

## Unknown factors dominate NCAA's first-ever coed meet

By Mike Ripplinger  
Of the Emerald

It will be a meet full of unknowns when the Oregon women's track team competes in the first-ever coed NCAA Championships track meet starting today in Provo, Utah.

"It's going to be an interesting meet," said Oregon coach Tom Heinonen. "There'll be a lot of variables that we'll be dealing with."

The Ducks will be contending with a new scoring system, a new qualification system, and their first NCAA championship opportunity since leaving the AIAW fold.

And then they get to find out how good UCLA really is. The Bruins are the pre-meet favorite, and Heinonen expects them to fulfill that role, winning the meet handily.

"Track and Field News has UCLA head and shoulders above the others, and I have to agree with that," he said.

"They look awfully strong in the sprints, relays, and heptathlon. Also they'll get points in the throws, high jump, long jump, javelin, 1,500 and 10,000.

"What's that leave for the rest of us?" he asked with a laugh.

Track and Field News has Oregon picked in a tie with defending champion Tennessee for second place, which Heinonen sees as "a little too high."

"I'll be happy with a finish in the top five. Most of those (predictions) that have us in the top two were made without knowledge of how Leann (Warren) is, so it's hard to count them," he said, grimacing when he mentioned Warren and the virus that has hampered her all year.

Heinonen looks for Florida State to challenge Oregon and Tennessee in what should essentially be a race for second place. He rates Arizona, Nebraska, Houston and Virginia as also contenders for the top five.

The Ducks will have to contend with the new scoring system which has places for the top 12 instead of six.

"I like to think the scoring system will help us and it will certainly make it more interesting," Heinonen said. "Everyone will be able to put more points on the board, so it should make for a more wide open meet."

But the new system for qualifying for finals in each event brings nothing but scowls from Heinonen. Only the winners of each heat will be guaranteed a place in the eight person finals, with the other berths going to the fastest times of the other finishers. A consolation final of six will be held to determine places 9 through 12.

With the high altitude of Provo, the qualifying rounds will drain the distance runners. They will have to run their best just to get into the final, and won't be able to save their strength as they have in the past.

"The new method irks most coaches, because it eliminates tactics and makes each runner go all out instead of running just good enough to win. The altitude will have an effect, but since none

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## The top Ducks



Photos by Bob Baker, David Corey and Mark Pynes

Much of the hopes of the Oregon women rest on the shoulders of Leann Warren (above) as the Oregon track teams begin NCAA competition today. Warren has been hampered all year with a virus and will face some stiff competition in Provo, but the Ducks can also count on distance stars Kathy Hayes and Eryn Forbes (upper left). The men are looking to David Mack (lower left), Dean Crouser (upper right) and Jim Hill (lower right).



## The team's not the thing for Duck men

By John Healy  
Of the Emerald

Track and Field News says they will finish seventh. Head coach Bill Dellinger predicts a "top 10" finish.

Either way you look at it, it doesn't appear that the Oregon men have a chance at this year's team title at the NCAA track and field championships in Provo, Utah, scheduled today through Saturday.

But individual crowns is a whole different matter. The Ducks have a legitimate double winner in junior weightman Dean Crouser; the 800 title could go to junior David Mack; and another junior, Jim Hill, could take home a win in the 1,500 if he decided to opt for it instead of the 5,000.

Dellinger isn't so sure of individual wins by his athletes, but prefers to point out that "David Mack, Dean Crouser, Brian Crouser and Jim Hill are potentially high scorers for us."

Of the four, the older Crouser — Dean — is probably the "surest" points Oregon will take to this year's meet. He finished fourth in the discus at last year's NCAA meet, and his lifetime best of 213-0 is the career best of any of the throwers entered in the NCAA's discus competition this year.

Crouser has improved considerably in the shot put this spring, moving into third on the all-time Oregon list with a heave of 68-3 1/2 in a win over California. That throw ranks him third in the NCAA's shot put field.

Dellinger says Crouser is "rapidly becoming one of the best weightmen in the nation" because of his versatility.

"Dean has always been a national threat in the discus, but now he's making them have to consider him in the shot, too."

Mack, three-time Pac-10 titlist in the 800, hasn't been as impressive this year as he was last spring. But he's done enough to win all five of his 800 meter races this year, and in typical Mack fashion, waited until the final 100 meters to win the Pac-10 race.

He finished sixth in the 1981 NCAA meet and later that summer recorded his lifetime best of 1:46.03.

Hill and Dellinger are still uncertain where the junior from Vienna, Vir., will run.

Dellinger worries that Provo's 4,550 foot altitude could put Hill at a disadvantage in the 5,000. Although Hill was seventh in last year's NCAA 5,000 final and ran a career best of 13:30.52 in a dual meet this year, the altitude at Provo will undoubtedly hinder Hill and help the University of Texas-El Paso's runners, who train at altitude.

"I still like the idea of Jim running the 1,500, but Jim would prefer the 5,000," says Dellinger. "The top men in the 1,500, Jim Speivey of Indiana and John Gregorek of Georgetown, run at sea level."

What he runs will probably be his decision, says Dellinger. "I'm inclined to let him run the event he'd like to run."

Brian Crouser, second in the conference javelin, could score at the NCAA meet. But he's only a freshman, and first-year performers don't have a history of doing well.

"I found out a long time ago that the NCAA is not a place to take people you hope will score, because they seldom do," Dellinger points out.

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