

Oregon's wary of Fresno State

By John Healy
Of the Emerald

When it comes to track and field, Oregon State's "Orange Express" seems to be permanently stalled. But that doesn't mean the Oregon men's track team can just idle through Saturday's meet at Hayward Field.

Not with Fresno State in town. "The addition of Fresno State makes this weekend into a tougher dual meet," says Oregon coach Bill Dellinger. "I don't want to overlook Oregon State, but in terms of extending our team, we face a team much like UCLA and Cal in Fresno State."

For the Ducks, that could mean a long afternoon. Oregon managed to nip UCLA at home 86-77 on the strength of a win in the mile relay, then squeezed by California 83-80.

However, both California and UCLA pummeled the Ducks in the sprints, relays and a couple weight events. Those are also strong areas for the Bulldogs.

Dellinger and the Ducks will answer that challenge with an area Oregon has become renowned in — the distance events.

The Bulldogs, defending Pacific Coast Athletic Association champions, are 6-1 in duals this season. They were beaten badly by UCLA, but Dellinger says that was because the Bulldogs came out second best in the sprints.

Those same sprinters, if times are any indication, won't have to settle for many seconds against the Ducks and Beavers. Fresno State will bring a sprint contingent to Eugene that has Terry Neely (10.55) and George Gaffney (10.59) in the 100; Larry Walker (46.96) and Robin Johnson (47.22) in the 400; and Sam Chance (21.1) and Neely (21.78) in the 200.

Add up all those Fresno State points in the sprints and relays, and the Ducks trail 36-1.

But Oregon should dominate in anything 800 meters and above. Bas-

ed on times, Oregon should sweep the steeplechase and 1,500, finish 1-2 in the 5,000, and win the 800 against Fresno State. That would be a 31-5 Oregon margin, which would effectively counterbalance the Bulldogs' sprint margin.

Which means the jumps and weights — especially the former — will be pivotal Saturday.

"Our vaulters will be challenged, they are strong in the hurdles, and we face one of the best hammer throwers (Matt Milehan, 244-8) in the NCAA," says Dellinger.

Other keys: In the pole vault, Oregon's Kory Tarpenning (17-8½) faces Fresno State's Doug Fraley (17-2) and Mark Heppner (17-0¼); in the long jump, Oregon will pit J.J. Birden (25-3½) and Chris Bolden (25-1) against the Bulldogs' Gaffney (25-11) and David Williams (24-3¼); and the triple jump matches Uchenna Agu (50-6) with FSU's Clint Williams (51-10¼).

Suns drop Blazers out of NBA playoffs

PORTLAND (AP) — The Phoenix Suns, paced by the second half outside shooting of guards Walter Davis and Kyle Macy, knocked off the Portland Trail Blazers 117-105 Thursday night in the fifth and deciding game of their National Basketball Association playoff series.

The Suns, who beat the Blazers twice on Portland's home court during the series, advanced to take on Utah in a best-of-seven Western Conference semifinal series starting Sunday in Salt Lake City.

Davis scored 21 of his 29 points in the second half, while Macy scored 17 of his 20 after intermission as the Suns pulled away from the depleted Blazers.

Portland was playing without center Mychal Thompson, who broke his right elbow in Tuesday night's game in Phoenix.

Starting forwards Calvin Natt and Kenny Carr also were hobbled by injuries.

Maurice Lucas and Larry Nance scored 19 each for Phoenix. Jim Paxson topped Portland with 24 points, while Natt added 20 and Valentine 19.

Ducks eyeing No. 1 dual-meet standing

A road-weary Oregon women's track and field team returns to Hayward Field Saturday afternoon to host Oregon State and Fresno State in a co-ed double-dual beginning at noon.

The Ducks, 3-0 in dual meets this season, are making a strong bid to become the national dual-meet champions. This year, Oregon has knocked off two-time defending NCAA champion UCLA (91-43), Washington (70-56) and Washington State (82-44).

A pair of wins Saturday would give the Ducks a 5-0 slate and make them the odds-on favorite to become the top women's dual-meet team in the land.

But Oregon will be without the services of three, possibly four, performers for this double-dual as Ranza Clark, Claudette Groenendaal and Kay Garnett travel to Walnut, Calif., to run in the Mt. SAC Relays. Lisa Nicholson is another possible entrant for the meet.

"They are going to get some high-powered competition down there," says Oregon assistant coach Mark Stream. "It is one of the biggest meets around. It will be an excellent opportunity for them to get some good times and run against national-caliber

athletes."

Clark and Groenendaal will run in the 800, Garnett will take part in the 100 hurdles and Nicholson may be entered in the 400 hurdles.

Even without four of their top performers, the Ducks are favored to sweep the double-dual, which begins with the long jump.

"Just looking at the entries, this looks like a meet we're sure to win," says Oregon coach Tom Heinonen.

With the addition of Fresno State, the meet promises full fields in almost every event. In the 100 and 200, for example, there will most likely be eight competitions instead of three or four were this strictly a Duck-Beaver dual.

One of the best events promises to be the long jump. Oregon State's Colleen Gibson heads the field with a 19-7 mark, Oregon freshman Janell Thorsland has a best of 19-2¼ this season, and Fresno State offers 19-1¼ jumper Renee Jackson.

With Clark and Groenendaal absent, the door is open for Brenda Bushnell and Kim Roth, who is running in her first race of the season, to win the 800 and 1,500 meters.

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Sports shorts

Oregon's men's track team has boosted its signings for next season to three with the addition of hurdler Gerald Ellis Wednesday. He is from Seattle, Wash., and attended the same high school — Garfield — as Oregon's LaMar Hurd. He is expected to fill the void left by the graduation of Hurd and Don Ward.

The Ducks have already made in-state inroads by signing 1983 1,500 and 3,000-meter champ Tracy Garrison of Klamath Union and 800 titlist Chris Quade of Springfield.

Both Garrison and Quade are nationally-ranked runners, but each declined to

visit other schools. Quade has a best of 1:53.76 in the 800.

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Oregon's softball team hosts a pair of NorPac Conference opponents today and Saturday. University of San Francisco invades Oregon Field today at 2 p.m., while University of the Pacific is here at 1 p.m. Saturday.

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Oregon's golf team, fresh off a win in the Rippling River Portland State Invitational and 800 titlist Chris Quade of Springfield. Both Garrison and Quade are nationally-ranked runners, but each declined to