

Ducks win opener

Men's track team crushes Fresno State

By Allan Lazo
Of the Emerald

Luckily, the only surprises on a damp Saturday afternoon at Hayward Field were pleasant ones for the Oregon men's track and field team as they opened their dual meet season with a 108½-54½ win over the Fresno State University Bulldogs.

Although, in the end, the Ducks clearly outdistanced Fresno State, many had expected the meet to be much closer, perhaps only a three or four point difference in either direction. But Oregon managed some early surprises in the field events, which set the tone for the rest of the day.

"The one-two finish in the long jump was not really expected, and the one-two in the triple jump, we didn't really expect. Most of the events went that way where we came through and scored more points than we expected to," said a "satisfied" Oregon coach Bill Dellinger.

"Well, I guess I am surprised that it was that lopsided," Dellinger said. "We thought it was going to be a close meet, and it turned out to be not so close."

Helping lead a field crew that gave the Ducks 59½ out of a possible 72 points in eight events, senior Jeff Hultberg turned in a stellar performance. Hultberg captured two first places and two thirds in all four of the throwing events.

The Sheldon High School graduate set a personal best en route to capturing a victory in the shot put (58-1¼) while also winning the discus with a throw of 175-2. He also got his best season marks in third place efforts in the hammer (172-2) and the javelin (210-11).

Hultberg joined the Ducks with only one year of eligibility remaining after a stint at Linn Benton Community College. The transfer was Linn Benton's most valuable competitor in the field events after two seasons and after Saturday's performance his help would be a big plus for the Ducks as the season progresses.

Oregon's Ken Flax took first in the hammer throw with a toss of 226-3, beating out Fresno State's Machan Littleton at 206-5. The Ducks' Brian Crouser (286-0) and Bob George (215-6) led a Duck sweep in the javelin.

Crouser, making his season debut after bypassing last week's Oregon Invitational, said he had a "sporadic" performance. The senior from Gresham hit the 286-0 mark, his third best throw ever, on his opening toss and then failed to come close to it again.

"I felt pretty good, although maybe a little shaky. It's just that I haven't done any throwing since last August, so it's shaky, but it's coming around," said Crouser who felt that he

was "missing the fine-tune timing, but it'll come with time."

"I'm way ahead from what I expected. I don't really know what to expect anymore because staying healthy is the big thing, and if I can do that, then the rest will come. At this point, I'm ahead as far as health; usually, I'm hurt by this time."

Oregon also showed promise in the jumping events as juniors Uchenna Agu and Jerry Luttrell each captured a first and a second, swapping places in the long and triple jumps.

Agu won the long jump with a personal best 23-8¼, while Luttrell captured a season-best

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Oregon's Kory Tarpenning made his outdoor debut with a jump of 17-4¼ as the men's track and field team defeated Fresno State University Saturday at Hayward Field.

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