

Women Harriers finish sixth in Wisconsin Classic

By Ron C. Gullberg
Of the Emerald

The Oregon women's cross country team finished a perplexing sixth at the Wisconsin Classic cross country meet in Madison, Wis. Saturday.

The meet featured six of the top ten teams in the nation, and the sixth-ranked Ducks finished right there, although the circumstances were not exactly as Oregon coach Tom Heinonen had envisioned it.

"The biggest surprise of the meet for us was that we beat two teams ranked ahead of us (Stanford University and Brigham Young University)," Heinonen said. "But we lost to two teams that were ranked behind us (Iowa State University and Northwestern University)."

Heinonen stated before the meet that it would be a preview of the upcoming NCAA championships, but afterwards he wasn't sure how much insight had been

gained.

"I guess that throws the whole thing into a scramble at the NCAA championships," Heinonen said.

The Ducks were led by freshman sensation Cathy Schiro who finished 18th in 17:51.5. Schiro was with the lead group for the first mile, but then dropped back.

Penny Graves finished second for the Ducks and 22nd overall in 17:58.8 and Heinonen couldn't have been more pleased with his sophomore.

"Graves ran her first cross country meet against major competition and she handled it beautifully," Heinonen said. "She was our best performer of the day."

Graves wasn't the only runner on the Oregon squad to catch Heinonen's attention Saturday.

"Deanna Schiedler and Jeanie Higinbotham ran particularly well also," Heinonen said. "They were in

there where we needed them."

Schiedler made the most dramatic move of the day for the Ducks as she stood 79th after one mile and improved to finish 40th in 18:22.9.

Birgit Petersen was Oregon's third finisher in 18:13.0 which was good enough for 35th overall.

Senior Kim Roth finished 48th in 18:31.3.

The next action for the women harrier's will be this Saturday at Lane Community College for the Oregon Open.

Heinonen will have the services of senior Brenda Bushnell for the first time this season. Bushnell has been out all year with a stress fracture that dates back to last track season.

Heinonen will use the meet to select his team for the upcoming NorPac Conference championships that will be held in Pullman, Wash. on Nov. 2.

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