

Men's team seeks another Pepsi win

Cougars are close rival

By Ashley Conklin
Emerald Sports Reporter

If there is one certainty about Saturday's Pepsi Team Invitational, it's the men's portion of the meet will be much closer this year.

Of course it couldn't be much more of a blowout than it was last season when Oregon ran away with the meet, scoring 230½ points to 146 for second place Illinois.

The Ducks are again the team favorite when the meet kicks off at 12:30 p.m. with the hammer throw. However, Washington State is back, and solid squads from Georgetown and Division II Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo should make the meet a good one.

Unlike the traditional two-team dual meets which are scored 5-3-1, Saturday's meet will limit teams to two entries per event and will be scored on a 9-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 format.

Coming off an 89-74 win over Washington State last week, it would appear that Oregon would be a bigger favorite in a big-scoring meet like the Pepsi meet, but Oregon coach Bill Dellinger said that's not necessarily the case.

"Quite frankly the format actually will favor Washington State more," Dellinger said. "Our distance strength will be broken up more by Georgetown. In that regard Washington State will be tougher than they are in a dual meet."

"I think it's going to be a dandy of a meet," he added. "Some of the outstanding individuals will overshadow the team race but it's going to be a good team meet."

Georgetown's John Trautmann, who has already qualified for the NCAA meet in the 10,000 meters, but with no 10,000 at the Pepsi meet, will match up with Oregon's Eric Peterson in the 1,500 meters. Peterson ran a Pacific-10 Conference leading 3:44.53 last week and is looking to meet the NCAA standard of 3:42.20.

Oregon's Danny Lopez and Washington State's Marty Stroschein will go head-to-head



Photo by Andre Rameri

Oregon's Eric Peterson (1) and Jimmy Howarth (22) will meet Georgetown's NCAA 10,000 meter qualifier John Trautmann in the 1,500 meters in Saturday's Pepsi Invitational.

in the 3,000-meter steeplechase for the first time this season after Stroschein ran the 800 and 1,500 last weekend.

The 5,000 meters should also be a good battle between Cougar E.J. Guo, who won the event in last year's meet, against Oregon's Peter Fonseca and Pat Haller.

The pole vault is likely to center around Washington State's Patrik Johannson and Oregon's Brian Cullen, the top two vaulters in the Pac-10. Cal Poly's Steve Williams is the Mustangs best individual performer and has also been over 17 feet in the vault this season.

Meet Notes: The Ducks have seven NCAA qualifiers after last week's meet. Besides Cullen, Fonseca and Peterson, other Ducks who could qualify Saturday are Latin Berry and Spencer Williams in the triple jump, Brian Wright in the 400 hurdles and Nick Anastasiades in the hammer. Big-10 power Indiana has agreed to be in next year's Pepsi meet.



Photo by Mark Ylen

After qualifying for the NCAA meet last weekend in the steeplechase, Oregon's Danny Lopez will battle Washington State's Marty Stroschein, the defending Pac-10 steeplechase champion.

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