

# Harriers head to nationals after regional sweep

By Tracy Sumner  
Emerald Sports Editor

The Oregon men's cross country team did something at Saturday's NCAA Region 8 cross country meet in Fresno, Calif. that no team from Oregon had ever done.

The men swept the top five positions in the 10,000 meter race to take the Region 8 championship with a score of 15 points, the lowest possible total for a team.

Oregon, rated No. 2 in the nation, now travels to Annapolis, Md. for the Nov. 20 NCAA Championships and a chance for a fifth national title.

Brad Hudson and Peter Fonseca finished a close 1-2 in the race, just .3 seconds apart to lead the Ducks to the title.

Pat Haller, Danny Lopez and Terrance Mahon rounded out the top five positions in the race for the Ducks. Steve Richards finished ninth.

"I think (sweeping the regionals) was in the back of our minds," Hudson said. "It was realistic. We've got six or seven guys who are all really close."

Hudson said his and Fonseca's close finish was planned.

"Pete was feeling really good, so we just ran out and ran together," Hudson said. "It was beneficial because we have nationals in nine days."

"I think it helped the rest of our team by killing off the rest of the guys. We broke away early and the other guys tried to stay with us and it hurt them so

the rest of our team could move up," he said.

"We felt really good," Fonseca said. "Brad and I just ran along together and just kind of coasted. I can't believe how well it went."

"I think we're just coming to a peak now and we're just getting ready for nationals," he said.

Men's cross country coach Bill Dellinger said he was optimistic going into the meet, but didn't expect such a dominating performance by the Ducks.

"I knew we were going to be good," Dellinger said. "But to go 1-2-3-4-5 was unexpected.

We've never done that and we've won four national championships.

"Not only do you have to be good, you have to have some luck," he said.

"These five guys have done something no other team has done," Dellinger said. "Regardless of what they do at nationals, they've made their notch in the history of cross country in Oregon."

The top two teams as well as the top three individual finishers outside of those two teams qualify for nationals.

Washington, which finished with 84 points, will be the oth-

er Region 8 representative with Eric Mastalir of Stanford, Southern California's Fredson Mayiek and John Sloan going on an individual basis.

Mastalir, Mayiek and Sloan finished sixth, seventh and 11th, respectively.

For his team's part, Dellinger is confident.

"I think that they will be competitive at the NCAA," Dellinger said. "I think they can still run better. Iowa State (the nation's top-ranked team) has a very fine team, but we're going to be OK. We'll run well there."

The Oregon women finished

fourth in their Region 8 race Saturday with Stephanie Wessell taking sixth individually. Washington won the team title with 75 points followed by UC Irvine with 83 and UCLA with 89. Oregon finished with 95 points.

Buffy Rabbit of UC-Irvine won the individual championship followed by Amy Goodwin of Southern Cal, Bridget Smyth of Arizona, Sabrina Han of California and Carol Gray of Stanford rounding out the top five finishers.

Lisa Karnopp of Oregon finished 10th in the 5,000 meter race.

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*"The Oregon Ducks during my years were some football team, a cross between the Bad News Bears, the Wild Bunch, the Miami Dolphins and the Rolling Stones." (pg. 130)*

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