.

The Bruins also have Jacque Nelson (165-10) in the javelin, Susie Ray (48-11 $\frac{3}{4}$) in the shot put and Tonya Alston (6-0 $\frac{1}{2}$) in the high jump.

Heinonen says there is no one or two crucial events — they're all crucial. "Every event is that way, because no event will be a cinch."



Photo by Steve Dykes

Eryn Forbes will the favorite in the 3,000 meters Saturday against UCLA.

Gustafson earns berth in all-around at nationals

Sara Gustafson will be Oregon's only representative at this weekend's AIAW national gymnastics championships after earning an at-large berth in the all-around competition.

"From what I've seen, I know I'm in the top gymnasts here," said Gustafson Thursday from Salt Lake City, Utah, site of meet which begins today and concludes Saturday.

"We just had practice, warm ups, and I feel real good," she said. "I'm here, I'm ready and I'm up there (in gymnastic skill)."

Gustafson, a junior, finished fifth in the all-around at the AIAW regional meet and has posted a season best of 35.60. She is one of 24 all-arounders selected for at-large spots.

Gustafson will also compete against all-arounders who qualified as members of the 16 teams at the meet.

"I'm pretty well set for this meet," said Gustafson. "I've gotten real consistent with my routines. Everything is ready, now that I'm down here."

Only one recent addition will



Photo by Steve Dykes

Sara Gustafson

be seen in Gustafson's routines today, she said — a double full twist in the floor exercise, which she has done twice in competition.

The team and all-around titles will be determined in today's competition, while the individual crowns will be decided Saturday.

Utah (149.35) and Oregon State (147.07) had the top team marks in regional qualifying.

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