

ASU in the fast lane

Devils will top WSU distance, UCLA depth points

By John Healy
Of the Emerald

It's a long road to the Pac-10 track and field crown. Arizona State, Washington State and UCLA know how long that road is, because the trio appears to be the cream of the Pac-10 this year.

But there the similarities end.

The Sun Devils have become one of the best teams in the country by following the fast lane. They boast probably the deepest set of sprinters in the country, and because of the ability of their sprinters to run two, three or even four events, Arizona State is able to score big points with few competitors.

WSU have gone the other route to the Pac-10's heights. Washington State is loaded with distance runners and weightmen, and that combination will decide how far the Cougars will be able to carry their hopes for a title.

UCLA has taken a middle course, stockpiling plenty of talent, but not the quality of the other two. The Bruins are deep, probably more so than any other team in the conference. Then there's Oregon.

The Ducks don't have the depth this year, especially in the distance events, but the athletes they do have are championship quality. Oregon could take home five individual wins this weekend, but it's doubtful they will take home the team trophy.

The teams, in order of their projected finishes, and their projected point totals:

ARIZONA STATE — 125

Ron Brown, Howard Henley, Lamonte King, Leon Tubbs and Willie Jones could provide the Sun Devils with as many as 70 points, which is a higher point total than most of the teams hope to score. Brown and Henley will anchor the 100, King and Henley the 200, and Tubbs and Jones the 400. Henley was the conference 400 winner last year, while King won the 200 and long jump, events in which he should repeat as the winner.

Arizona State's two relay teams should win the conference meet easily, and may be the best quartets in the country. The Sun Devils also have some strength in the 800 and 1,500, with three runners under 1:49.10 in the 800 — all three should score — and defending 1,500 champ Dan Raby, who won't finish higher than sixth unless the pace is slow in the final.

John Lenstroh provides point potential in both hurdles races, and he should be able to pick up a second and a third in the intermediates and highs, respectively.

UCLA — 118

The Bruins depth should allow them to edge Washington State, since the Cougars must rely on fewer athletes and hence their margin of error is narrower.

UCLA should score in 16 of the 21 events that comprise the Pac-10 track and field championships, but in only three of those events will the Bruins claim the top spot. Eric Brown, the 100 winner last year, will repeat, and a pair of runner-ups last year — Dokie Williams in the triple jump and Anthony Curran in the pole vault — appear to be the best in the conference in their respective events.

But those three wins equal only 30 points, so if they Bruins want to have even a remote shot at the leaders, they must get good performances from just about everyone.

WASHINGTON STATE — 117

Chaplin has again based his title hopes on foreign



Photo by Bob Baker

Duck coach Bill Dellinger's club doesn't have the depth to challenge for the crown.

athletes. But he has diversified this year, moving away from relying strictly on African distance runners. And with the added flexibility, the Cougars will move into the Pac-10's top spot if the Sun Devils slip just a bit.

In the events the Cougars will score in, they will be ringing up big numbers, as in the 5,000 (14 points), 10,000 (14 points), steeplechase (12 points), hammer (20 points), and javelin (18 points). That's 78 points in five events.

The best of the Cougars are distance runners Peter Koech (who should win the 5,000 and 10,000 with ease), Richard Tuwei (the steeplechase winner), Laslo Babits (a win in the javelin), Brent Harken (a clear choice in the high jump), and Tore Gustafson (first in the hammer). But the Cougars face the same problems the Ducks do — they have quality, but not enough of it.

OREGON — 87

The Ducks appear to have clear-cut winners in four events — Dean Crouser in the discus and shot put, David Mack in the 800 and Hill in the 1,500. Beyond those 40 points — and whatever Hill and Bill McChesney can pick up in the 5,000 — Oregon will have to rely on a home track advantage and luck to challenge any of the top three.

Crouser, with bests this year of 68-3/4 and 208-3 in the shot put and discus, respectively, won't be challenged at the conference meet. It's doubtful anyone will be up to challenging Mack, either, as he is the two-time 800 titlist and has a career best of 1:46.03. Although Hill has a slower time than Fricker in the 1,500 (3:40.42 to 3:38.9), he ran a 3:56.41 in the Twilight Meet last week, which converts to a 3:39.1,500.

The only other solid favorites to score points are a

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Meet schedule

Friday

- 4:00 — Hammer Trials and Final
- 4:40 — Long Jump Trials and Final
- 4:50 — Pole Vault Final
- 5:00 — 4 X 100-meters Relay Trials
- 5:05 — Javelin Trials and Final
- 5:15 — Steeplechase Final
- 5:30 — 1,500-meters Trials
- 5:50 — 110-meters Hurdles Trials
- 6:05 — 400-meters Trials
- 6:20 — 100-meters Trials
- 6:30 — Shot Put Trials and Final
- 6:35 — 800-meters Trials
- 6:50 — 400-meters Hurdles Trials
- 7:10 — 200-meters Trials
- 7:30 — 10,000-meters Final

Saturday

- 1:30 — High Jump Trials and Final
- 2:00 — Triple Jump Trials and Final
- 2:05 — Discus Trials and Final
- 2:30 — 4 X 100-meters Relay Final
- 2:40 — 1,500-meters Final
- 2:55 — 110-meters Hurdles Final
- 3:05 — 400-meters Final
- 3:15 — 100-meters Final
- 3:25 — 800-meters Final
- 3:40 — 400-meters Hurdle Final
- 3:55 — 200-meters Final
- 4:05 — 5,000-meters Final
- 4:25 — 4 X 400-meters Relay Final

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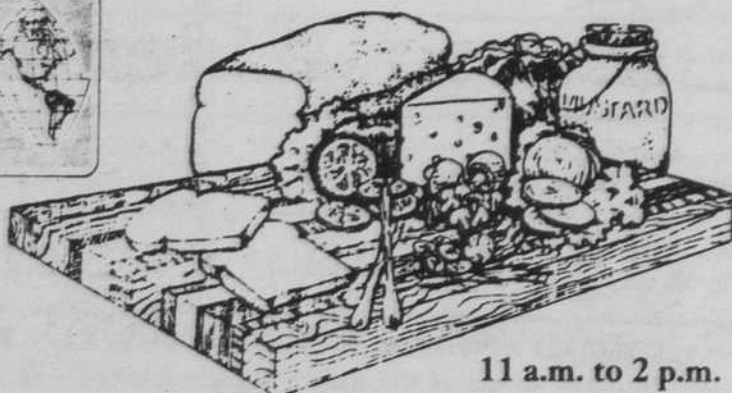
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