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# Ducks aim for fifth place But have only seven entrants

The Oregon women's track team will try and prove that it's not the numbers but the quality that counts at this year's NCAA track and field championships.

Oregon enters the national meet with seven qualifiers — the smallest number of qualifiers it has had in five years. But still, coach Tom Heinonen remains optimistic. Sure, a national championship is out of reach but a top five finish is not. "Track and Field News is picking us for 12th place and I'd certainly be happy with a top 10 finish," says Heinonen, who was named NorPac Conference coach of the year last week.

Last season, Oregon finished fifth in the national meet with 66 points with eight different people scoring points. Of those eight, just four return this season — Ranza Clark, Claudette Groenendaal, Kathy Hayes and Kim Roth. Those four, though, are expected to make major contributions in Oregon's charge for a top five bid.

Heinonen can only cringe at the thought of what things would be like if he had a healthy team this season. Athletes like Leann Warren, Quenna Beasley, Grace Bakari, Sally Harmon, Rosa

Gutierrez and Shari Collins all will be on the sidelines this season due to injuries.

"That's a lot of points sitting there," Heinonen says. "But the good thing is that they will all be back next year."

But the Ducks still have a number of individuals who will be contenders in this year's national championships.

Clark and Groenendaal, two of the Ducks' middle distance mainstays, are two of the key ingredients for Oregon. Both are entered in

**By Steve Turcotte**

the 800 and there is the possibility that Clark may run the 1,500, an event she won at last year's Pan American Games.

Track and Field News has Groenendaal finishing fifth and Clark seventh in the 800. But they way they have been running of late, their performances could be much better.

"The 800 will probably be the best race," says Heinonen. "It should be an exciting race because it looks like Claudette can run faster than 2:02. There will be plenty of people around to

push her."

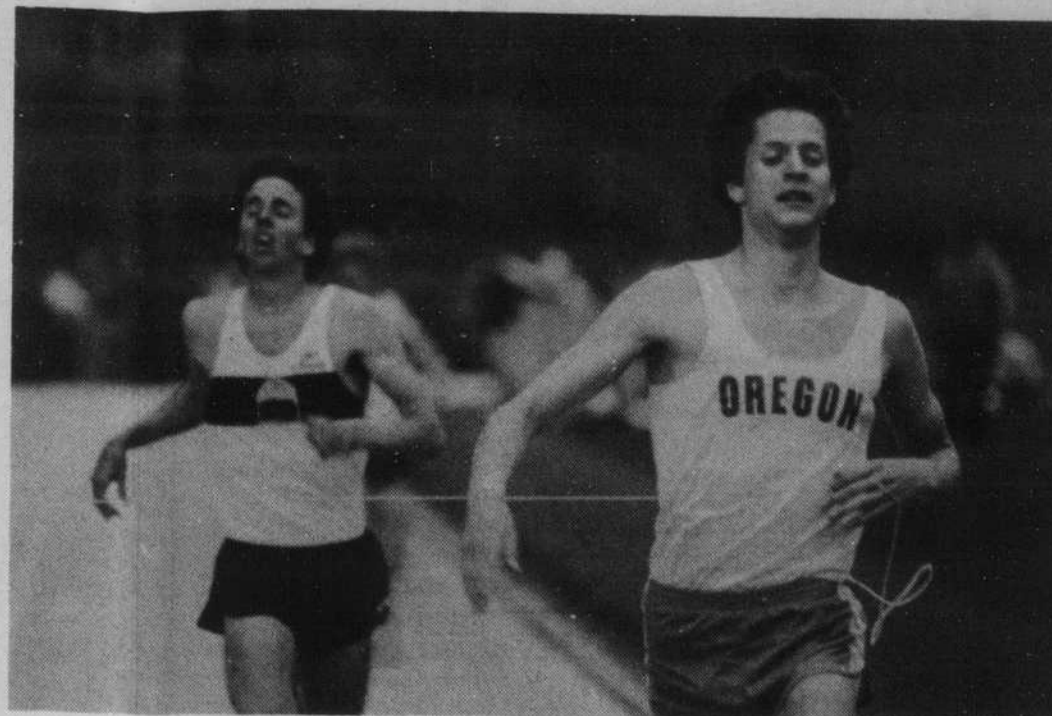
Groenendaal, who was 12th in the 1,500 last year at NCAAs, is expected to dual with Joetta Clark, the defending champion, in the 800. Not only have those two posted fast times, but a number of others have too, including Tina Krebs of Clemson with a 2:02.64.

If Clark doesn't run the 1,500, Kim Roth will be the lone Ducks entrant. Roth, who was ninth last year in the NCAA meet at 1,500, is on the comeback trail after starting the season with an injured leg.

Eryn Forbes, the redshirt senior, is entered in the 10,000 and should score for the Ducks. And Kathy Hayes, the second-place finisher in the NCAA 5,000 last year, is expected to run the 5,000 but Heinonen may alter the scheme of things some.

"Kathy and Eryn will be entered in both the 5,000 and 10,000," Heinonen says. "If Kathy runs the 10, she could come back and run the 5 later. We don't know yet, though."

Deanna Schielder, the freshman from Kennedy High School in Mt. Angel, Ore., has qualified in the 3,000 but is not expected to score.



Oregon's Jim Hill is expected to provide Oregon with one of its three individual titles by winning the 5,000 meter final.



Sophomore Kim Roth finished second in the NorPac 1,500 final, and could contribute points for Oregon at the NCAA championships.

# Can Oregon catch WSU? Opinions differ among coaches

There will be one constant this week for the Oregon men's team while it competes in the NCAA track and field championships.

Will the Ducks be able to catch the Cougars of Washington State for the NCAA team title?

Track and Field News says no, picking the Cougars to score 114 points to the Ducks' 93.

Oregon coach Bill Dellinger says the Ducks have a chance, but that the Cougars should be considered the "clear favorite."

And the coach of the team everyone is talking about — Washington State — says in no uncertain terms that the Ducks should be favored.

"They've got so many solid points," says Cougar coach John Chaplin. "I can easily see them scoring 100."

The meet title will probably be decided in the distance events, where both Oregon and Washington State are loaded with quality runners. However, the Ducks have an edge because while Chaplin will be doubling all of his best distance runners, Dellinger will be sending his Ducks into battle fresh.

Track and Field News says Oregon is favored to win three individual titles — the 800, the 1,500 and the 5,000

— and score heavily in the javelin, pole vault, hammer, and 1,500.

While ten different Oregon athletes are picked to score at the NCAA meet, the Cougars are relying on the legs of three distance runners — Peter Koech, Richard Tuwei, and Julius Korir — for 61 of their points. Koech will be attempting a 5,000-10,000 double, and Korir and Tuwei will both be trying for a steeplechase-5,000 double.

That could backfire, says Dellinger.

**By John Healy**

"I didn't think Koech and Tuwei looked that good at the Pac-10. And we have better NCAA depth than last year," Dellinger says.

Chaplin couldn't agree more. "It's always shaky in a big meet to double your runners to try and win."

It's doubtful Dellinger will have to worry about shaky performances from his two best distance runners, sophomore Joaquim Cruz and senior Jim Hill. Cruz, perhaps the hottest middle-distance runner in the country right now, won the 800 at the NCAA meet last spring in 1:44.91. Two weeks ago, he won the Pac-10 800 in

1:45.12, his fastest time this year. His fastest 1,500 race this year was at Berkeley in a dual meet against Cal. Cruz clocked a PR 3:37.72, but then three weeks later at the UCLA Pepsi meet he ran a 3:53.00 mile to finish second to Steve Scott.

While Cruz is practically untouchable, Hill might be pressed if Chaplin decides to enter Korir in just the 5,000, or if the University of Texas-El Paso's Gidamis Shahanga decides to forego the 10,000 the day before. But even if both were fresh, Hill might still be unbeatable, considering his new-found kick and his proven ability to stay with a tough pace.

Track and Field News also picks junior Brian Crouser to finish second in the javelin; Ken Flax to grab seventh in the hammer; Kory Tarpenning to place fifth in the pole vault; Dub Myers to take third in the 1,500; Chris Hamilton to grab eighth in the 10,000; Don Ward to finish 10th in the intermediate hurdles; and John Zishka to place 12th in the 5,000.

Lamar Hurd, tabbed to perhaps the hottest middle-distance runner in the country right now, won the 800 at the NCAA meet last spring in 1:44.91. Two weeks ago, he won the Pac-10 800 in the loss.

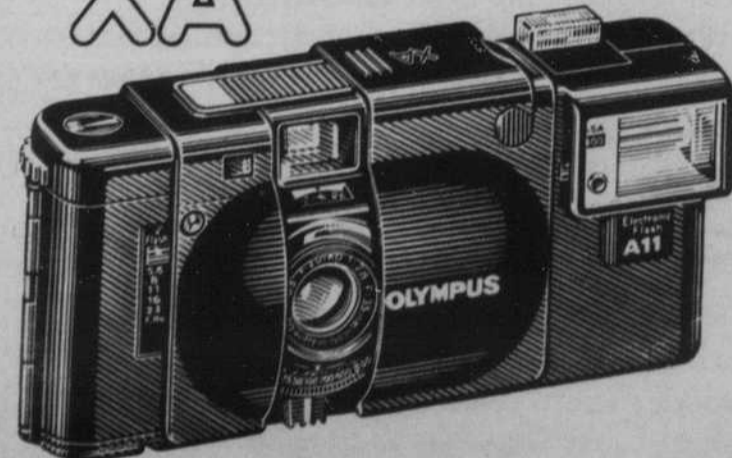
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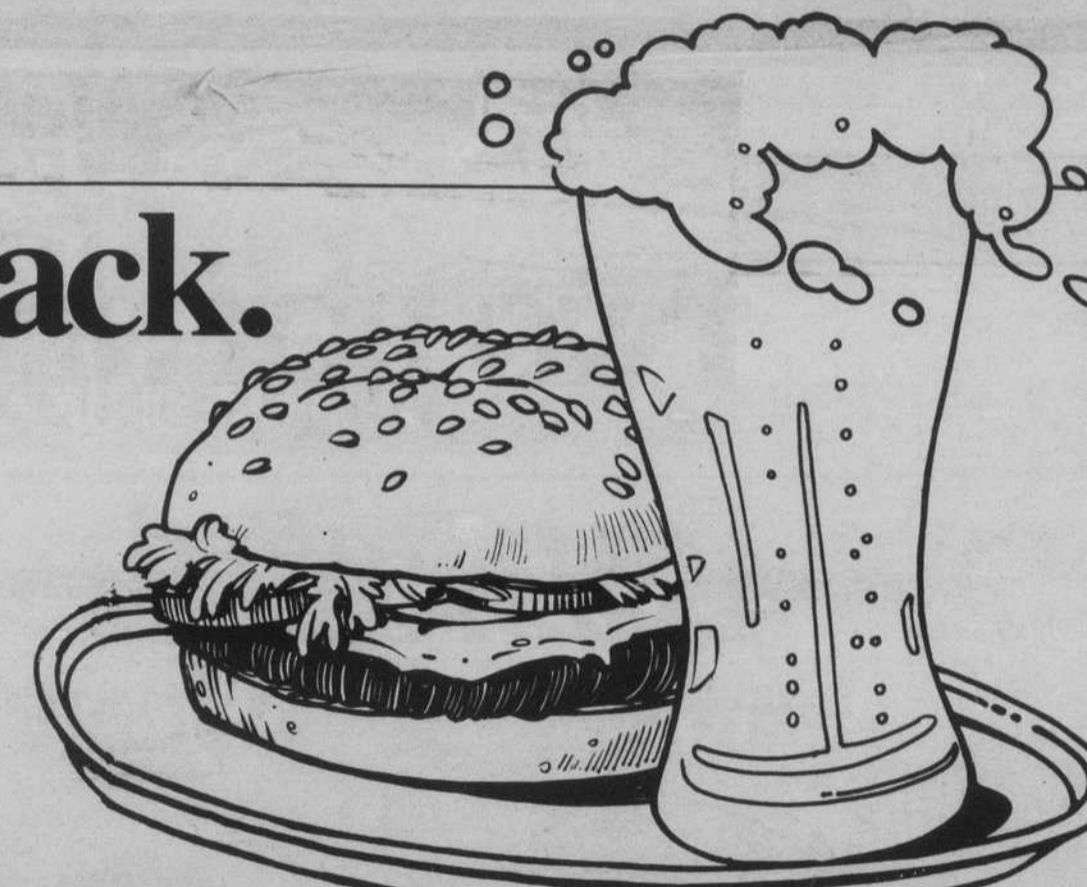
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