

Sports

In a last-ditch effort, Oregon men set up mini-meet for non-qualifiers

By Aaron Knox
Of the Emerald

Several members of the Oregon men's track team and a few select guests will get one last chance to qualify for the NCAA championships today in a hastily-arranged "mini-meet" at Hayward Field.

The meet, which begins at 6 p.m., is open to the public and no admission will be charged.

Head coach Bill Dellinger hopes to add a few more athletes to his current 14-man NCAA-bound squad, which equals the number of Ducks who competed in the meet last year and produced the Oregon's second straight seventh-place finish.

The event tonight with the greatest potential for adding qualifiers appears to be the 1,500 meters, where Oregon runners Eric Peterson and Mark Dunbar will face the stern test of the University of Washington's Bruce Stirling and T.T. Roe, University of Arizona ace Matt Guisto, and Marc Oleson of Stanford University, all of whom are flying to Eugene for the meet.

"That (the 1500) should be a great race," predicted assistant coach John Gillespie. It will be the finale of the abbreviated, 10-event meet, and is tentative-

ly scheduled to begin at 8:30.

Dunbar and Peterson share the Pac-10's best time at the distance (3:44.01), but finished last weekend's Pac-10 race in fifth and sixth places, respectively. The conference crown went to Stirling, who won in 3:44.29, and Oleson was the runner-up in 3:45.63. Guisto has a season-best time of 3:45.38, but all need to eclipse the NCAA standard of 3:43.00 tonight.

Peterson has an eye on the NCAA's, but is more anxious to atone for what he considered a subpar performance last week. "I just want to run a fast race and compete better against those guys. If a qualifying time comes, it comes, but I'm not worried about it," he said.

Additional events include the pole vault, long jump, intermediate hurdles, steeplechase and 5,000, all of which have Oregon athletes flirting with the NCAA standards.

This year's Oregon team lacks the sure-point production of last season at the national level, according to Dellinger. "Ken Flax (hammer) and Dub Myers (1,500) were going to score well and we knew it. That isn't the case this year," he said.

Gillespie concurred, indicating that a top-ten finish

would satisfy his expectations.

"But the points aren't that important. We're more concerned with competing well and going down there (Baton Rouge, La.) to work, not vacation," he said.

Gillespie emphasized that although the qualification of those Webfoots "on the bubble" is not likely to improve the team's scoring prospects, the coaching staff is taking a longer view than simply the June 3-6 NCAA meet.

"Most of them are underclassmen, and competing now will help them in the future. Others are fifth-year seniors who deserve the opportunity because they're veterans, and if they get there, they can do well," said Gillespie.

"Then there are guys that may be good enough to score some points, but they didn't get the opportunity to qualify during the season, because of injury or whatever," he continued, referring to senior hurdler Pedro Chiamulera and pole vaulter Jay Davis, both of whom have been plagued by recalcitrant legs.

Chiamulera was out of action for six months following a January gluteus pull, and has struggled to find the form that earned him the South American continental record in both the highs (13.87) and the intermediates (49.34). His fifth-place time in the conference intermediates (51.79) was still well off the NCAA standard of 50.50.

Davis was the Pac-10 runner up in the pole vault a year ago, and has a lifetime best of 18-0 1/2, but has managed only 16-4 1/4 this year. The NCAA standard is 17-5 1/4, and teammate Tim Canfield, who has cleared the height, is questionable for the NCAA's after aggravating a hamstring problem.

Help needed

Volunteers are needed for the Special Olympics being held this weekend at Silke Field in Springfield.

Help is wanted both at the field, located at the corner of 10th and G Streets, and at Echo Hollow pool, where all swimming events take place. The Olympics will run Friday through Sunday.

Those interested are encouraged to call Linda Sleutel at 484-8400 or Tony Kloch at 747-3536 for more information.

Golf is a 4-letter word

It's the most trying of all sports. It's the nastiest of the four-letter words. It can be expensive. It's often very dangerous. And it's always frustrating.

Someone once said that it's a game in which a ball one-and-a-half inches in diameter is placed on another ball 8,000 miles in diameter, and the object is to hit the small ball but not the larger. It's none other than ... golf.

It's a great game, and I love to play it. I'm not really sure why this is, because in reference to the definition above, I usually hit the larger ball.

I think that's why golf is such an odd sport. There aren't many other sports where so many awful players participate on such a regular basis. You don't see people who are bad baseball players rushing out to the diamond early Sunday

From the Sidelines by John F. Weber

morning to practice striking out.

Yet every time I go to play, I always see a lot of hackers. And they're paying green fees to do poorly. Why? Well, today may just be the day they play well.

For example, a week or so ago I was waiting to tee off at a local course. One of the guys on the tee before us had the look of a hacker. He gave himself away after he hit a less than desirable drive and promptly yelled, "You whore!" Forget about this being a gentle person's game.

Some may defend the boisterous buffoon, but not me. Unless, of course, Wilson makes a ball called "The Whore." How about the Pinnacle Prostitute? Titlist Tramp? Hogan Harlot?

That explains part of the frustration. Golf can be very dangerous. Or at least it can look that way.

The term "fore," used to warn other golfers that they're in some danger of being struck by your ball, appears to be a bit outdated. It's been replaced by the casual line, "It'll never hit 'em."

In order to bring the term fore back to the game, it's important to make other golfers think their ball hit you. It works well on courses with a lot of hills. If another player's ball nearly hits you, and you don't hear "Fore!," immediately check to see if anyone's watching. If not, fall to the ground and have your partner attend to you as if you've been mortally wounded. Just see what happens.

Just as the sport can be frustrating and dangerous, it is also expensive. Obviously clubs and greens fees are costly, but the most outrageous expense is for the balls. Nowadays, the so-called finest balls can run upwards of \$7 for a pack of three. For \$2.33 a ball, the things should at least float, so I can retrieve them after hitting them into the lake, stream, river, creek or ball-washer.

As for the expense of clubs, you can always rent them from the course. These are the sets that come in the bags that say "RENTAL" on the side. Why are the letters so large?

I think my brother covered that one when he told me that those are the people to watch out for — they rent clubs and drink beer while playing. It's dangerous.

I plan to continue playing golf for a long time. It doesn't matter about the frustration, danger or expense. It's kind of fun to try and hit onto a green surrounded by water on one side and sandtraps on the other — like being between Scylla and Charybdis.

I bet Odysseus would have been a great golfer.

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