

Track team looks to add another championship

By Ashley Conklin
Emerald Sports Reporter

In his 18th season at the helm of the Oregon men's track program, coach Bill Dellinger could possibly have his best squad ever this year.

Considering the accomplish-

ments that the Ducks have had under Dellinger, that might be a presumptuous statement. But considering the talent the Ducks have this year, Oregon could very well win its second national championship under Dellinger.

Ten Ducks who qualified for

last year's NCAA Championships return on a squad that was named dual meet national champion by *Track and Field News*, giving Oregon a team that could improve on its second and fourth place showings at the Pacific-10 Conference and NCAA meets, respectively.

"We haven't set any goals per se," Dellinger said. "We just have to wait and see what happens. Certainly we have the potential, and hopefully, we will be a better team this year."

Dellinger has always had a strong dual meet team at Oregon, but with the loss of shot putter and discus thrower Jose deSouza, the Ducks might be a better big-meet than dual meet team this season.

"With Jose being gone, we're vulnerable in the shot and discus," he said. "Probably our distance runners give us the most depth between the 800 and 10,000. Talent-wise in the long jump and triple jump we're as good as anybody."

"We can score well at any level and can cover most events, except the shot and discus, he added.

Oregon's main strength is in the distance races with seniors Brad Hudson, Danny Lopez and Eric Peterson; junior Peter Fonseca; sophomores Alan Foster, Pat Haller, Rick Mestler and Tye Van Schoiack; and redshirt freshman Terrance Mahon.

Hudson and Fonseca were the top runners on the cross country team that placed sec-



File photo

Steeplechaser Danny Lopez will be counted on heavily this season as part of a strong men's distance corps.

ond in last fall's NCAA Championships, and both look ready to have their best track seasons yet.

Hudson was an NCAA qualifier in the 10,000 two years ago and qualified in the 5,000 meters last season. However, a late-season illness left Hudson weak, and he was far from full strength at the Pac-10 Conference and NCAA meets.

This season, Hudson has already earned a return trip to the NCAA meet, to be held May 30-June 2 at Durham, N.C., with a 10,000 time of 28:58.51 in the Oregon Preview two weeks ago.

After being suspended from the team in early March for running in the Los Angeles Marathon, Fonseca has been reinstated to the team and will compete for the first time this spring in Saturday's dual meet at Washington.

Fonseca has already qualified

for the 10,000, having run 28:55.78 at an all-comers outdoor meet in December. Mahon also qualified for the same event in the same meet with a time of 28:57.79.

Haller will mostly run the 5,000 this season although he did come within 69-hundredths of a second of the 10,000 standard at the Oregon Preview. The Ducks are also in good shape in the 3,000-meter steeplechase with Lopez, Mestler and Van Schoiack.

Lopez was second in the steeplechase at the Pac-10 meet and was ranked 16th in the country last year. Both he and Mestler were NCAA qualifiers, with Mestler placing eighth at the NCAA meet.

Van Schoiack ran well early in the season and set a personal record at the Pepsi Invitational, but suffered an ankle sprain

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