

Oregon on schedule for top-10 finish

Groenendaal, Clark triumph in 800 heats

By Steve Turcotte
Of the Emerald

Tom Heinonen really couldn't ask for much more.

Before the NCAA track and field championships got underway at Hayward Field, the Oregon women's track coach had hoped for a top-10 finish and a national champion from his team.

Well, there are still two days left in the meet, and Heinonen has witnessed one of his goals — a collegiate record-smashing victory from Kathy Hayes in the 10,000 meters. Heinonen will no doubt realize the other goal when the meet concludes Saturday.

Claudette Groenendaal and Ranza Clark both are seeing to it that the Ducks climb into the top 10 in the team race. Both qualified for the 800-meter final by winning their heats Thursday, and both are set to compete in the finals in the 1,500 today and 800 Saturday.

In today's 1,500 final, Groenendaal is considered one of the favorites because she ran one of the quickest preliminary times (4:18.81). Clark also is expected to place high and score big points.

"There are probably six people who could win it," Heinonen said. "Claudette could win, but she and Ranza are doubling, so we may have to sacrifice a place or two in each event. Ultimately, though, we'll score more points."

Oregon also advanced Eryn Forbes to the finals of the 5,000 Saturday (she ran a 16:44.20 in her heat), but 100-meter hurdler Kay Garnett didn't survive the qualifying round in her race.

The Ducks are still tied with Nevada-Las Vegas for the team lead with 15 points, thanks to Hayes' first-place in the 10,000 on Wednesday. Oregon isn't expected to remain there, though, as Florida

State, Tennessee and Stanford will wage the battle for the top spot.

Hayes could have scored more than 15 points for the Ducks, but she elected not to run in the 5,000 Thursday.

"I think one national championship is enough," kidded Heinonen. "The Olympic Trials are coming up (June 16-24) and if she were to run the 5,000, that would be 50 laps in four days. That's a bit too much."

There was the possibility of Hayes running the 5,000 were it just a final without preliminary races. That nearly happened too, as several runners pulled out, leaving a field of 16 runners to fight for 14 spots.

"She (Hayes) was the last one to scratch — we were waiting to see (if she could run a final without qualifying)," said Heinonen.

Hayes' no-show in the 5,000 aside, the highlight of Oregon's Thursday was the performances of Groenendaal and Clark. Both had to fight a strong headwind on the backstretch while leading their races. Groenendaal led from start to finish to win in 2:06.37 while Clark led, fell back briefly, and rallied to win in 2:07.22.

Groenendaal said the 800 left her feeling the affects of Wednesday's 1,500 qualifying race, although she still managed to control her race.

"I really didn't want to lead but the first lap wasn't very fast (61 seconds), so I decided to go," Groenendaal said. "I was going to sit back and then kick, but I got a little nervous, so I went for it."

For Clark, the 800 felt much better than her 1,500 race a day earlier.

"I'm starting to get into the flow of things now," Clark said. "I think I can relax now for 24



Photo by Mark Pynes

Ranza Clark (left) fell behind briefly in her heat of the 800 meters, then rebounded to win it Thursday at Hayward Field.

Ducks, Cougs

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Hill wasn't thrilled with the erratic pace in his heat, which Korir led for all but the last few laps, but he decided to stay with the pack until the end to conserve himself for Saturday's final.

"I would have tried to run a steadier race if the wind was calmer, but I didn't want to fight the wind," Hill said.

"I think we all can score high," offered Hill. "John looked super, and Mike was right behind me. We're trying to pull together and do the best we can."

Hill said he isn't too concerned with how the Ducks will stack up against the Cougars in the 5,000, one of the few events the two schools will go head-to-head in.

"When I'm going into that final lap, I'm not going to be looking at the color of the jerseys," Hill said. "I'll just be trying to beat everyone there."

Cruz, who usually likes to lead from start to finish, wasn't worried about finishing second in his heat to Arkansas' Paul Donovan in 3:41.80.

"The guy pushed hard the last two laps," said Cruz. "I just wanted to make sure I would qualify."

"I'm feeling great," said Cruz, who added he isn't bothered by having to run four races in four days at the NCAA meet because he is used to working out harder in practice.

"I don't think he fears anybody," said Luiz de Oliveira, Cruz' coach. "Any time you race you feel a little nervous, but he doesn't fear anybody."

Myers was also happy with his race, although he finished in the runner-up spot behind Arkansas' Tom Malone in the second heat.

"I didn't push harder (at the end) because I couldn't see any reason to," said Myers, who clocked a 3:42.79. "A second place finish in the heat would guarantee me a spot. But the last 100 I felt pretty confident I could kick with anyone."

"It's such a high-class field," added Myers. "I think everyone has a chance to win. Cruz has the strength, but he has to run the 800. If it doesn't affect him, then I guess he's Superman."

Oregon sent three performers — Crouser, Stormyr, and Bobby George — in the javelin for the NCAA meet, but George could only manage a non-qualifying 225-8 on his final heave Thursday.

Crouser qualified with a throw of 244-8, which was the eighth best throw Thursday, while Stormyr settled in one place ahead of Crouser with a mark of 248-11.

After his third throw, Crouser declared himself finally free of the elbow and back problems that have plagued him the last two years.

"My technique is fine and everything feels good," said Crouser. "This is by far the most relaxed I've ever been on the runway."

The only sour note for Crouser was a continual wind from the north that gusted into the javelin throwers' faces.

"In this kind of wind, nothing is going to be perfect," observed Crouser. "The wind is going back and forth so you have to check it each time. But if the wind will calm down, everything will be fine."

Whether everything will be fine for the Cougars or Ducks in the race for the NCAA crown probably won't be decided until Saturday night.

et al.

MEETINGS

THE LANE UNEMPLOYMENT PROJECT a support group established to counsel the unemployed of this region, will be holding its monthly meeting Monday, June 4 at 7 p.m. at the I.W.A. Hall, 1116 South "A" in Springfield. The public is invited.

LECTURES

ANRED will sponsor a panel discussion on anorexia nervosa and bulimia on Wednesday, June 13 at 8 p.m. in the South McKenzie Room of Valley River Inn on Valley

River Way. Treatment approaches will be described and evaluated. Ample time will be provided for questions from the audience. Admission is free.

MISCELLANEOUS

ELEGANT STEW is a group of local poets who will present their poetry to the Eugene community tonight at 8 p.m. in the EMU Forum Room. Presented by the EMU Cultural Forum.

INTERVARSITY'S END-OF-THE-YEAR PICNIC: will be held today from 4 to 6 p.m. at Alton Baker Park. Bring

your own meat to BBQ and join the fun. In case of rain, site changed to Sandy and Helen's.

FASHION MODELING On Saturday, June 2, Meier & Frank's Fashion Office will interview men and women interested in runway modeling. Interviews will begin at 10 a.m. in the 10th floor auditorium, of the downtown store. Applicant should be at least 16 years of age, 5'7" tall and must bring one 5x7 non-returnable photograph.

JUERGA FLAMENCA a night of Spanish dance, song and guitar music with **BALLET FIESTA** and other

Flamenco artists from Portland, Seattle and the Northwest, will be held Saturday, June 2 at 8 p.m. Call the Reynosa School of Dance at 238-1878 for more information.

ORGAN RECITAL will be presented by Paul Stuart Thursday, June 7 at 8 p.m. at the Central Lutheran Church, 18th and Potter. His program will feature works of Bach, Bohm, Buxtehude, Sweelinck, Brahms, Dandrieu, and Hindemith. There will be no admission charge.

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