

# Hill: He's another Duck distance great



Emerald Photo  
Jim Hill, an Olympic track hopeful in three events, has his mind on cross country and Saturday's District 8 Championships.

By Rich Skeen  
Of the Emerald

The list of great Oregon distance runners is packed with names like Steve Prefontaine, Alberto Salazar, Paul Geis, Bill McChesney and Rudy Chapa. But those greats of the past need to make room for a current runner who's sure to add his name to the list by graduation time.

Senior Jim Hill seems destined to join other Oregon greats. Hill already has gained All-American status in track with a seventh-place finish in the 1981 National Collegiate Athletic Association 5,000 meters and a fifth at the 1982 NCAA 1,500.

But Hill also has won Pac-10 Cross Country Championship in 1982 and this year (his 28:50 in 1982 at Fresno, Calif., was a course record), and it is cross country which is on his mind this fall.

Hill, 32nd in the 1982 NCAA Cross Country meet, leads the Ducks into Saturday's District 8 Championships at Lane Community College, where both he and the Ducks will defend 1982 crowns.

Besides starring for two years on the race course, Hill has been a star off it.

"He's very much a team leader," says Oregon assistant coach John Gillespie. "There's no doubt that if either the team or coach Dellinger picked a team captain, it would be Jim."

Hill admits he is somewhat of a team leader, but he says he depends on teammates as much as they depend on him.

"I'd go bananas if I had to train by myself," says the native of Vienna, Va.

"I enjoy cross country," says Hill, and he explains why. "I'm doing it for myself — I enjoy the different variables that cross country offers and I'm not trying to reach certain times like I do in track."

Not trying to reach times doesn't mean Hill lets up in his training.

"I have to be ready to run every race 110 percent," says Hill. "Training makes me happy. If I'm consistently improving and I stay healthy, then I feel good."

Consistent improvement has been a Hill trademark since he came to Oregon from the Washington, D.C., area. After running in just one meet his freshman year, Hill has become a legitimate Olympic hopeful in either the 1,500, 5,000 or 10,000, where he has bests of 3:39.84, 13:19.73, and 27:55.23.

He should be a factor come NCAA Cross Country time too, according to Oregon coach Bill Dellinger, who says "Jim is a potential top 10 finisher."

Like several other Oregon distance runners, Hill would like to stay in Eugene after graduation and continue to train.

"I'd like to stay close to coach Dellinger — he's really been the key to my success," Hill says.

The Olympics, the American track circuit and the European circuit are all in Hill's plans. But with this weekend on his mind, everything else can wait.

## Oregon, Arizona teams to beat at District 8 meet

After losing its Pac-10 crown to University of Arizona two weeks ago, Oregon's men's cross country team will have a chance to redeem itself when it hosts the NCAA District 8 Championships at Lane Community College Saturday.

The Ducks, who won this meet last year, hope to improve on their Pac-10 showing, where they finished second behind Arizona despite a 1-2 finish by Jim Hill and Mike Blackmore.

The team race should come down to a battle between the Ducks and Arizona, with UCLA and Stanford University next. The top three teams will receive NCAA berths.

The Wildcats return six of seven runners from 1982, including Tommy Ausberry, who finished third at Pac-10s. UCLA and Stanford finished third and fourth at the conference meet.

Oregon coach Bill Dellinger likes his team's chances Saturday, but he fears Arizona's

strength. "Arizona has an excellent team — their victory in the Pac-10 was no fluke," says Dellinger. "We'll have to run closer together as a group and let Jim Hill lead us."

Leading the Ducks is exactly what All-American Hill has done this year, but he notes that his efforts alone won't win the meet.

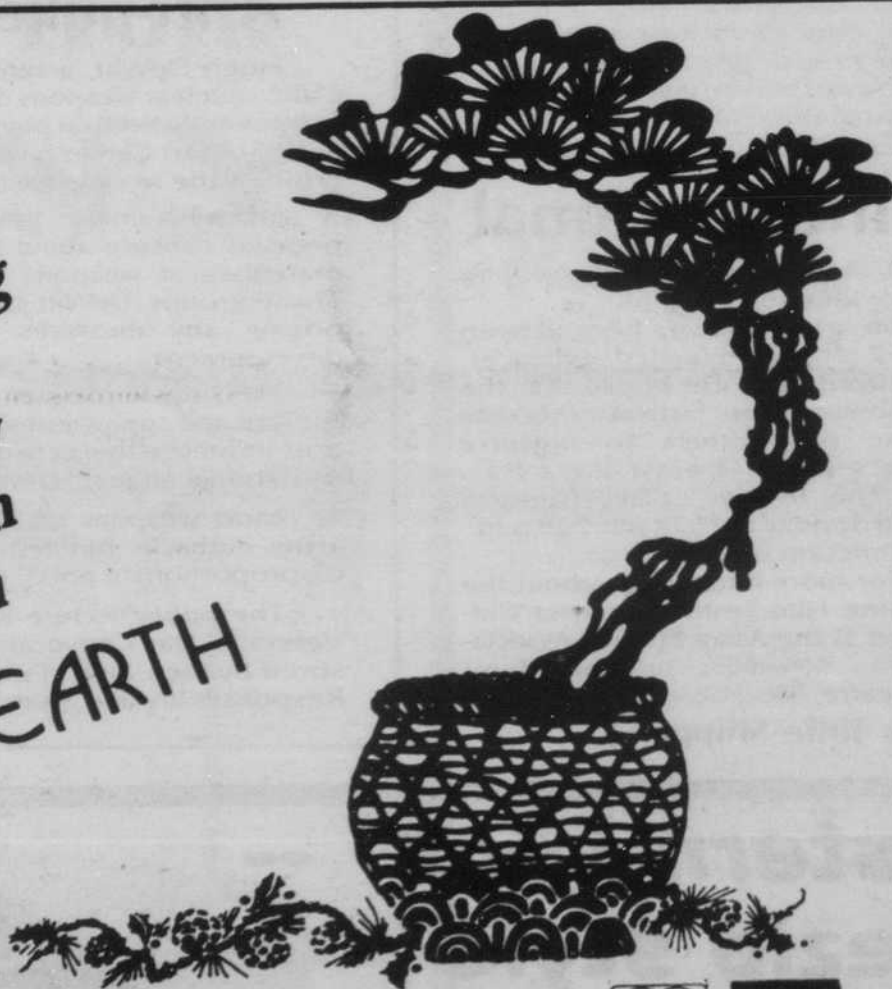
"It doesn't do any good to go 1-2 if the other guys don't come through," says Hill. "Arizona whipped our butts, and the only way we're going to beat them is to put our three, four and five guys with theirs."

At the conference meet in Stanford, Calif., Arizona beat the Ducks by packing five runners into the first 11 finishers.

The meet begins at 11 a.m., with women's competition getting underway at 10:30 a.m. Student tickets are \$2 for the 22-team affair.

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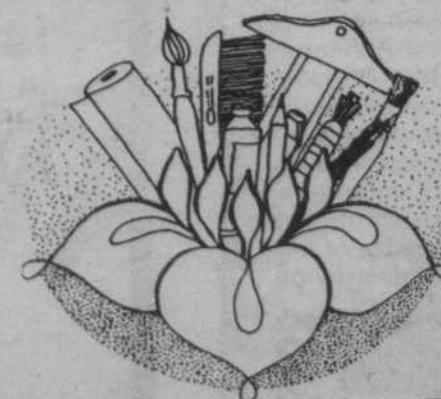
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