

## Sports

# Winter meet allows runners to qualify

By Ashley Conklin  
Emerald Sports Reporter

An outdoor track meet in December? It might be hard to believe, but that's exactly what happened at Hayward Field Saturday.

The NCAA allows athletes to qualify for the outdoor track championships anytime after Dec. 1, so men's coach Bill Dellinger decided to take advantage, allowing his long distance runners — still in good shape following the NCAA cross country championships — a shot at qualifying for the NCAA and Pacific-10 Conference meets.

Since Oregon runners don't get many opportunities to run 10,000s during the season, Dellinger decided to let Peter Fonseca, Terrance Mahon and Pat Haller to take a shot at the 10,000-meter standard of 29:07 behind the pacing of former Duck Art Boileau.

Haller dropped out midway through the race, but Fonseca and Mahon benefited from Boileau's tactics to qualify for the NCAA's as Fonseca came across the line behind Boileau in 28:55 and Mahon was third in 28:57.

"Art did it for us," Fonseca said. "I really mooched off him. It was really hard from mile four to mile five, but after that I knew I could get it.

"It's over now," he said. "I'll probably concentrate on the 5,000 during the season and hopefully run in the 13:40s."

The real surprise was Mahon, whom Dellinger calls his "sleeper."

Mahon, a redshirt freshman, wasn't even listed in the cross country media guide before the season, but came on during the season after losing 20 pounds over the summer. Dellinger said he knew Mahon had arrived after improving an incredible *seven minutes* on his last year's time from the Portland Invitational at McIver Park in Estacada, held Oct. 14.

Not surprisingly, Mahon felt pretty good after qualifying in Saturday's race.

"It was incredible," Mahon said. "I felt really relaxed today and I felt it (qualifying) was

within my capability."

Mahon said that after last season he worked over the summer to lose weight and get in good shape for this year's cross country season.

"I ran 105 (miles) a week and just kept doing workouts," he said. "I just hung in there."

The Ducks also had two Pac-10 qualifiers in the meet in Art Skipper and Danny Lopez.

Skipper, the school record holder in the javelin, tossed the spear 223-0 to easily qualify for the conference meet and just miss the NCAA standard.

Lopez, normally a steeple-chaser, broke the Pac-10 standard in the 5,000 meters, clocking 14:24.43 to better the conference standard of 14:25. Rick Mestler, another steeple-chaser and an all-American last season, just missed qualifying in the 5,000, running 14:25.42.

Besides the people who met qualifying standards, Dellinger also was pleased with 400-meter runners Curtis Wilson and Chris Thomason, who turned in times of 48.53 and 48.72 respectively, impressive early season times.

Not much happened on the women's side, but Laurel Roberts did clear 5-6 in the high jump despite struggling with her form.



Danny Lopez

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