

sports

Ducks tackle Washington

By John Healy
Of the Emerald

The Oregon men's track team can breathe a sigh of relief Saturday when they face the Washington Huskies in Seattle. For the first time in three weeks, the Ducks won't be faced with trying to beat one of the best dual meet teams in the country.

The Huskies are, at last report, merely human. That will be a nice change for Oregon, which faced the top-ranked dual meet team in Washington State two weeks ago and then went against the third-ranked UCLA Bruins last weekend. Oregon lost to the Cougars 94-69 but beat the Bruins in a cliffhanger 86-77.

Oregon coach Bill Dellinger will use the Washington meet to give some of his top athletes a breather from competition. Joaquin Cruz, Oregon's NCAA titlist at 800 meters, won't run, and Dellinger will also probably hold out distance ace Jim Hill. Other athletes who may get a

breather include Brian Crouser — who may only throw the discus instead of his specialty, the javelin — and basketball star Chris Harper, who will most likely stay out of the high jump and try his hand at the long jump. Harper placed second against UCLA in his first competition this year.

Dellinger will rely heavily on some of the lesser known Ducks to fill-in against the Huskies, although Oregon will have quite a few "name" athletes in Seattle.

Oregon will bank heavily on Lamar Hurd, who shared the Pac-10 track athlete of the week award after scoring 12 1/4 points against UCLA. Hurd will be entered in the long jump and triple jump, the 110 meter high hurdles, and the 400 intermediate hurdles. The longer hurdles race will be his first stab at that distance.

Washington has good strength in the 100, with Sterling Hinds (10.46) and Byron Howell (10.47), and in the javelin, with Bob Rockett (267-0) and Dale Pedersen (255-7). But beyond that quartet, the Huskies don't have an athlete ranked in the top 10 in any event in the Pac-10. The only other Huskies of note are hurdler Don Morehead

(14.44 in the highs, 52.18 in the intermediates) and jumper Vestee Jackson (51-7 lifetime best in the triple jump).

Oregon distance runners Chris Hamilton and Rich Bergesen, both held out of the UCLA meet because of illness, should see action Saturday. But sprinter Parrish Nixon won't compete Saturday after injuring his hamstring against the Bruins. It was the second straight year he has hurt the leg midway through the season.

Sports shorts

Oregon's women's tennis team, 7-4, hosts the Oregon Invitational, the second of two NorPac Conference championship qualifying tournaments, today and Saturday on the covered courts and the 15th Street Courts, weather permitting.

Top-seeded Washington and the second-seeded Ducks are the favorites to win the tourney.

Three high-school stars have signed letters of intent to play for Elwin Heiny and the Oregon women's basketball team. They are Sonora McDuffie, Sheila Sattiewwhite and Sue Brown.

McDuffie, from St. Mary's High in Portland, is the sister of Oregon's Heather McDuffie, a sweet-shooting sophomore guard. Sattiewwhite, a 5-9 guard from Oxnard, Calif., averaged 23.0 points and a staggering 15.1 rebounds at Channel Island High School and is considered one of the best defensive players on the West Coast. Brown, a forward from Bellingham, Wash., was named to Street and Smith Magazine's All-America third team. As a senior, she had 35 points, 18 rebounds and 11 assists in one game.

Oregon's women's softball team, 8-17, watched pouring rains drown its scheduled game with Portland State University Thursday, but the Ducks play at Lewis and Clark today and return to host Pacific Saturday at 1 p.m. The PSU contest will not be made up.

Oregon's men's tennis team travels to Portland today to meet Washington State University. The Ducks are 3-8.

Oregon's golf team enters its most important stretch of the spring season this weekend when it travels to Fresno, Calif., for the 54-hole Fresno State-Pepsi Classic Friday and Saturday. The field for the tourney includes top-ranked Brigham Young University and top-20 powers USC, UCLA and Arizona State.

Recruits are in for Oregon's gymnastic team and Oregon's wrestling team. South Eugene High School gymnasts Julie Weinstein and Maureen Hennessy are headed for Oregon, as are Anne Marquett of Yakima, Wash., and Jan Nishimura of Honolulu, Hawaii. Weinstein, the sister of Oregon State's Jayne Weinstein, is a former National Academy of Artistic Gymnastics performer.

Derek Phillips, a 157-pound wrestler from Churchill High School who rolled up a 35-1 record this season, has signed with Oregon.

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