

Sports

In reversal of expectations, Oregon women get ninth

By Aaron Knox
Of the Emerald

The Louisiana heat does strange things to those not accustomed to it.

At the NCAA track and field championships which concluded Saturday in Baton Rouge, it took the two Oregon teams in opposite directions.

The women's squad responded by maximizing their person-

nel and scoring points when few were anticipated. Six women represented the Ducks, and five managed scoring marks.

The men, with the notable exception of senior Dan Nelson, wilted under the pressure of the humidity and the long season. Only two men (Nelson and red-shirt freshman Latin Berry) scored points, and those who

didn't failed to equal their season's best in every case.

So, in a surprising reversal of expectations, coach Tom Heinonen brought the women home with 25 points, good enough for ninth place, after being shut out a year ago, while coach Bill Dellinger's weary men limped out of Baton Rouge with 14 points and a tie for 21st place, their worst showing in 37

years.

Local favorite Louisiana State upended pre-meet pick Alabama for the women's title 62-53, while UCLA showed that their domination of the Pac-10 championships a week ago was no fluke by burying the field to win the men's championship by the widest margin in the meet's history.

Annette Hand led the way for

the Webfoot women, scoring big points in two distance events. Hand captured fourth in the 3,000 meters on Friday, then came back on Saturday to run second at 5,000 meters.

Junior Penny Graves followed Hand to a sixth-place finish at the longer distance, as the pair accounted for 13 of the Ducks' 19 Saturday points.

Camille Jampolsky added another second place, hers in the high jump, and Jill Smith, the last Duck to qualify, picked up one point for her eighth-place toss in the javelin.

Nelson prevented the Oregon men from pulling a total wash-out, and his championship performance Friday in the steeplechase made the trip worthwhile.

Nelson held off familiar Pac-10 rivals Paul Junkermann and Dan Bell to win the race in a PR of 8:35.37. Junkermann, from UCLA, was second in 8:36.21 and Bell, who edged Nelson to win the conference crown, finished third in 8:36.71.

Berry was the only other Duck to score points, but even his performance was half-par. The conference champion in the triple jump failed to advance past qualifying in that event, but got caught up in the quality of the competition and a favorable tailwind to soar 26-5 and capture fifth place in the long jump.

Two Oregon men managed to finish ninth in their respective events, just one place out of scoring position.

Sophomore Jose de Souza fouled on all three attempts in the final round of the discus and failed to improve on a mark of 184-3, which is over 16 feet below his PR.

J.J. Birden found himself in some fast company in the long jump, as the first six places went to jumpers who passed 26 feet. Birden's best of 25-5 was within six inches of his PR, but not quite good enough to score.

Too bad the men left their best stuff back at Hayward Field in April, when they peaked to defeat Texas, Tennessee, and Washington State. But no one was going to catch the Bruins of UCLA this season in any case.

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NCAA champion Claudette Groenendaal outkicked Joetta Clark in the backstretch of the 800 meters to win in 2:02.08. Crowd favorite Henry Marsh surged ahead of Brian Diemer for an 8:29.98 reading in the steeplechase.

Eugene's Jose Luis-Barbosa kept a lead on Stanley Redwine for the 800 meters, winning in 1:46.08. Springfield resident Craig Blanchette was victorious going away in the wheelchair mile at 4:10.9.

And in an event which was supposed to boast Mary Slaney until achilles tendon surgery sidelined her last Wednesday, Linda Sheskey of Athletics West took up the opportunity to make history by setting one last field record on the old surface, running the mile in 4:29.09.

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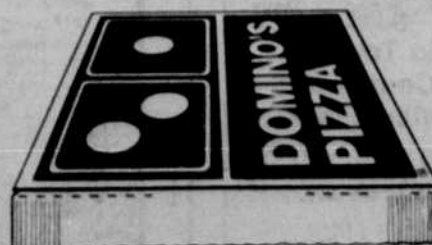


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