

Bears bypass Oregon, 89-74

By Allan Lazo
Of the Emerald

It had been 11 years, and not since Bill Dellinger's 1974 squad finished 2-3 in dual meets had an Oregon men's track-and-field team lost three meets in a season — not until Saturday, that is.

After giving up more than 100 points to both UCLA and Washington State, the Ducks were hoping to pull things together against the University of California. But the Golden Bears, with visions of a number three national dual-meet ranking, sent Oregon reeling with a 89-74 win at Hayward Field in a meet that wasn't decided until the final two events.

The loss dropped the Ducks to 3-3 for the year with their last shot at a winning season coming in two weeks against Oregon State University in Corvallis. Meanwhile, the Bears upped their dual-meet record to an impressive 11-1 mark.

Despite leading 48-29 after the first nine events, the Ducks were unable to stop Cal's sprint, hurdle and relay attack. Those forces outscored Oregon 42-13.

The Bears made their big comeback on the track. Cal evened the score at 61 with five events left. Then the Bears stretched out to an 11-point lead with the deciding final two events left — the 5,000-meters and the mile relay.

With Cal having an 80-69 advantage, the only chance the Ducks had was to take first and second in the 5,000 (John Zishka and Chris Hamilton) and win the mile relay race. Hamilton won the 5,000, but Zishka ended up in fourth place, and Cal took the mile-relay race.

"The kids did a good job, but we just got beat. I don't see any excuses. I think California just had a better team," Oregon coach Bill Dellinger said. "We obviously have some holes we need to fill."

There weren't any holes in Oregon's distance runners' performances, where they captured victories in all races above 800-meters.

The class of the track was distance-ace Dub

Myers. Myers won the 1,500-meters in an NCAA-qualifying time of 3:41.45. Myers was just ahead of teammate Mike Blackmore, who also qualified for the NCAAs in 3:41.76.

Later, Myers raced in the 800 and took another victory in 1:51.19.

"Before today, I was hoping I could qualify in both events, but after the 1,500, I just didn't think I would be doing it," Myers said. "It took me quite awhile to recover from the 1,500."

The other distance win for the Ducks was Matt McGuirk's season-best 8:45.54 victory in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

In the field, Oregon's other guns expected little competition from the Bears and found none as Ken Flax won the hammer throw with a meet record 233-5. Brian Crouser won the javelin by almost 50 feet (273-8), and Kory Tarpenning added another first-place showing in the pole vault (17-8½).

Crouser and Tarpenning, two of Oregon's eight seniors appearing in their final home-dual meet, took the opportunity for a victory lap after winning their events — but both saw the team win go to Cal.

Victory laps are generally reserved for the running events, but Crouser sported a yellow T-shirt with green lettering that said "Good Bye" on the front and "Thank You" on the back.

John Frazier also took a victory lap after winning the 100-meters (10.58w) over Cal's Rod Jett (10.63). Frazier's win was the first dual meet 100-meter victory for the Ducks in two years. After Frazier crossed the finish line, he just kept on going for his victory lap.

"I just didn't feel like stopping," Frazier said after the race.

The only other first-place celebration for Oregon was Uchenna Agu's win in the long jump with a wind-aided 24-2½. Agu also came back later to capture third in the triple jump with a wind-aided career-best of 51-2¾.



Photo by Kirk Hirota
The University of California's Peter Howard (left) edged Oregon's Mark Harris in the mile relay in the Bears' 89-74 win over the Ducks Saturday at Hayward Field.

Oregon golf team starts Pacific-10 Championships

Poised and ready to go, the Oregon golf team is looking for a top-four finish in the Pacific-10 Conference Golf Championships being held on the Walla Walla Country Club in Washington.

Second-year coach Scott Krieger believes the Ducks could finish as high as fourth in the 72-hole three-day tournament starting today through

Wednesday.

"This is a big tournament for us," Krieger says. "We are hoping to finish in the top four, but four of the teams we are playing are in the Top 20."

Some of those highly-ranked squads include the University of Southern California, the No. 2 team in the nation. UCLA, Stanford, and Arizona are also ranked and will be vying for the

championship.

The Ducks will be sending six people to the tournament. Oregon's best chance for qualifying someone in the NCAA Championships in Winter Haven, Fla., should be George Daves.

Daves has the Ducks' best stroke average (74.4), and will be joined by Rob Huff, John DeLong, Gerry Norquist, Croy Cochran and Tim Scott.

Duck softball team splits double-header at WOSC

A double-header split with Western Oregon State College, Sunday in Monmouth capped a hectic weekend for the Oregon softball team.

Oregon, 14-18, won the first game 3-0 in eight innings, but the Ducks were blanked in the second contest, 4-0.

A dramatic seventh-inning Duck rally carried the team to a 3-2 victory Friday against Portland State University, and a similar last-inning comeback attempt fell just short Saturday against Oregon State University, 4-3.

Shortstop Jackie Coburn's single scored Susan Uhrich from third base to win the Portland State game in the bottom of the seventh, capping a three-run, two-out rally.

Oregon dropped the second game against both opponents. PSU scored on a wild pitch to beat Sony Schroeder 1-0, and OSU's Joan Harvey shut out the Ducks and Sue Voeller 3-0.

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