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when people call his team a contingent of foreigners. And, although he admits Brazil's Cruz is a superb athlete, he can't resist a chance to take shots at Oregon's handling of him.

"Cruz will win the 800 and the 1,500, assuming his coach (Luis de Oliveira) will let him run both. And it's up to him. Because everybody knows who coaches Cruz — it's obviously not Dellinger. I call that rent-an-athlete. I may be accused of having a lot of foreigners, but at least I'm the one who coaches them."

Chaplin could go on forever, but he comes back to the point. "I see us getting 80-85 points, and the Ducks with 85-90. Cruz is just the outstanding athlete of the meet, but the title may come down to the 5,000 (Hill against Korir, Koech and Tuwei). If it does, Oregon has a guy who's fresh against guys that have doubled."

SMU

A year ago, the NCAA track and field championships were held in the heat and humidity of Houston. That was bad news for Washington State University and the University of Texas-El Paso, two distance-happy schools favored to win the team crown.

Instead, both teams watched their distance runners and title chances fade under burning sun. When that happened, Southern Methodist University, its throwers and relay runners unburdened by 90-degree weather, turned from darkhorse to champion.

SMU still has a lot of throwers and a fine mile-relay contingent coming into this year's NCAA meet, but don't count on the Mustangs to win another team race. Crisp, cool Eugene makes WSU and host Oregon the teams to beat, not



Emerald photo

Washington State is banking on its talented distance runners to score enough points to hold off Oregon in the race for the NCAA title.

SMU

"We'd be delighted to finish third at this point," says SMU coach Ted McLaughlin. "Those teams on the coast (WSU and Oregon) are very strong, and if we were third behind them, I'd be thrilled."

McLaughlin realizes that a repeat of last year is highly unlikely; in 1983, SMU brought 16 athletes to Houston, and 15 of them scored.

But don't start feeling sorry for McLaughlin's gang. The Mustangs have shot putter supreme Michael Carter, the 400-meter hurdles favorite in Sven Nylander, three scoring possibilities in the hammer, sure points in the javelin, and a top-five mile-relay team.

Carter ranks sixth on the U.S. list in the shot put this year, right behind meet favorite John Brenner of UCLA. And though Brenner is the favorite, McLaughlin says, "Michael is definitely ready." Carter should give the

Mustangs some points in the discus as well.

Nylander, only a sophomore, is picked by Track and Field News to win the 400 hurdles, and the hammer has SMU written all over it. Senior Robert Weir is a top-three pick in that event, and it would be a surprise if Keith Bateson and Anders Hoff didn't score also.

Elsewhere, look for javelin thrower Roald Bradstock to threaten collegiate record holder Einar Vilhjalmsson of Texas (303-2) and 1982 NCAA champ Brian Crouser of Oregon; give the Mustangs about eight points in the mile relay; and figure Henry Andrade for several points in the 100 hurdles.

It all adds up to 70-85 points for SMU, not enough to make first-place noise.

Or, as McLaughlin says, "Any time you're in the top five, you should be happy, and if you win you're ecstatic. But I don't see us winning."

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