

Clock pushes Warren, Forbes to top times

By JODY MURRAY
Of the Emerald

Running enthusiasts often talk about that little clock inside a distance runner's head that keeps them on a distinct pace lap after lap.

That same person will also say that despite this "inner aid," it helps to have some competition to push the runner along.

Unfortunately last Saturday, Eryn Forbes and Leann Warren had none of the latter. So they called up carloads of the former and clocked two fine times to help the Ducks plaster a sparse Cal-Berkeley team, 93-27.

Forbes clocked a 16:07.7 in the 5,000 meters to obliterate Molly Morton's school record by almost 11 seconds. Warren then came within .08 second of equalling her personal best in the 1,500.

Warren's accomplishment may not seem that impressive until you know that her best time was set at the Olympic Trials after a furious kick in the final stretch. Saturday's time was set with Warren's competition, teammate Robin Baker, 15 seconds behind.

But after crossing the tape, Warren glanced at the Hayward Field scoreboard to check her time, then shook her head. Disappointment?

"Yeah, I am," she said later. "I was so close to my PR that I should have beaten it. Maybe if I had started (kicking) a little bit sooner."

"She runs 4:15 and is mildly disappointed," said Warren's coach, Tom Heinonen. "It shows how far she's come."

"It'll be interesting to see what they can do with people breathing down their necks," Heinonen said, referring to both distance runners.

For the first seven laps of the 5,000, Forbes did have someone breathing over her shoulder. Cal's Cindy Schmandt tucked in behind Forbes as the two outdistanced the rest of the field. But as they entered the scoreboard turn with just over a mile to go, Schmandt collapsed and fell.

It was later learned that Schmandt had been ill, which brought up questions of whether she should have run at all.

"I was going to start a surge

right then because I thought I could lose her in the wind (blowing down the back straight)," Forbes said. "Then I heard this 'clunk-clunk' behind me."

"I slowed down then, but not for long, because I knew I had to keep going to get a good time."

Other exceptional times, and distances, for Oregon were Lexie Miller's two school records in the long jump (19-9½) and 400 hurdles (59.9), Sally Harmon's 165-11 toss in

the javelin and Karen McDonald's 165-4 discus throw.

One of the bigger success stories comes from the woman who finished second to McDonald, Quenna Beasley. Her 162-10 toss Saturday continues her steady improvement from the season's start when her personal best was 149-5.

Beasley, a freshman, said the key has been coach Scott Irving, who has stressed technique work with her and McDonald, another freshman.

"It just keeps coming," Beasley said. "I surprise myself every week."

First-place finishers
Long jump — Lexie Miller, Ore, 19-9½.
Javelin — Sally Harmon, Ore, 165-11. 5,000 — Eryn Forbes, Ore, 16:07.7. 400 relay — Oregon disqualified, no Cal entry. Shot put — Kelly Buntjer, Ore, 42-9¼. 1,500 — Leann Warren, Ore, 4:15.24. 100 hurdles — Miller, Ore, 13.77. 400 — Rhonda Massey, Ore, 55.77. 100 — Kim White, Cal, 11.94w. High jump — Kathy Hamilton, Cal, 5-6. 800 — Ranza Clark, Cal, 2:14. 400 hurdles — Miller, Ore, 59.9. Discus — Karen McDonald, Ore, 165-4. 200 — White, Cal, 24.49. Mile relay, Oregon, 3:46.63.

Softball squad finishes with 0-5 tourney record

Try as it might, the Oregon women's softball team was unable to pick up even one game as the Ducks finished at the bottom of the California Invitational.

In the last two days of the three-day tournament at Berkeley, the Duck couldn't get a streak going.

Friday the Ducks lost a pair to San Francisco, 11-1, and Cal-Berkeley, 7-0, with Oregon's only run coming on a homer by Vicki Hogan in the opener. Six errors by the Ducks didn't help the cause.

In Saturday's game the Ducks again dropped the game to San Francisco.

The Ducks gained the lead early with a run in the third and added two more in the top of the sixth for a 3-1 lead.

But a three-run rally by the San Francisco team in the bottom of the sixth inning pinned down a 4-3 win for the Dons, as the Ducks were unable to get around the bases in the top of the sixth.

Oregon is now 4-10 for the season after going 0-5 in the tournament.

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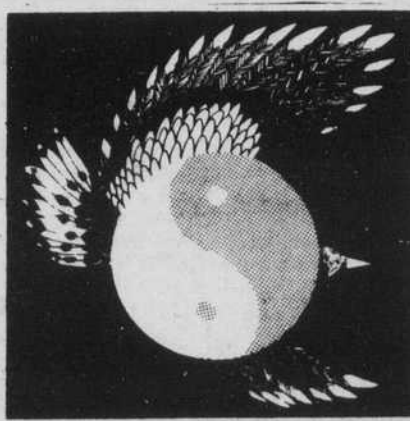
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