

sports

Oregon set for Twilight Meet, but Hurd, Hayes have injuries

By Doug Levy
Of the Emerald

With dual meets over and conference championships a week away, one would think Oregon's track teams would approach Saturday's annual Twilight Meet at Hayward Field with optimism.

The theme of the Twilight Meet, according to men's coach Bill Dellinger and women's coach Tom Heinonen, is to qualify some athletes for national competition and have the rest ready to go for Pac-10s and NorPacs.

Instead, the focus may be on two key competitors fighting injuries and time, rather than the meet itself.

On the men's side, Dellinger must accept the fact that LaMar Hurd will be unavailable through the Pac-10 meet. Hurd ran a PR and NCAA-qualifying 13.81 in the 110-meter hurdles two weeks ago.

Then his problems began. Last Saturday, Hurd pulled up halfway through his hurdles race at the Oregon Pepsi Relays. He hasn't been able to run since.

"It just felt like a real big cramp," says Hurd, "and I thought it would be all right if I stopped."

It wasn't. Hurd has a pulled hamstring muscle, and he admits he'll likely skip the Pac-10 Conference Championships May 18-19 in Pullman, Wash.

"I hope I'll be ready for the NCAA meet," says Hurd. "I'll take it slow." Dellinger says he won't run Hurd in Pullman if there are any questions about his leg.

There are questions for Heinonen, too — concerning Kathy Hayes. Hayes had been sidelined most of this season with a stress fracture, but she was supposedly recovered, especially after she ran an NCAA-qualifying 15:48.43 5,000 at the Pepsi Relays.

But Hayes has had leg problems during practices this week, and Heinonen is worried about how that affects her status.

"She hasn't been able to run a normal workout this week," says Heinonen. "She's been having problems for a couple of weeks now."

Hayes was tentatively scheduled to run the 3,000 Saturday, but Heinonen may ask her to skip that race in favor of the NorPac Conference Meet May 18-19 in Fresno, Calif.

Besides those injuries, things look fine for both Dellinger and Heinonen.

Dellinger will send most of his athletes into Saturday's meet, with the notable exception of Joaquim Cruz. Cruz will be in Los Angeles for the Pepsi Meet, where he will test a loaded 1,500-meter field.

Most of the hype for the Twilight Meet is centered around the Twilight Mile, and with good reason. Twenty-one Oregon runners have dipped below four minutes in the featured event, including Dub Myers, who ran a 3:57.06 a year ago.

Saturday, Myers will try to better his 1983 mark, and he'll have plenty of lemon and green company. Steeplechaser Matt McGuirk, Mike Blackmore, Harold Kuphaldt, Rick Bergesen, and Will Kimball all will attempt to bust the mythical four-minute barrier. One Duck distance runner will not — Jim Hill.

"He's running the 1,500 at the Pac-10 meet, and I'm preparing him for the 5,000 at NCAAs," says Dellinger. "I don't want him to run a mile Saturday, then another mile at the Pac-10 meet."

Salazar sounds off on Soviets

EUGENE (AP) — Alberto Salazar says the failure of the Soviet Union to participate in the Los Angeles Olympics will diminish the importance of winning medals in some events.

"I think it would take away from any medal that one wins when one knows that some of the main competition isn't there," said Salazar, the world marathon record holder who lives in Eugene.

Salazar said Tuesday that his event won't be diminished by the absence of the Soviets, because the USSR isn't known for its marathoners.

"In the marathon, the top Oregon Daily Emerald

guys will be there," he said. "I'm going to be satisfied to win any medal and I'm going to think I would have won it no matter who was there."

Other Oregonians with Olympic connections had varied reactions to the Soviet pullout.

"I think the Soviets wanted to get even," said former Oregon discus standout Dean Crouser of Gresham. He was referring to the U.S. decision not to compete in the Moscow Olympics four years ago.

Bob Newland of Eugene, who was team manager for the U.S. Olympic track team in 1980 and assistant manager in 1976, said

the Soviet decision "is not surprising at all, particularly after we called the shots in 1980."

"I'm sure this is not the last country we will lose," said Newland, referring to other Eastern Bloc countries.

Bill Dellinger, head track coach at Oregon and one of the coaches of the U.S. Olympic team, said the Games have become too involved in politics.

"The fact that the Russians aren't here is part of all that," he said. "I still think the competition is going to be good at the Olympics whether or not the Russians are there."



File Photo

A pulled hamstring muscle means no Twilight Meet — and probably no Pac-10 meet — for Oregon's LaMar Hurd.

I've got him in the 3,000 Saturday, and that's better background for his 5,000."

The Ducks have 13 athletes qualified for 16 NCAA events, so qualifying marks won't be at a premium Saturday.

On the contrary, Heinonen has several qualifiers in mind Saturday. Freshman Janell Thorsland has a best of 19-8¼, and Heinonen wants her to reach the NCAA standard of 20-4; Lisa Nicholson, with a season best of 1:00.46 (set at the Pepsi Relays), goes after the NCAA's 59.40.

Shari Collins, who high jumped 5-7¼ last Saturday to boost her recovery from knee surgery, shoots for an NCAA-qualifying 5-11¼; Kim Roth will try to meet the NCAA's demand of 4:22.75 in the 1,500; and Brenda Bushnell hopes to squeeze another couple of seconds off her PR 2:09.9 in the 800 to satisfy the NCAA's 2:08 requirement.

"Nicholson needs to put a whole race together, and I think Kim Roth will run a really fast 1,500," says Heinonen. "She had her foot stepped on and twisted last week, and she still ran a good time (4:25.06)."

Roth faces plenty of competition in her bid for a swift 1,500, including Cathy Twomey of Athletics West and Mary Rapp of Athletes In Action.

The sprints should be exciting, too, thanks to the presence of Pan-American 400 hurdles champ Judi Brown. And keep an eye out for the 400, where Heinonen will look at Grace Bakari, Stephanie Morris, Ingunn Holden, Cam Talton, Lisa Nicholson and Claudette Groenendaal. Two of those six will join Tracy Raade and Julie Hilsenteger when Heinonen puts together a NorPac mile-relay team.


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