

Oregon women overcome Cougars, run streak to 19

By Robert Collias
Of the Emerald

On a day that ran the imaginable spectrum of different kinds of weather, as well as other bizarre happenings, the Oregon women's track team "dodged a bullet," according to their coach Tom Heinonen. In the process, the team ran their dual-meet winning streak to 19 with a 70½-65½ victory over the up and coming Washington State University Cougars Saturday at Hayward Field.

The Ducks have never lost to the Cougars in the eight meetings between the two schools, but it seems every year the margin narrows, and Saturday things were about as close as they could have been. The skies went from hail, to rain, to sunshine within minutes.

In fact, if it wasn't for a 400-meter relay that stretched the imagination and went in the Ducks favor, the meet would have had a different outcome.

Both short relay teams drop-

ped the baton within seconds of each other after attempting the first pass, but the Ducks were lucky enough to have the baton stay in the passing zone. WSU was not as fortunate.

Oregon runner Julie Goodrich was alert enough to pick up the baton and speed away with the victory, the five points that went with it, and eventually the meet.

Heinonen wasn't exactly sure what happened, but he was sure that his team won.

"We were either fortunate or lucky, or a combination of both, not much went to form," Heinonen said about his team's close escape. "Every year WSU seems to get stronger, and that relay was the difference in the meet."

Cora Aguilar and Yvette Brown continued to be world beaters as they both garnered personal records in the shot put, placing 1-2 in the process. Then they came back to clinch the Oregon team victory with a 1-3 finish in the discus, the last event to be completed.

Brown's new shot put PR is an improvement of over a foot, to 48-9, and Aguilar broke the 50-foot barrier for the first time with a heave of 51-1½.

Janell Thorsland was a one person wrecking crew as she won the long jump in 19-11¼, and the 100 hurdles in 14.2, and she placed third in the 400 hurdles.

"Things felt really good today," Thorsland said between her busy schedule. "To run these times in this weather is

really encouraging."

Injury-plagued Kim Roth returned to the Hayward Field victory circle for the first time in two years and enjoyed every minute of it.

"It is great just to be able to run, much less win," Roth said. "Hayward Field is the best place to run in the world in my opinion."

The Ducks needed every bit of the performances they got, and were actually behind by five points, 61½-56½, going into the final two events — the discus and triple jump.

Oregon rode the 1-2 finish of Phyllis McKinney, and Goodrich in the triple jump to set up the heroics of Aguilar and Brown in the discus.

For his team's efforts, Heinonen got a dip in the steeplechase pit, but after 19-straight wins the coach is getting used to it.

"I'm just glad they threw me in the deep part," Heinonen said. "I've been in the shallow part and getting thrown in there is no fun."

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Track

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Morris could win the steeple, and he entered Korir the 1,500 against Myers.

Myers was aware of this and said before the race, "I think they're planning on having Korir win the 1,500. He's going to have to hurt to do it. Of course, I'm going to have to hurt too, but that doesn't matter."

Korir did hurt as he strained a hip flexor during the race. Myers, Korir and Oregon's Knut Hegvold were bunched at the bell lap until Myers ripped a 55.9 last lap to win in 3:44.53. Korir barely held off Hegvold, 3:48.28 to 3:48.72, and WSU got only three points instead of the expected five.

Myers was pleased with the race.

"The first couple laps were nice and relaxed," he said. "When I took it over, the pace dropped quite a bit. Korir came up on my shoulder a couple times. It felt like he surged a couple times, but I negated him."

Oregon continued to chip away at WSU in events that had not been counted on. Scott Seidel and Todd Post went 2-3 in the high jump. J.T. Douplik placed third in the javelin, and Greg Aitkenhead threw the discus a personal best 164-5 for third.

But the biggest upsets came in events in which Oregon is typically weak — the sprints. WSU was favored to finish 1-3 in the 100 meters, and 1-2 in the 200 meters.

Instead, Oregon went 1-3 in the 100 as Dannis, who has been nursing a sore hamstring for the last two weeks and had only been able to train during the three days prior to the meet, ran 10.75 to defeat Tiachon, who ran 10.76. Uribe, in his first open race of the season, placed third in 10.80.

The 800 meters was an event Oregon head coach Bill Dellinger felt the Ducks had to win in order to have a shot at winning the meet.

Myers won in 1:49.4 in a race that saw all six competitors run 1:51.7 or better.

After Uribe placed second in the 200, WSU needed to finish at least 1-2 in the 5,000 to bring the meet down to the mile relay. With Korir injured, WSU had no one else to seriously challenge Oregon's Harold Kuphaldt and Mark McMonigal. Chaplin decided against risking Korir's health and conceded the meet.

Kuphaldt and McMonigal went 1-2, running 14:09 and 14:11, and Oregon had its first dual-meet victory over WSU since 1980.

Dellinger was happy with the way things went.

"We haven't beat Washington State since 1980, so obviously it's a big win for us," he said. "We still have a season to go, but this is getting us off to a good start. The fact that we have a couple three people sitting out tells me we can be an even better team."

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