

## sports

Ranked No. 1 nationally

# Harriers tune up in Salem

By D.C. Jesse Burkhardt  
Of the Emerald

The Oregon women's cross country team, ranked number one in the latest NCAA poll, begins their quest for another national championship this Saturday in the 10th annual Willamette Invitational in Salem.

The meet begins at 11:45 a.m. in Bush Park as the Ducks participate in their first scoring meet of the season.

The Willamette Invitational matches a number of small-college teams from throughout the Northwest. Individual results of this race should determine which women will make the trip to compete in the Wisconsin-Burger King Classic in Madison, Wis., on Oct. 13.

The Ducks are favored to win the invitational because of a strong returning lineup that remains basically unchanged since last year's championship team.

"We're deeper than last year," says Oregon coach Tom Heinonen who received NCAA Coach of the Year plaudits in 1983. "We are deeper than any other team in the country."

The Ducks' depth is good reason for the No. 1 ranking.

"We've got eleven runners capable of being in the top seven," says Heinonen on the competition to go to the NCAAs. "Any one of them could make the seven-person team we send to the nationals."

The team's strength comes in two parts, according to Heinonen. There is power up front with All-American Kathy Hayes leading the way. Heinonen termed Hayes as the Ducks' "big-gun runner."

Hayes, a senior, is the team's top returning finisher from last year. Hayes finished third in last year's NCAA meet, and the Newberg native started this season on the right foot by winning the Garrie Franklin Classic on Sept. 22.

"My primary goal for 1984 is

to see the team win the championship again," says Hayes who set a course-record in the Franklin meet. "We'll have to do at least as well or better than last year to achieve that."

The Franklin meet has been the only race the Ducks have participated in this season. The meet was non-counting, but Oregon would have won easily had official score been kept. The performance alleviated some of the pressure the top ranking has had on the team.

"We're ranked number one," says Hayes. "But that doesn't mean much, especially this early in the season."

Heinonen feels the Ducks are capable of winning it all again in 1984.

"We want to win again," says

Heinonen. "We are the defending national champion and it would be unrealistic to set any goal except to try to defend our title."

Trying to catch Hayes will be Oregon's Gretchen Nelson and Kim Ryan who had impressive races in the Franklin meet. Oregon State transfer, Sandi Nevis and Brenda Bushnell are also expected to challenge for one of the seven spots available.

After this weekend's meet, the harriers prepare for a meeting with some of the best cross country teams in the country in the Wisconsin-Burger King Classic. Wisconsin, ranked right behind the Ducks in the polls, will be there along with most of the top teams in the nation.

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## Sports Briefs

The Oregon football team is being featured in Sports Illustrated's Oct. 8 issue. The Ducks are ranked 19th in SI's latest college football poll.


The Oregon golf team finished in fifth place in the Wolf Pack Classic at the Edgewood Tahoe Country Club in Stateline, Nev. The Ducks shot a 630 team total, 13 strokes behind the winner of the tournament, the University of the Pacific.

George Daves was low man for the Ducks with a 155 total for 36 holes which tied him for fifth on the par-72 course.

The Oregon volleyball team remained at No. 13 in the latest NCAA poll. The Ducks are also rated 16th in both the Tachikara coaches' poll and Volleyball Monthly rankings.

Oregon volleyball player Sue Harbour was named the NorPac Conference athlete of the month for September. Harbour was voted on three all-tournament teams in September. She also received Most Valuable Player recognition in the Brigham Young Preview.

Oregon Daily Emerald




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