

Best bets

Though Oregon may not have the depth to challenge for the Pac-10 crown, several Duck athletes rate as favorites



Dean Crouser

Undoubtedly the best all-around weight man in the collegiate ranks today, the Gresham, Oregon native is the heavy favorite in both the discus (208-3) and shot put (68-3/4).



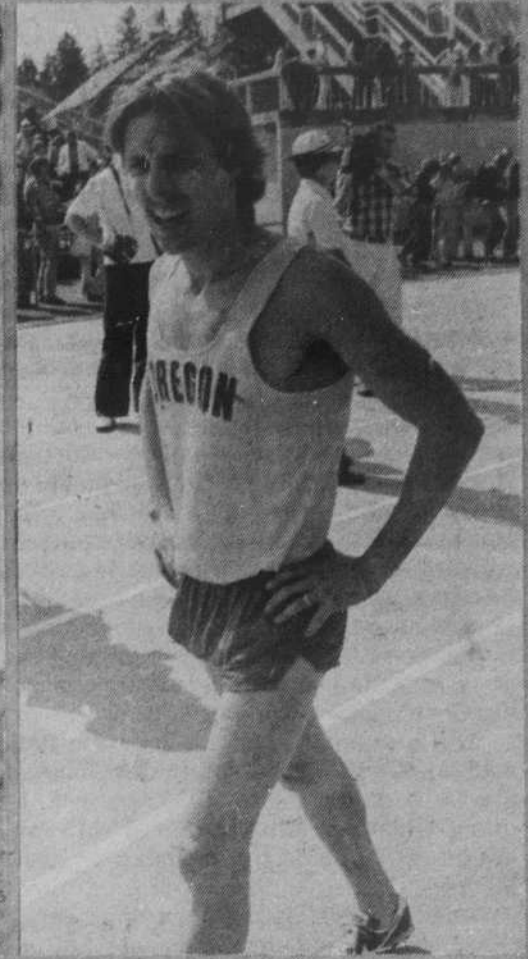
Jim Hill

He's a threat in both the 1,500-meters (3:40.42, 2nd best) and the 5,000 (13:30.52, 2nd best). Oregon coach Bill Dellinger declared Hill in both, to decide which he will run at nationals.



David Mack

The two-time defending champion in the 800, Mack's best time this year (1:48.2) is two seconds off his lifetime best of 1:46.1. He's also clocked a 3:45.11 in the 1,500-meters.



Bill McChesney

Though only credited with the fifth best time in the conference this year at 5,000-meters (13:51:68), the world-class runner has battled injuries to become a favorite in either the 5,000 or 10,000.

Devils Continued from Page 10

pair of freshmen — Cory Randall and Brian Crouser. Randall, with a best of 8:45.62, should take fourth in the steeplechase, while Crouser will finish in the runner-up spot in the javelin. Kent Landerholm should provide points in the hammer and George Walcott points in the sprints, but the best either can hope for is a fifth or sixth place finish.

CALIFORNIA — 53

Cal is perhaps an athlete away from unseating Oregon for the Pac-10's fourth spot at the conference meet. And the Golden Bears do have that athlete — 1980 shotput/discus winner Dave Porath. Unfortunately, he's redshirting this year, and with him on the sidelines, Cal can at best hope for a fifth place finish. Larry Cowling is head and shoulders above the rest of the Bears. He won the Pac-10 and NCAA high hurdles last year and runnerup in the intermediate hurdles. Look for him to take both this year.

ARIZONA — 35

Arizona has an outstanding short relay team, and like Arizona State, their strength lies with their sprinters and jumpers. But they have neither the quality or quantity of the Sun Devils. The 400 relay team will lose only to Arizona State, the 1,600 relay team should finish fourth.

Former South Eugene star Jeff Hess will finish third in the steeplechase.

OREGON STATE — 33

Former Oregon assistant coach Frank Morris has put the Beavers back on the road to respectability — but they haven't moved into the conferences first division yet. Fricker's second in the 1,500 and Kasheef Hassan's win in the 400 will be the Beaver's main source of points. But look for Shannon Sullivan, the defending champ, to take second in the pole vault behind Curran of UCLA, and for Ron Schmidt to finish fourth in the discus.

USC — 30

Gone are the glory years in track and field for the Trojans. From 1974-77 USC won four consecutive Pac-10 titles, but don't expect that this year. The best of the Trojans is sprinter Darwin Cook, who will take a pair of fourths in the sprints, and hurdler Milan Stewart, who will finish behind Cowling in the highs and take a sixth in the intermediates.

WASHINGTON — 19

Decathlete Steve Erickson and discus thrower Doug Woolen are the only hopes for Husky titles. Erickson looks like a much surer bet, since Woolen must face Crouser in the discus. Also, look for Mike Mahovich in the javelin.

STANFORD — 8

What can you say? They will score eight points — as a team, thanks to Sean Pickering's third in the hammer and Bill Graham's fifth in the 10,000.

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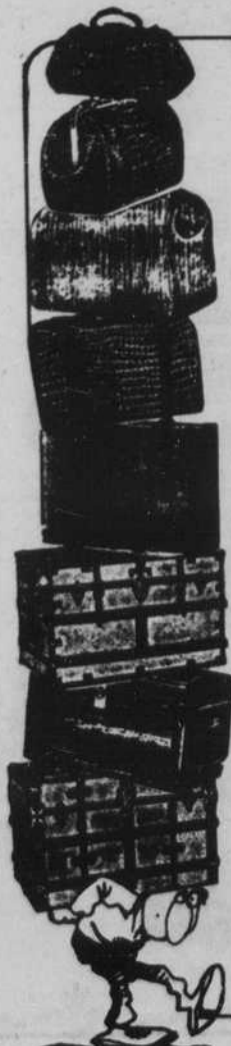
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