

'Impossible Team' snaps Duck streak

Bruin win decides dual crown

By JODY MURRAY
Of the Emerald

For a team that competes in only one dual meet this year, the UCLA women's track squad made itself a team to remember in one-on-one competition Saturday against the Ducks.

The Bruins used their mercurial sprint squad to set or equal four all-time dual records and zip past Oregon, 70-57, in a meet that will likely decide the national dual meet champ.

UCLA set records in both relays (44.79/3:40.35), while Oralee Fowler put a new one in the books in the 400 (53.15) and Jeanette Bolden tied the 100 mark (11.1).

Oregon set its own record of sorts as the loss snapped the team's dual meet winning streak at 14. Oregon's last loss was a 68-59 decision to Seattle Pacific in 1978. Saturday's loss was only the second Oregon setback in 21 dual meets.

But the Ducks, who beat the Bruins 66-61 last year, gave the so-called "Impossible Team" its share of scares during the cold, rainy afternoon. The Oregon challenge reached its peak in the 100-meter hurdles when Lexie Miller and Kris Costello finished one-two in a wind-aided 14.04.

Miller and UCLA's Missy Jerald, who has a 14.02 best, were even at the halfway point. But Miller pulled slowly away as Costello came roaring into the picture with two hurdles to go.

The Hayward Field crowd, 4,300 strong, gave its thunderous approval while the two embraced at the finish line. "Hot damn!" yelled Oregon coach Tom Heinonen as he strode across the infield.

"My form felt funny over the seventh, eighth, and ninth hurdles," Costello said. "But all of a sudden I got really aggressive. I'm so glad we did that!"

But the Oregon euphoria embodied in Costello's remarks was swept away minutes later in the 400 where UCLA's Fowler and Deann Gutowski took first and second, followed by Oregon's Grace Bakari. Heinonen had said before the meet that a win by Bakari in the 400 was essential to Oregon's upset plans.

"The most important race was their one-two finish in the 400," Heinonen said. "We were asking a lot of Grace to beat three 53-second quarter-milers, but she did beat one (Arlise Emerson, who finished fourth)."

The Ducks had several nota-

ble performance, though none were enough to stop the sprint-happy Bruins. Miller added the long jump (19-4½) and 400 hurdles (1:02.27) to her 100 hurdles win, Leann Warren doubled in the 800 (2:06.73) and 1,500 (4:26.39) and Lisa O'Dea set a personal-best 9:30.8 to lead teammate Eryn Forbes (9:31.1) and win an exciting 3,000.

The duo outkicked UCLA's Linda Goen (3:31.8) on the final turn in a race during which all three led. Forbes, who ran a 9:26 against Washington but "was tired all week," just wanted to make sure Goen didn't slip in for third.

"This isn't the week to go out and beat your teammate; it's the week to put two people in front of UCLA," Forbes said.

"Goen runs my kind of race," said O'Dea, who did her share of sprinting last year as a hurdler. "I was pleased. It was a lot of fun, too."

But in the end it was the Bruins who celebrated, while the Ducks could look forward to next year's rematch in Los Angeles.

"We obviously had some real comethroughs," Heinonen said, "but we didn't have enough."



Photo by Steve Dykes

Lisa O'Dea (right) and Eryn Forbes congratulate each other on their one-two finish in the 3,000, but it wasn't enough to stave off the Bruin onslaught.

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