



Garth Morrisette

Oregon harriers set to run in OTC race

By Todd Fletcher
Of the Emerald

The Oregon men's and women's cross country teams will be in action Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the Oregon Track Club Invitational in Creswell.

Both teams will be at the meet, but the similarities end there.

Men's coach Bill Dellinger calls the meet more or less a warm-up for Pac-10s Nov. 12, while women's coach Tom Heinonen says his team can't afford a let-down Sunday after a big win at the Paul Short Memorial in Bethlehem, Pa.

"This meet really doesn't have much importance for us," says Dellinger.

To prove his point, Dellinger says he will hold out all the harriers that ran in last weekend's Oregon Invitational at Tokatee Golf Club.

With Hill and company missing the meet, less heralded runners like Garth Morrisette, Rick Bergeson and Tom Badrick may get a chance to prove themselves in Creswell.

By leaving most of his top runners out of the OTC meet, Dellinger is delaying his selection of who will be his top seven runners for the Pac-10 meet at Stanford, Calif. But if he is worried about who will fill those seven slots, Dellinger isn't letting on.

"When the time comes, I'll decide who is going to run," he says.

Dellinger will have a tough decision. He'll have to choose between sophomores Matt McGuirk, Dan Nelson and Harold Kuphaldt, senior Vance Blow, and redshirt freshmen Dub Myers and Will Kimball. Seemingly assured of spots

are Chris Hamilton, Mike Blackmore and Hill.

On the women's side, Heinonen emphasizes this weekend's meet will get major consideration from him and his team.

"It will be an important race for us," said Heinonen. "It is a chance for us to run at home and a lot of people are still trying to prove themselves. I'm eager to see the competition for our top seven positions."

While Heinonen admits the team competition doesn't compare to last week's Paul Short Memorial in Pennsylvania (Oregon defeated second-ranked Virginia, among other Eastern powers), he said the individual competition is very good.

Some of the top guns include UCLA's Michelle Bush, who won the NCAA's 1,500 meters last year, Jill Haworth, who was Virginia's No. 2 runner last year and placed fourth in last year's NCAA cross country championship, and OTC's Marty Cooksey, who pushed both Lisa Martin and Kathy Hayes in the Garrie Franklin Classic.

Heinonen points to Idaho and Colorado State as teams that may push the Ducks.

"Idaho is better than it has shown in its performances this year," says Heinonen.

CSU is unknown, but Heinonen cautions that the Rams, coming to Eugene from the higher altitude of Colorado, could surprise a lot of people.

In addition to Idaho and CSU, Oregon's teams will be pitted against the likes of Oregon State, Washington, Washington State and the Oregon Track Club. Several runners from Athletics West should be in the meet as well.



Lisa Martin

Netters have 'must-win' meeting with Bulldogs

By Brent Paz
Of the Emerald

Oregon's volleyball team continues pursuit of a NorPac Conference tournament spot when it entertains Fresno State University Friday and second-ranked University of Pacific Saturday at McArthur Court. Both matches start at 7:30 p.m.

Oregon coach Chris Voelz considers the Fresno State match a must-win situation for the Ducks, 14-11 this season and 0-1 in league play.

The Ducks already have beaten the Bulldogs twice this year, 15-9, 15-11, and 15-12, 4-15, 15-6, but Voelz is wary of her opponent.

"Although we've taken Fresno

State in two previous meetings, we're not taking them lightly," says Voelz. "After they took California (ranked 12th) and San Jose State (20th) to five games, we need to respect them."

Still, Voelz feels the Bulldogs, 5-7 and 0-2 in NorPac action, are the kind of team Oregon must beat to advance to the conference tournament in November.

Junior outside hitter Cynthia Shepherd agrees. "Fresno is a must," she says. "We are going to take them (games) one at a time."

Fresno State's attack is centered around 5-8 junior Ruth Lawanson. Lawanson holds FSU records for single-game and career kills (24, 287).

As she has all season, sophomore Sue Harbour leads the Duck attack. Harbour has a team-leading 326 kills and paces the team in three other statistical categories.

Harbour and the Ducks will have to be in high-flying form Saturday when Pacific comes to town.

Pacific, 11-0 this season and 2-0 in NorPac, features no less than six All-American candidates.

All-American setter Jan Saunders directs the Tiger offense. She gets help from honorable mention All-Americans Robin Burns and Eileen Dempster, juniors, and Therese Boyle, who leads the team with a .333 hitting

percentage.

Thursday, the Ducks got good news for this weekend's matchups — co-captain Cathy Hill, out most of the week with knee problems, was back in practice and should be ready for both Fresno State and the Tigers. However, sophomore Shaunna Koenig remains sidelined with a hamstring injury.

With Hill back, the Ducks smell an upset against Pacific, a team which received four first-place votes in national polls.

"It is nothing of awe, by any means," says Oregon's other co-captain, Barb Lutz. "We're going to give them a run for their money."



Chris Voelz

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