

sports

Oregon getting top billing in top-heavy NorPac race

By Steve Turcotte
Of the Emerald

This season in the NorPac Conference, the rich women's track and field teams got richer — but so did the poor.

And that will be quite evident Friday and Saturday as conference championships unfold at Warmerdam Field at Fresno State University.

Oregon, last season's conference champion, made a shambles of the team scoring by racking up 215 points to easily outdistance runner-up Washington, which tallied 105.

This time, things promise to be different. While the Ducks are once again favored to win the team title, the margin of error is not 100 points anymore.

"Every team is better than last year," states Duck coach Tom Heinonen. "We are also a little better but the team race should be a lot closer than it was last year."

The University of Washington, which fell to Oregon in a dual meet 70-56 in April, is much improved and figures to be the closest pursuer. The Huskies hope to utilize their wealth of sprinting, hurdling and jumping power to collar a NorPac championship.

"Washington is clearly the challenger," Heinonen says. "But a real challenge from them depends on how much they ask of their sprinters, jumpers and hurdlers."

California is also vastly improved and could be in the hunt. Oregon State, Washington State and Fresno State are better, but do not figure to be much of a threat to the top teams.

The Huskies possess four of the top five 100 meter sprinters in the conference led by Donna Dennis at 11.35. Dennis is equally as powerful in the 200, but Washington has little from the 400 on up. Washington's Shirley Walker is the top 100-meter hurdler in the conference but will be pushed by Oregon's Kay Garnett.

In the jumps, Washington has four of the top five long jumpers in the conference, led by Meledy Smith at 21-0. Oregon's Janell Thorsland, 19-8¾, will be the Ducks' hope to break up

Washington. The Huskies also have one of the conference's leading shot putters in Jennifer Ponath.

But Oregon can counteract Washington's domination in the sprints with its stable of talent in the distance races.

"We have a definite advantage in this meet that we didn't have in Seattle in the dual meet," Heinonen says. "There are two more distance races and we can double some people if we want."

The Ducks have a slew of runners entered in the 800, 1,500, 3,000 and 5,000 meters, and Kathy Hayes will take a shot at running the 10,000. Oregon figures to score heavily in the 800 with Claudette Groenendaal and Ranza Clark, who possess the fastest times in the conference. Heinonen also will load up in all the other distance races trying to pick up points.

"But we might not run anybody in the 5,000 if the meet is in hand and the temperature is 90 degrees," says Heinonen.

The weather in Fresno is murder on a distance runner. In recent days, the temperature has been in the 85-90 degree range. Thus Heinonen's reluctance to load up the distance events like he might want to.

The Ducks are still attempting to qualify a number of individuals for the NCAA meet May 28 through June 2 at Hayward Field. Oregon has qualified seven individuals already, but Heinonen would like to see a handful more qualify at the NorPac meet.

Lisa Nicholson, in the 400 hurdles, leads the conference with a 1:00.16 clocking and is less than a second from making the national meet. Grace Bakari, in the 800, has run a 2:10 and is about a second away from qualifying. Middle distance runner Brenda Bushnell could either qualify in the 800 or 1,500 — she is close in both.

In the long jump, Thorsland is eight inches from reaching nationals while Shannon Gates needs to improve by a foot and a half in the javelin to qualify. Heinonen would also like to see a mile-relay team in the NCAA meet.

Ducks decide to wait until NCAAs to tackle Cougars

By John Healy
Of the Emerald

Although the Oregon men's track team will physically be in Pullman, Wash., today and Saturday for the Pacific-10 Conference championships, the Ducks' minds will be focused hundreds of miles south in Eugene.

That's because Oregon will be hosting the NCAA meet in the confines of the Ducks' own Hayward Field next weekend, and it's there that Oregon has its best chance of derailing the nation's top track power, Washington State.

"We're using the Pac-10 meet for progression toward the NCAA meet, getting them there (to the NCAA) fit and without injury and that's not always easy," explains Oregon coach Bill Dellinger.

"It's not that we're writing off the Pac-10, but we want our guys to be able to come back 10 days later and compete better."

While Washington State has been picked to score as many as 140 points this weekend at the Pac-10 meet, the Ducks will be lucky to break the 100-point barrier — although they should finish in the runner-up spot.

Dellinger will take a 24-man squad to Pullman that is comprised exclusively of distance runners (14), hurdlers (three) and field performers (eight). Although the Ducks' hurdlers and field event athletes will stick to their specialties, Dellinger will shuffle his distance line-up extensively.

"Only a couple of guys will be running the same event at the Pac-10 that they will at the NCAA meet," says Dellinger.

Oregon's Joaquim Cruz, tabbed to win the NCAA 800 and 1,500 meter races by Track and Field News, will only run the 800. Jim Hill, picked to win the NCAA 5,000, will be entered in just the 1,500.

Oregon's other distance aces — Matt McGuirk and Dub Myers — will run the 1,500 and 800, respectively. McGuirk is expected to score in the NCAA steeplechase and Myers is picked to finish third in the NCAA 1,500 by Track and Field News.

However, Dellinger will stick freshman Harold Kuphaldt in his specialty, the steeplechase, in hopes that he will go under the NCAA qualifying mark of 8:45.10. His best this year is 8:46.80.

The Ducks should also rack up wins in the javelin, where Brian Crouser's best this year of 278-5 is almost 10 feet further than the next best thrower; and in the pole vault, where Kory Tarpennig has gone 17-9¾, almost five inches better than runner-up Steve Tully of Arizona State.

Two other Oregon performers — Ken Hax in the hammer and Don Ward in the intermediate hurdles — have the second-best marks in the conference and could win their events if they have a good day.

But even if Oregon wins all of those events, it may not matter much against the loaded Cougars. WSU athletes lead the conference in five events, and with Dellinger moving his distance runners around, the Cougars will have even an easier time of it today and Saturday.

WSU leaders include Gabriel Tiaoh in the 400 (45.74), Julius Korir in the steeplechase (8:24.7), Peter Koech in the 5,000 (13:30.59), Joseph Taiwo in the triple jump (54-11) and Brent Harken in the high jump (7-6).

Oregon's main competition for second will come from the two Arizona schools, plus UCLA and California. The Ducks beat Cal 83-80 and UCLA 86-77 in dual meets earlier this year, but didn't face either the Wildcats or the Sun Devils.

Arizona went undefeated in dual meets this year against a fairly weak schedule, although they did knock off perennial powerhouse UCLA. The Wildcats have conference leaders in four events, including Rod Barksdale in the 200 (20.35), Tom Ansberry in the 10,000 (28:14.8), and the 400 and 1,600 meter relay teams.

Arizona State's potential winners include Ken Robinson in the 100 (10.28) and the 200 (20.86), and Ken Frazier in the long jump (26-8½). Cal will rely on Jim Scanella in the intermediate hurdles (50.09), John Morris in the high jump (7-5), and its 1,600 meter relay team.

et al.

MEETINGS

F.S.O. To all affiliated organizations: a general meeting will be held at the International Lounge today at 2:30 p.m. concerning '84-85 activities, budgets, office space and to further a better relationship between F.S.O. and its affiliates. Coffee and cookies served.

THE INCIDENTAL FEE COMMITTEE will meet today at 3 p.m. in 337 EMU. The agenda is expected to include OSL, Oregon Commentator, EMU Club Sports, IFC Performance Auditor, Tool Library and other Loose Ends.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP meets every Friday at 7:30 p.m. at the Way Inn, 1332 Kincaid. We have singing, sharing and Bible study. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call Dave at 344-0225.

INTERESTED IN "DOCTOR WHO" OR OTHER BRITISH VIDEOS? Then come to our next meeting. Theta Sigma is Eugene's Club for British Video enthusiasts. Our next meeting will be Sunday at 12:30 p.m.

in the Community Room at Westmoreland Student Housing. Call Terry at 686-1124 for more information.

LECTURES

"CHANGING SATISFACTION IN RAPIDLY GROWING SMALL TOWNS" is the title a lecture to be given by Patrick Jobs today at 12:30 p.m. in 714 PLC.

"AFTERMATH OF THE AQUINO ASSASSINATION" is the title of a lecture to be given by Charito Planas tonight at 7 p.m. in 221 Law School.

"PRE-MENSTRUAL SYNDROME" is the title of a lecture to be given by Phil and Suzanne Alberts of the P.M.S. Treatment Center in Portland. The lecture will be held Saturday at 10 a.m. in 301 Condon.

"THE PREDICAMENT OF THE PROSPEROUS" is the subject of discussion when Sabbath Eve, Presbyterian student group once again meets this Sunday evening for soup, study, sharing. The group will meet at the Koinonia Center at 5:15 p.m. to carpool to Tom's house. Call Tom at 484-1707 for more information.

"THE INTERNATIONAL SCAVENGER HUNT" is the title of a lecture to be given today at 4 p.m. in the International Lounge, 2nd floor EMU. Sponsored by ISAFSO.

MISCELLANEOUS

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS vs. FACULTY SOFTBALL GAME will be held Sunday, May 20 at the park at the end of University Street.

NO ENGLISH EVENING will be today at the Wesley Center, 1236 Kincaid. Doors open at 7 p.m. for the potluck. We will start eating at 7:30 p.m. Conversation and dance around 8:30 p.m. There is no fee to be paid, everyone is invited. Beer and wine will be available next door at Rennie's Landing. It is not necessary to speak a foreign language to attend, and anyone is welcome so long as no English is spoken. It is not necessary to participate in the potluck to attend. You may come later and stay as long or as short a time as you wish. Children are welcome. Students whose parents are visiting are

welcome to bring them, of course.

CELEBRATION OF PEACE AND DIRECT ACTION Peace potluck will be at 5:30 p.m. "Stopping History" the new, nationally-televised documentary on resistance to the arms race, will be shown at 6 p.m. Ada Sanchez, Olive Bowers will speak on Nuclear Weapons, Intervention and Direct Action at 7 p.m. Folk music and entertainment with Don Skinner and Sky at 8:30 p.m. All events will be held Sunday, May 20, at the Unitarian Church, 40th & Donald and are free of charge and open to the public. Wheelchair accessible. For more information call Citizen Action for Lasting Security, 343-8548.

SOLAR HOME TOUR will be held Saturday at the Willamette Valley Solar Energy Association. Call 485-5719 for more information.

50's & 60's SOCKHOP AND SWING DANCE will be held tonight from 8-11 p.m. in 350 Gerlinger Annex. Teaching, guest D.J., good music. FREE to UO students. Sponsored by ASUO Recreational Folkdance.

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