

Sports

Oregon men have 16 athletes at NCAAs, but no horses

By Aaron Knox
Of the Emerald

The Oregon men's track team hopes to improve on two consecutive seventh-place finishes at the NCAA track and field championships, which begin today and run through Saturday in Baton Rouge, La.

The Ducks finished their second straight undefeated dual-meet season by earning second place at the Pacific 10 Con-

ference championships last week at Corvallis, but finished well behind first-place UCLA.

The Bruins will again be one of the favorites this week, while coach Bill Dellinger's 16-man squad will be hard-pressed to improve on last year's performance, despite having two more entrants. "After what they did (at the Pac-10s), UCLA may be the best team in the whole country, not just the con-

ference," said Dellinger.

The Ducks, meanwhile, return no scorers from last season's NCAA squad, and Dellinger indicated that he would be surprised if the Ducks do as well as they have the last three years (including the 1984 team that won the national championship).

"We don't have the people who are national-caliber that we had last year," admitted Dell-

inger, referring to Ken Flax (hammer), Dub Myers (1,500 meters) and Mark McMonigal (10,000). Those three accounted for 28 of Oregon's 30 team points last season.

Assistant coach John Gillespie concurred. "I think a top-ten finish would be respectable," he said. Both coaches indicated that the team's best chance for points are likely to come from horizontal jumpers Latin Berry and J.J. Birden.

Berry is one of two Oregon athletes who could pull double duty in the sweltering Louisiana heat, since he qualified in both the triple jump and the long jump. He will be joined by conference champion Birden in the long jump, while sophomore Spencer Williams will try to add triple jump points.

Two Ducks on this year's squad have scored in a previous NCAA meet. Matt McGuirk and Harold Kuphaldt finished 5-6 in the steeplechase when the Ducks won their fifth national championship in 1984. McGuirk will again run in the steeple (qualifying trials begin tonight at 8 p.m.), while

Kuphaldt will be entered in the 5,000 (trials to be held Thursday at 8:40 p.m.).

Qualifying sessions will be held today and Thursday, with finals for all men's events being conducted Friday and Saturday. Pole vaulters Tim Canfield and Jay Davis will be the first Oregon competitors, with qualification for the event beginning tonight at 5:15 (CDT).

Rick Bergeson has qualified at both 5,000 and 10,000 meters, and Dellinger hinted that the fifth-year senior may run in both events. The 5,000 trials are Thursday evening, the 10,000 final (no qualifying trials) will be run Friday night, and the 5,000 final will be run Saturday night, also at 6:40.

Also competing for the Ducks are Carleton Jones (5,000), Chad Bennion (10,000), Dan Nelson (steeplechase), Dave Anderton (800), Jose de Souza (discus), Eric Finch (hammer), Jim Smith (1,500) and Mark Dunbar (1,500).

"Once they get there, anything can happen," Dellinger noted.

Duck women just want to score

By Dennis Fernandes
Of the Emerald

The Oregon women's track team hopes to better a poor showing at last year's NCAA championships as it prepares the assault on this year's field at Baton Rouge, La.

After capturing the NCAA team title in 1985, the Ducks' contingent of three athletes failed to score at last season's capper. For this year's event, Oregon will send six athletes who qualified in 10 events — Julie Goodrich, Yvette Brown, Penny Graves, Annette Hand, Camille Jampolsky and Jill Smith — to compete starting today and running through Saturday.

Oregon head coach Tom Heinonen admitted that he had not thought about how the Ducks stack up against other teams, but at best, said Oregon could score in "five or six" events.

"My goals are a lot more subjective," said Heinonen from his motel room in Baton Rouge. "Because we didn't score any points last year, I want people to see that Oregon still has good athletes on the national level."

Hometown Louisiana State University is expected to be a strong favorite for the team title. Pac-10 champion UCLA was expected to challenge for the national championship, but Bruin ace Gail Devers is rumored injured and is only penciled for the 100-meter and relay races.

Jampolsky, although she finished second in the heptathlon at the Pac-10 meet, will pass on that event and concentrate on the high

jump, which begins with the trials Thursday night. She jumped 6-2 for her season best against University of Washington in April but has managed to clear six feet just once since then.

Hand, the Pac-10 champion in the 3,000 and 5,000 meters, will run those races, while Graves will participate in the 1,500-meter heat and 5,000 meters, a race she has run only once. Apparently, Saturday's finals in the 1,500 and 5,000 are scheduled a few minutes apart, so Graves will run the 1,500-meter trial for some speed work.

"At this level, running both races is absurd," Heinonen noted. "She wanted to run the 1,500 semis for something to do. We're just going to try for something short and sweet, maybe try to set a new PR for the 1,500."

Goodrich, also Oregon's triple jumper, will participate in the long jump finals on Friday night (the trials were scratched). She holds a legal best of 19-10½ from the Oregon Twilight and a wind-aided 20-10½. Goodrich finished seventh in the conference meet.

Brown took the long route in qualifying for this meet, surpassing the NCAA standard with a 172-2 discus heave at the S&W Modesto Invitational last month. The Oregon junior missed the shot-put mark at the same meet by just eight inches. She will see action beginning Thursday night.

Smith is making the trip thanks to a last-gasp effort in the javelin last week at the Oregon State Twilight, when the freshman threw 172-10. Her trials are tonight.

Slaney undergoes surgery

From Associated Press and Emerald reports

American distance-running star Mary Slaney underwent arthroscopic surgery on her right Achilles tendon Tuesday, forcing her out of Saturday's Prefontaine Classic track and field meet at Hayward Field.

Mary Sakakibara, spokeswoman for Sacred Heart General Hospital, said the 28-year-old runner underwent surgery about 7:45 a.m. and checked out of the hospital about 4 p.m.

She said Slaney was "doing fine and resting."

Dr. Stan James, the Eugene doctor who performed the surgery, said he could not comment on the operation until he received permission from Slaney.

"I'm really disappointed about this weekend," she said. "I wanted to race here this year — that was one thing I wanted to do. I guess it's not meant to be this year. It will have to be on the new track next year."

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