

Sports

Ducks, Beavers compete in track for last time

By Kevin Allen
Emerald Sports Reporter

Almost any other year, an Oregon-Oregon State track and field meet would be insignificant. The teams have been leagues apart for the past

decade, as far as talent is concerned.

What is significant about this year's cross-state rivalry, starting at 12:10 p.m. Saturday at Hayward Field, is it may be the last meet between the schools.

Oregon State announced earlier this year that it would

drop its cross country, track and field programs after the 1988 track season. OSU officials claim they cannot financially afford to field a program competitive with those of Pac-10 powerhouses — UCLA, Oregon and USC.

While the women have only competed for the past 11 years, the men's dual meet series dates back to 1903, when the Ducks beat the Beavers 71-55 and set the pace for Oregon's 63-21 meet record against Oregon State.

The Oregon men's and women's teams have already qualified seven athletes each to compete in the National Collegiate Athletic Association championships in Eugene, June 1-4. Oregon men's coach Bill Dellinger has won 18 consecutive dual meets while Tom Heinonen, the women's coach, has won 11 straight.

The Oregon women have never lost to the Beavers; the men's last loss was way back in 1974.

But many of those involved with Oregon's track program say they feel OSU's departure will hurt track and field throughout the state.

"It's going to have a ripple effect on track throughout the whole state of Oregon," Dell-



File photo

Men's coach Bill Dellinger won't have to tangle with Oregon State's track and field program again after this weekend's dual meet.

inger said. "We've had some great competitions over the years, but now a young man coming out of high school going into forestry, fish, or game or something else we don't offer, doesn't have the option of running track."

The 5,000 meters will be the key race for the men, as Brad Hudson will try to help teammates Peter Fonseca and Chad Bennion qualify for the NCAA's Oregon State standout Karl Van Calcar will most likely run the 1,500 meters in prepara-

tion as the leading NCAA steeplechaser's bid for the Pac-10 championship next weekend in Los Angeles.

Although the Ducks are sympathetic to the plight of the Oregon State running program and are virtually assured a win against the Beavers, they are not taking the meet lightly.

"We're not running through Oregon State. We want to win the races and the meet," Dellinger said. "We are confident we can win but it will have to be done Saturday on the track."

Tennis Classic arrives

The Oregon Spring Tennis Classic registration deadline is Monday. Entry forms may be picked up at the University women's tennis office, the recreation and intramural office, or at local tennis clubs.

The tournament, which runs May 20-22, includes open singles and doubles as well as mixed doubles events. The tournament will be held at the 15th

Avenue and University Street covered courts.

Entry fees are \$7 for student singles and \$8 for adult singles. Doubles events are \$12 per team. Men's "A" and "B" singles will begin next Friday. Other events will begin Saturday, May 21. Players may not enter more than two events.

For additional information, call 686-4420 or 686-4421.

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