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SPORTS

Cross country teams back at NCAA meet

By Jake Berg **Emerald Sports Reporter**

The Oregon cross country teams will conclude their 1990 seasons at the NCAA Championships in Knoxville, Tenn., today, a setting familiar to the two programs.

Women's Coach Tom Heinonen is taking an Oregon team to the national meet for the 14th time in his 15 years at Oregon. Last fall marked the only year in which a Duck team did not travel to the NCAAs as Stephanie Wessell was the only competitor to represent Oregon.

The fourth-ranked Ducks are strong up front with seniors Liz Wilson and Wessell and sophomore Nicole Woodward. The three are coming off of third. sixth, and ninth place finishes, respectively, at the Region VIII meet on Nov. 10 where the Ducks won the team title.

The two seniors are the only members of the team with NCAA experience. Wessell finished 58th last year and 43rd the year before while Wilson finished 16th as a sophomore and 17th in her junior year. An injury forced Wilson to redshirt the 1989 season.

Heinonen said the Ducks are rested and ready for a strong performance at the meet.

'Our goal is to get into the

top five," he said.

While Villanova is the overwhelming favorite to win the team title. a host of other schools, including Oregon, Brigham Young, Indiana and Cal-Irvine could challenge for second.

"It's really a toss up when you look at those eight teams." Heinonen said, "assuming topranked Villanova wins.

The men's team made it back to the NCAA meet although Colin Dalton. Oregon's top runner, missed the regional meet because of tendinitis in his knee. The Ducks finished third overall at the regional meet to earn a return trip to the NCAA meet.

Bill Dellinger, in his 23rd season as Oregon's coach, has given the school a reputable name at the national meet with Oregon winning the meet three different times and placing second on five other occasions.

Junior Pat Haller is the only Oregon runner who competed in last year's NCAA meet. Haller finished 17th last season and is the only runner besides Dalton, who was 31st in 1988, with NCAA experience.

"I think they're going to do all right," Dellinger said

The women's race will begin this morning at 10 a.m. CST and the men will run at 11 a.m. CST

