Ducks ready to challenge UCLA for Pac-10 crown this weekend

By Ashley Conklin **Emerald Sports Reporter**

For the first time since 1986. someone other than UCLA could walk away with the men's Pacific-10 Conference track crown when the meet concludes Sunday at Stanford Stadium.

Oregon, which was the last team other than the Bruins to win the conference title, will give UCLA a strong test in Saturday's and Sunday's meet Any chance of a Duck title would probably disappear if Oregon should stumble in any one event, however.

"UCLA will probably be the favorite," said Duck head coach Bill Dellinger. "If we don't fall flat on our face. there's no reason why we can't win. We can't afford to have one guy stub his toe if we want to win the meet.

Latin Berry will lead Oregon's effort at the conference title. Berry is the defending champ in the long jump and the two-time defending champ in the triple jump. He owns the best mark in both events this season and, along with teammate Spencer Williams, should bring the Ducks plenty of points.

With Mike Marsh and Steve Lewis, a 400-meter gold medalist in the 1988 Olympics, the Bruins should dominate the sprints. UCLA will also be very tough in the shot put and discus, with three throwers among the top six.

Oregon's Jose deSouza is the defending conference champ in the shot put, but has a best of only 58-81/2 this year, the fifthbest conference throw. If deSouza could repeat his performance in the shot and come away with big points in the discus, the Ducks could be on their way to the title.

The Ducks should also come away with big points in the javelin, hammer and distance

Art Skipper and Jack Byrne hold the second and third spots in the Pac-10 in the javelin, and hammer throwers Eric Finch and Scott McGee will battle it

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out with Washington State's strong contingent.

Freshman Alan Foster qualified for the NCAA meet last week in the 1,500 meters. Foster and teammates Colin Dalton and Eric Peterson are all contenders in the metric mile. Loads of points will also come from Danny Lopez in the steeplechase and Peter Fonseca and Brad Hudson in the 5,000 and 10,000

On the women's side, it should again be the Bruins, the two-time Pac-10 champs. Ore-

gon head coach Tom Heinonen feels the Ducks are solid enough to repeat their second place performance of a year

"UCLA could be 80-100 points better than everyone else if they choose to," Heinonen said. "It should be interesting between us, USC and Arizona for second. I think we can nickel-and-dime USC for points (for second).

Defending NCAA champ Jill

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Club cyclists expect to do well nationally

The Oregon club cycling team leaves today for Colorado Springs, Colo., to participate in the Collegiate Nationals this Saturday and

Brad Gephard, Steve Marcy. Dave Campbell. Michael Keep and Peter Corrigan will represent the men's team on

.Club Sports_

the trip, while Karen Claeys. Katie Marcy and Cameron Blanchard will represent the women's team.

We should be right there in the thick of things," Campbell said. "I expect us to finish in the top three

The men's squad will compete in a 25-team field. with five members on each team. The individuals' category will feature a 50-man

Men's competition will include a 65-mile road race. which takes place Saturday at 9:00 a.m.; a 12-mile team trial on Sunday at 8:30 a.m.; and a 40-mile criterium on Sunday at 3 p.m.

The Ducks have been mak-

ing a lot of noise lately, such as when Gephard won the Lava Lands 73-mile road race in Bend on April 30 and took second in the Gateway to the Wilderness criterium in Grants Pass on May

Campbell took top honors in the Tree Top race, held May 7 in Yakima, Wash.

"We have a really good Campbell 'Definitely the best we've fielded in a long time. Last year we sort of finished in the middle of things, but this year we have all category-two riders, and we expect to do very well at Nation-

The women's competition, which fields three members on each team, will feature a 45-mile road race to be run on Saturday at the Air Force Academy circuit in Colorado Springs and a 12-mile team trial and a 25mile criterium on Sunday.

Claeys leads the way for the Ducks.

The club sports cycling team is sponsored by Nike and by Collin's Cycle Shop.



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