

Oregon women 2nd

Runner-up Warren paces Ducks at NCAA meet



Photo by Steve Dykes

Oregon runner Leann Warren led her Duck teammates to a second-place finish at the NCAA women's national cross country meet by finishing second to North Carolina State's Betty Jo Springs.

WICHITA, Kan. - Leann Warren's second-place finish spurred the University of Oregon women's cross country to a second-place showing at the NCAA national cross country championships Monday morning.

The women's race was run in conjunction with the men's race for the first time in history.

Even though the Ducks failed to send a men's team to the national meet, they sent an individual - Bill McChesney. McChesney, one of the prerace favorites, finished a disappointing 44th among the men collegians.

But the Duck women were definitely a bright spot yesterday morning in the heartland of the midwest.

Number one-ranked Virginia lived up to its reputation and captured first place with 36 points, well ahead of Oregon, which had 83. But that was to be expected, because Virginia had easily run away from the field in its district meet while the Ducks did not have such an easy time winning their district.

Warren, who earlier this year was undefeated before being beaten at the District 8 meet, went out early and hung in the leader pack for the entire race.

With about 3/4 of a mile to go, North Carolina State's Betty Jo Springs took command of the race and left the leading pack behind. Warren stayed in the pack and relied on her patented kick to enable her to snare second place.

By finishing in the top 25, four Ducks earned the distinction of being named to the All-American squad.

Eryn Forbes came through with an excellent performance to finish 13th, right on her trail was freshman Kathy Hayes in 16th and rounding out the Duck All-Americans was Lisa Martin who finished in 22nd. Other Oregon finishers were

Rosa Gutierrez in 58th, Claudette Groenendaal in 67th, and Ranza Clark in 88th.

"Leann ran a terrific race," said Oregon coach Tom Heinonen. "The race broke perfectly for her because the lead pack stayed together through the first two miles. Springs broke that group with 3/4 of a mile to go and got away."

The lead pack was timed in 5:00 flat for the first miles. The pack broke up some but the leaders remained bunched together for throughout the rest of the race.

Warren was the lone Duck in the lead pack but close behind were Forbes, Hayes and Martin.

"Eryn ran the best cross country race since she made the international team in 1975," Heinonen said. "She hung in there through a really fast first mile (5:10)."

The second-place showing by the Ducks equalled Oregon's previous best performance when they finished second in nationals in 1978. Warren's second-place is the highest finish ever for an Oregon woman.

McChesney, however, was not as fortunate as the women.

He went out with the leaders in a blazing 2:01 for the first half mile but experienced stomach cramps and faded in the last half of the race.

In the team competition, Stanford finished third behind Virginia and Oregon with 105 points, followed by Michigan State (122) and North Carolina State (123).

The University of Texas at El Paso, led by Matthews Motshwarateu, first, Michael Musyocki, second and Gabriel Kamau, third, easily won the team title with 17 points—an NCAA all-time best.

Providence finished in second with 109 points, Arkansas wound up third with 175 and Wisconsin took fourth with 179 points.

Cubans drop cagers 78-73

By MIKE RIPLINGER
Of the Emerald

It will go down in the scorebook as a loss, but the Oregon Women's Basketball team was a victory of sorts for the Ducks.

Oregon played well enough to beat the Cubans, who are ranked third in the world, but their last minute rally fell just short. The Ducks came back from a 76-67 deficit to 76-73 with only 42 seconds left in the game. But Oregon couldn't force a Cuban error and ended up committing one of their own, allowing the Cubans to make a lay-in for the final score.

"We could and should have won tonight," said Oregon coach Elwin Heiny. "but for the first game of the season, I am very happy with the way we played. It

was a great way to start the season."

Cuba just completed their American tour with a 4-4 record. They played up and down throughout the tour, and against the Ducks they were mediocre.

But Oregon played well, even in defeat.

After coming off two lackluster intrasquad games, the Ducks did surprisingly well. They stayed with the Cubans the entire first half, down only 43-41 at the end of the half.

Foul trouble to center Alison Lang deprived Oregon of 70-59 lead, before the Ducks whittled it down at the end with good play at both ends of the court.

Bev Smith played outstanding for the Ducks, with a game-high 30 points. With Lang on the

bench, Smith stopped the Cubans from blowing out the Ducks completely in the second half.

Smith, who has played the Cubans five times while on the Canadian national team, felt good about the Ducks effort.

"It was a real thrill to play that well against them." Beside the one time she beat them "this was the best I've ever done against them. They just wanted to get out with a win, but they didn't expect us to be so tough."

Heiny was also excited with the Duck's performance.

"We showed ourselves we can play with the top teams like the Cubans. We had too much respect for them at the beginning, but we realized they weren't superhuman and ended up playing very well."

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