

## Pepsi Invitational may preview men's national champion

By Aaron Knox  
Of the Emerald

When four of the country's top men's track and field teams walk onto Hayward Field tomorrow for the inaugural Pepsi Invitational, history will be made.

The University of Texas, the University of Tennessee, and Washington State University will test Oregon's claim to national supremacy at a location it has never been tested before — on the track.

The Pepsi Invitational in its present form is evolutionary, rather than revolutionary, according to Oregon assistant coach John Gillespie. Pepsi has draped its corporate banner over Hayward Field since 1984, under the title of the Pepsi Relays. However, attendance was less than expected, and teams were hesitant to incur

travel expenses to Eugene.

"We discovered that the fans and the teams were more interested in team competition," said Gillespie.

He also noted that Hayward Field pales in comparison to the Penn and Drake relays simply because Eugene is relatively remote and it is expensive to attract the best available competition.

Periodic brainstorming over the course of about three years brought the meet to its present form. "It was at about the time that Doug (Doug Brown, Tennessee head coach) left that the idea started to take hold," said Gillespie.

The compelling desire among organizers was to create a meet which brought together the best four schools in the nation for a competition which emphasized overall team strength. The idea

may not seem radical, but it has never been done before.

Thank Pepsi for enabling it to finally happen. Their \$15,000 travel reimbursement was the lure that got Texas and Tennessee to take the plunge.

The results will be available for all to see on Saturday. Texas finished third in the NCAA championships last season, and Tennessee has won 21 of the last 23 Southeastern Conference titles. Oregon (defending Pac-10 champion) and Washington State fought it out for Northwest bragging rights last weekend in Pullman, where the Ducks prevailed, 93-70.

Saturday's outcome will go a long way towards determining the national dual-meet champion. Oregon, Texas, Tennessee and Washington State finished last season ranked second, fourth, fifth and sixth by Track

and Field News, respectively. Only the Ducks and Cougars had the benefit of head-to-head competition.

"We were able to pick and choose this year, and we got a little lucky in that all the schools had such outstanding seasons," said Gillespie. "Next year they should be beating down the door to get in, especially since we can offer them money to get here."

It is the stuff from which traditions are formed.

In the meantime, tomorrow's clash offers something for everyone. The meet will be scored on the international system, which means that points will be awarded for every finished race or legal mark. Each team is limited to two entries per event, so the battles for fifth and sixth place will have as much bearing on the outcome of

the meet as those for first and second.

That format, according to head coach Bill Dellinger, favors dual-team strength, which favors the Ducks. "We really don't have any gaping holes in our lineup," said Dellinger. "Even events where we might be considered weak aren't that bad."

When asked if he denied the favorite's tag, Dellinger remarked, "I wouldn't say that. I'm not conceding anything to anyone. This is the best dual-meet team we've had in a long time."

Fans of individual excellence will be satisfied as well.

Texas carries three NCAA champions on their roster. Dag Wennlund (271-1) holds the collegiate javelin record, James Lott (7-6) is a three-time high jump champion, and Eric Metcalf (son of former NFL all-pro Terry Metcalf) won the long jump (27-0) as a freshman last year.

Tennessee boasts NCAA place-winners John Tillman (55-7) in the triple jump. Pat

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### Memo

To: All interested sales representatives

From: Oregon Daily Emerald Sales Department

Date: April 17, 1987

Re: Advertising Sales Representative recruitment open house.

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