

**sports**

# Hayes is a 'record setter'

By D.C. Jesse Burkhardt  
Of the Emerald

Kathy Hayes is perhaps the most visible symbol of Oregon's success in women's cross country over the past two seasons, and a good reason why the group is ranked third in the nation.

Hayes is the top returning finisher from last year's NCAA championship team. She is a former collegiate record holder at 3,000 and 5,000 meters. She is the defending Region 8 cross country champion. She's an All-American. She could even be termed the Ducks' "designated course record setter."

Coach Tom Heinonen, last season's NCAA Coach of the Year in cross country, has set a predictable team goal for 1984:

title defense. And according to Heinonen, Hayes is critical to that goal.

"It would be all but impossible to win it again without her," Heinonen says of Hayes. "She's our big-gun runner."

The 5 foot-5-inch Hayes, has a long history of accomplishments behind her. She came to Oregon in 1981 after winning high school cross country championships in 1979 and 1980 at Newberg.

Hayes had to adjust to the increased distance for races at the college level, a change from 3,000 meters to 5,000 meters.

"It's a lot longer, but I like the extra distance," says Hayes. "It's better-suited to my style of running."

Hayes has been the Ducks' most consistent cross country

runner for the last two years since being slowed by a series of ailments in her sophomore year. However, she still managed to set a course record at the Willamette Invitational in Salem in 1982.

Lately, setting course records has become almost automatic for Hayes. Last year, she competed in six 5,000 meter events and set records in three of the races.

Hayes finished third at the NCAA's last year in Bethlehem, Pa. Hayes was only 4.8 seconds off of first place finisher Betty Springs of the University of North Carolina.

Hayes has continued her course-breaking streak into 1984. In the Garrie Franklin Classic, Hayes eclipsed the mark by 13 seconds, 16:44.7 to 16:57.7. Then, she erased her own Willamette Invitational course mark of 16:31.1 with a clocking of 16:19.7.

"I wanted to run as near as possible to my previous time," says Hayes. "I was very happy to run even better this year."

Despite being the star of the women's cross country team, Hayes' rapport with her teammates is unclouded.

"It's great to be Kathy's teammate," says fellow senior Ranza Clark. "When someone runs as well as Kathy has, she gains the respect of her team members. But, we're all on the same level in terms of friendship."

Hayes has her sights on another team championship for the Ducks.

"There's more depth this year," says Hayes, "but we'll all have to do at least as well or better than last year to achieve that (championship) again."

Heinonen knows why Hayes is one of the best runners in the nation.

"For the entire time she's been here, she has been diligent in her training," says Heinonen. "She's easy to coach, and getting easier all the time."

Besides being an athlete, Hayes is also a scholar. She has been an Academic All-American for the past two years while majoring in biology.



*Emerald file photo*

Kathy Hayes (front) is a record setter on the track as well as on the cross country team. Hayes' running has vaulted the Ducks in contention for the women's cross country national championship this year.

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