

Sports

Women harriers grab NCAA title

By Brendan Joyce
Emerald Contributor

The Oregon women's cross country team squeaked by North Carolina State 98-101 to win its second National Collegiate Athletic Association championship in the last five years on Monday. The Ducks also claimed the team title in 1983.



Annette Hand

Ducks eclipse NC State juggernaut

NC State captured three of the top seven places in the meet, but Oregon's depth was the difference in the race, held in Charlottesville, Va.

Senior Annette Hand was among the leaders when she fell down at about the one-and-a-half mile mark, but was able to regain her composure and finish fifth overall in 16:18.50, less than eight seconds behind the individual champion, Indiana runner Kimberly Betz (16:10.83).

Even with the fall, it was Hand's best time of the season, which is her only one of cross country eligibility. The transfer from Montana State was unbeaten going into the meet.

"Annette was running really well until she fell. Even after that she did a good job of getting back up and into the race, but she was running catch-up and had too much distance to overcome," coach Tom Heinonen said, adding he thought she was on her way to

winning the race when she took the spill.

Junior Penny Graves (16:31.25) performed well in her third NCAA championship meet, finishing second among the Ducks and 12th overall. It was a slight improvement over 1986, when she placed 13th and the Ducks were forced to settle for fourth place.

Sophomore Liz Wilson finished the race 15th overall (16:38.28) in her second championship meet, far ahead of her 39th-place finish a year ago.

Senior Lisa Johnson and sophomore Karen Rayle overcame the tension of competing in a championship meet to finish as the fourth and fifth Duck runners. Those points proved to be critical, in view of the performance of the top three North Carolina State harriers.

"We didn't score quite as well as I'd hoped, but our four and five runners were better than North Carolina State's and that was the difference,"



Penny Graves

Heinonen said.

Johnson placed slightly ahead of last year's 37th place, as she took 35th place in 17:02.00. Rayle, the only Duck with no national meet experience, was able to finish 73rd (17:34.29) in the crucial fifth spot, just five places ahead of the Wolfpack's fifth finisher.

Arkansas won the men's national championship, as Oregon senior Chad Bennion finished 86th with a time of 30:53.32 over the 10,000 meter men's course. Bennion was the only member of the men's team to compete in the national championships, but he failed to improve on his 66th-place finish of a year ago.

Pilots game to open men's hoop season

By Kevin Allen
Emerald Contributor

Saturday opens the regular season for the Oregon men's basketball team, and there appears to still be a struggle for several of Coach Don Monson's hoopers to make the starting five.

When Oregon meets the Pilots from Portland at 7:35 p.m. Saturday at McArthur Court, Monson will start All-Pac-10 guard Anthony Taylor, a senior, forward Keith Balderston, a senior from Portland, and center Greg Senior, a junior. No surprises there. But four other players are in contention for the remaining two spots.

Senior Rick Osborn, 6-foot-4, and sophomore Steve Ranniger, 6-foot-3, are up for the final guard position while 6-foot-8 junior Brett Coffey and 6-foot-6 junior Randy Grant are competing for the last forward spot. The starters may not be finalized until Thursday, two days

before the Pilots fly in.

While the Ducks have not played their first game of the 1987-88 season, they have started forming the 1988-89 team. Last Wednesday, the University announced the signing of two star players for next season.

"It is very exciting to get two young Oregon kids in the program," Monson said. "We're pleased to get a local kid from the Eugene area and an inner-city kid from Portland."

Terrell Brandon, 5-foot-11 guard from Grant High School in Portland, helped lead Grant to two consecutive AAA championship finals. He is also a star high and triple jumper for the Generals.

Keith Reynolds, 6-foot-6 guard from Springfield High School, is currently playing his second year on the National Junior College champion team in Southern Idaho, where he averages 9.8 points and four rebounds per game.

Wednesday ended the fall signing period for basketball.

The Ducks have one scholarship remaining, which will be used in the spring signing period.

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TRACKS

by J.S. Bock



Women host Aussies tonight

The Oregon women's basketball team will tip off its 1987/88 season tonight with an exhibition game against the Australian National Team at McArthur Court.

The game will begin at 7:30 p.m., and students will be admitted free with ID and fee cards.

The Ducks will play at home only twice more before Jan 22. They host Gonzaga on Friday.

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