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# Crew: Bound for nationals

By John Healy  
Of the Emerald

Grueling months of 5 a.m. workouts will pay off for eight women on the Oregon crew team this weekend when they race for the lightweight-8 title at the National Collegiate Rowing Championships in Seattle, Wash.

That same lightweight-8 crew won the Pacific 10 Conference title earlier this month, and according to women's coach Tim Meier, they have been invited to try out for the national women's lightweight shell.

"We're looking for revenge on San Diego State and Western Washington," says Meier. Both teams beat Oregon at the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Championships, which were held in conjunction with the conference meet.

"We're kind of unknown," Meier says. "But we've been working out since last fall 4½ hours a day, (rowing) every morning from 5 until 8, and lifting weights and running stairs."

Meier isn't sure exactly who will be at the national championships, but says Harvard, Boston College and some of the Midwestern powers may be there. But he doubts anyone is faster than the two teams Oregon was beaten by at the Western intercollegiate meet.

Six of the eight women who rowed Oregon's lightweight eight at the Pac-10 race will be in Seattle, along with two additions. Members of the team will include coxswain Kristi Kniffen, stroke Gayle Johnson, and crew members Marge Kughn, Annie Donahue, Teresa Hukari, Shellie Downs, Celine Carvalho, Korola Hanks and Laura Noble.

"This whole year has been a great year for both the men and women," Meier says, pointing to the Pacific Northwest Regional Championships as evidence. At that meet, Oregon took two firsts in the women's fours, three seconds in the eights, and three thirds.

"We got two firsts three years ago, but those were our only medals in history (until now)," he says.

Raising enough money to even field a crew team has been a continual struggle at Oregon, according to Meier. He says crew receives the largest budget of any club sports team — but it's a paltry \$7,000. The Ducks raise additional money by cleaning Autzen Stadium after all home foot-

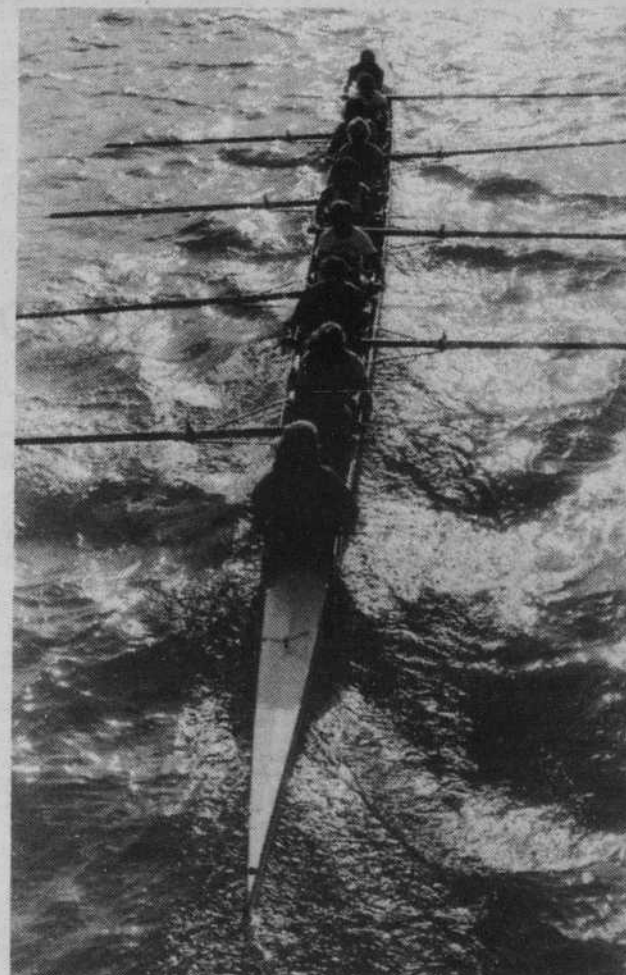


Photo by Kirk Hirota

Oregon's women's crew team will face the rowing powers of the East and Midwest this weekend at the National Collegiate Rowing Championships.

ball games.

But Oregon has a hard time competing against national powers like the University of Washington, which boasts a boathouse filled with over 50 shells and a dormitory for crew members above the boathouse.

"Their men's heavyweight team is bigger than the offensive line on the football team," marvels Meier.

The meet will begin Saturday on Seattle's Green Lake.

## Oregon

Continued from Page 5A

hours."

The Oregon duo will bump heads with defending NCAA 800 champ Joetta Clark of Tennessee in Saturday's final. Even though her PR of 2:01.15 is the best in the field, Joetta still feels the final will be close.

"This is my fourth one of these and this field is by far the most competitive I've run against," said Tennessee's Clark, who ran the day's top time with a 2:03.52.

Is Clark beatable? Heinonen thinks it's possible.

"She's the clear favorite, but she has to double too (800 and mile relay)," Heinonen said.

For Forbes, the 5,000 is some hope to close out her Oregon

track career on a positive note. After finishing a non-scoring 13th in the 10,000, Forbes figured she needed a better performance to leave Hayward Field with. Her qualifying time was 12th best in a field of 16 runners.

"I knew what kind of time I had to get so I just cruised in," Forbes said. "I was kind of tired from the 10,000 and I didn't want to run any faster than I had to."

Garnett clocked a 14.13 in the first heat of the 100 hurdles to finish fifth — far off her best of 13.88.

The team race is shaping up as most believed it would. Florida

State, Tennessee and Stanford all qualified a number of individuals for today's and Saturday's finals. The Seminoles are loaded in the sprints with the capability of going 1-2 in the 100 and 200. The Volunteers could crown a number of individual champions, and Stanford is hoping to use its distance strength to win the title.

Competition at the NCAA meet continues this afternoon, beginning with the hammer throw at 1:15 p.m. The first women's event is the javelin, which starts at 3:30 p.m. The women's 1,500 begins at 6:45 with Groenendaal, Clark and Kim Roth running for the Ducks.

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