

Tokatee Invitational next meet

Garrison holds promise for harriers

The graduation of Jim Hill from the men's cross country team left Oregon coach Bill Dellinger with a void to fill. Freshman Tracy Garrison may not be an All-American like Hill, but he has the ability to become one in the future.

Garrison, a recruit from Klamath Falls, is just starting to realize his potential in the college ranks. Garrison finished fifth in the Willamette Invitational with a time of 24:4.4 in the 8,000 meters race to give the Ducks a needed boost.

Dellinger feels Garrison's potential is just being tapped.

"He is a very talented runner," says Dellinger. "He has a lot of adjustments to make from high school to college."

Those adjustments haven't been easy for Garrison.

"I've been training really hard," says Garrison who hopes to help the Oregon harrier team moved up in the rankings. The Ducks are currently ranked 7th in the nation in the latest NCAA cross country poll.

Fatigue has been a major fac-

tor in Garrison's start because of increased workouts that have doubled his mileage from 30 to 70 miles a week.

Garrison finishing in 26th place in the non-scoring Garrie Franklin Classic meet held late September. Garrison had won the classic last year for his high school, but found college competition was a little tougher this year.

Garrison's goal of making the Duck cross country team was realized when he enrolled this September.

"I just always liked running," Garrison says. "I've wanted to come to Oregon for a long time."

Garrison had an impressive career in high school at Klamath Union. He ran times of 8:17 in the 3,000 meters, 3:52.4 in the 1,500 meters, and 1:57 in the 800 meters which ranks with some of the top marks in the nation.

Garrison's coach in high school, Ken Coffman remarked on the Oregon freshman's talent.

"I don't think I knew how good he was until we coached him for the cross country season," says Coffman. "He is probably the most talented athlete I've ever coached."

Coffman felt Garrison was the best high school runner in the nation his senior year.

Coffman watched Garrison run in his first meet in a Duck uniform. Garrison finished 10th for the Ducks in the 10,000 meters with a time of 32:33.64.

"He (Garrison) wasn't too happy about how he ran," says Coffman. "But I tried telling him, 'Don't try jumping in and expect to be awesome the first meet.' He has to earn his way."

Earning his way will come up soon for Garrison as he and the Ducks hope to improve on their national ranking this week with a meet at Tokatee Invitational this Saturday in Blue River.

Dellinger feels letterman Doug Benevento has been a surprise for the Ducks.

"Right now he's our top improver," says Dellinger. Benevento had an impressive performance in the Garrie meet when he finished eighth overall with a time of 31:00.34 for 10,000 meters.

Senior Chris Hamilton and junior John Zishka should be the top Oregon finishers in Invitational this weekend. Competition should come from a host of Ducks who will be racing for a position on the seven-man team Dellinger will send to the Pac-10 cross country meet. The meet will be held later this month in Palo Alto, Calif.

"The next meet will determine who will go to the Pac-10s," says Dellinger

Correction

The photograph on Page 10 of the kicker's story in Tuesday's Oregon Daily Emerald was of Kirk Dennis, not kicker Matt MacLeod.

The Emerald apologizes for any inconvenience this error may have caused.

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