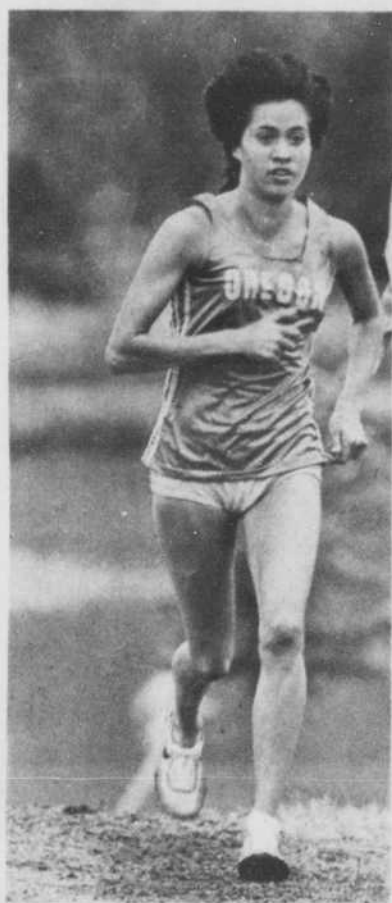


Forbes leads Ducks to third place

Men finish a distant 10th at NCAA championships



Emerald photo

By Marcus Prater
Of the Emerald

The Oregon women "achieved the team goal" by finishing third, but the men were a disappointing 10th on a muddy course at the NCAA cross country championships Monday in Bloomington, Ind.

Oregon junior Jim Hill, expected, as was the team, to finish near the top, ended up 32nd while senior Eryn Forbes, running her last collegiate cross country race, paced the women with a 15th-place showing.

Wisconsin waltzed to the men's title with a 79-point margin of victory over second-place Providence. The Badgers were led by Tim Hacker and Scott Jenkins, who finished fourth and fifth, respectively.

Colorado's Mark Scrutton won the individual title with a 30:13.2 clocking over the 10,000-meter course. Kenyan

Zakarie Barie from Texas-El Paso was second in 30:15.

Oregon's Brad Simpson, the Ducks' number-seven runner, turned in an unexpected 43rd-place finish while John Zishka was 81st and Matt McGuirk finished 96th for Oregon.

Virginia's Leslie Welch took the women's crown in a 5,000-meter course record of 16:39. Her 28-second victory over runner-up Regina Joyce of Washington led the Cavaliers to the team title, outdistancing Stanford 47-88. Oregon's 155 points just edged darkhorse Harvard for third.

Though it didn't rain during the meet, the dry weather conditions marked an end to a week of rain that made the hilly course anything but ideal.

"The course was extremely muddy and slippery because of a week's rain," Oregon women's coach Tom Heinonen said. "The course was

really hilly, muddy and slippery and that made it unlike anything we've (Oregon) seen the past two years.

"Our people performed well for the course," he continued. "But no where near what they are capable of on a flatter, faster course like in the West."

Heinonen said he was not making excuses for his team, because there was no need for alibis.

"I feel really good about achieving the team goal of being in the top three. An important note is even if we would have had Leann (Warren, the Ducks number one runner who was lost for the season after knee surgery), and if she would have won, we still would have finished third," Heinonen said.

With the individual performances not what they could have been, third place is a real tribute to the Ducks strength as a team, Heinonen said.

The Ducks were "no where

near our individual goals," with sophomore Kathy Hayes, who battled a heavy chest cold that hindered her talking and breathing, finishing 39th. Freshman Kim Roth placed 41st, Rosa Gutierrez 48th, Lisa Martin 66th, Allison Snow 94th and Claudette Groenendaal was 101st out of 132 runners.

However, Heinonen lauded Forbes' last cross country performance.

"The one person that stands out is Eryn. She wanted to finish with a good race and she did. On a day where our younger performers couldn't put it together, she did just that," Heinonen said of the Portland product.

Heinonen was surprised by the finish of Harvard.

"Everybody thought it (the race) would come down to Virginia and Stanford for first and second, and Oregon and Clemson for third and fourth. I don't think anybody expected Harvard to get fourth."

Penn State climbs to second

From the Associated Press

Penn State moved into second place Monday in the Associated Press college football poll, setting up a possible national championship meeting with top-rated Georgia in the Sugar Bowl.

Although Penn State did not play over the weekend, the Nittany Lions climbed from third place to second when Southern Methodist, last week's runner-up, was held to a 17-17 tie by Arkansas.

Penn State winds up its regular season Friday against fifth-ranked Pitt, while Georgia, also idle last weekend, closes Saturday against Georgia Tech. The two teams will meet in the Sugar Bowl on New Year's Night.

Georgia, the nation's only unbeaten-untied major college team, was a near-unanimous choice for No. 1 with 52 of 57 first-place votes and 1,133 of a possible 1,140 points. Penn State received two first-place ballots and 1,057 points.

Nebraska, which meets Oklahoma on Friday for the Big Eight championship, rose from fourth to third with the other three first-place votes and 1,018 points.

SMU is fourth with 969 points, followed by Pitt, up from sixth to fifth with 898 points. The Panthers swamped Rutgers 52-6 to earn a Cotton Bowl berth.

Arizona State, idle until Saturday's clash with Arizona, vaulted from eighth to sixth with 817 points. LSU, a runaway 55-21 winner over Florida State in the Orange Bowl sweepstakes, jumped from 12th to seventh with 749 points.

Rounding out the Top Ten are UCLA, Arkansas and Clemson, while Washington dropped from fifth to 13th after losing to Washington State 24-20 and Florida State fell from seventh to 15th.

UCLA, No. 11 last week, went to eighth with 706 points by edging Southern California 20-19.

Sax named Rookie of the Year, fourth straight Dodger to win

NEW YORK (AP) — Second baseman Steve Sax has been named the National League's Rookie of the Year in a close vote to become the fourth consecutive Los Angeles Dodger to win the award, the Baseball Writers Association of America announced Monday.

Sax, 22, landed nine first-place votes and a total of 63 points from a panel of two writers from each of the 12 National League cities. Johnny Ray, Pittsburgh Pirates second baseman, finished second with six first-place votes and 57 points.

Outfielder Willie McGee, one

of the St. Louis Cardinals' World Series heroes, finished third with five first-place votes and 39 points.

Sax, whose emergence allowed the Dodgers to trade veteran Davey Lopes to Oakland during the off-season, batted .282 in the leadoff position, drove in 47 runs and stole 49 bases in 150 games.

Sax drew four second-place votes and six for third and became the 11th Dodger to win the rookie prize since it was inaugurated in 1947. In 1947 and 1948 there was only one rookie award for both leagues.

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