Washington State's Tony Li, favored in the 110-meter high hurdles, figures to provide the Cougars with much needed team points.

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## Vols and Cougars favored to win

But Oregon and Arkansas could challenge for team title

By Ashley Conklin

The men's team title at this week's NCAA Track & Field Championships at Hayward Field should boil down to a two-team affair between Tennessee and Washington State.

If anybody could challenge those two teams, it would likely be Oregon, which won its last NCAA title in 1984 while hosting the championships.

But the Volunteers, Cougars and Ducks aren't the only talented teams in this year's meet. Arizona. Arkansas. Auburn, George Mason, Georgetown, Louisiana State, Texas and Texas Christian are just a few of the schools that could sway the title balance for one of the favorites.

And at any NCAA meet, who can ever tell what might happen?

"Two years ago we weren't even supposed to be in the track meet and we won," said Louisiana State Coach Pat Henry of the two-time defending champions. "The press knows a little bit, but they don't know it all so that's what makes track and field fun."

While the team race is guaranteed to be fun, some of the subplots that may develop should be just as exciting.

Can Eugene's 'favorite son.'
Tennessee Coach Doug Brown
— a former Athletics West runner and Churchill High School
coach — head back to Knoxville with the Volunteers' second ever NCAA title? Can
Washington State's John Chaplin, certainly no Hayward Field
favorite, finally win an outdoor

Brown hopes that events turn into Tennessee's favor, as a heated Duck-Cougar rivalry could pull fan support away from Washington State.

Also, the Cougars' reliance on foreign athletes has alienated coaches and fans who believe American colleges should develop American athletes.

"It's one of the few plusses I'm counting on, that there's no love loss between the U of O program and the Washington State program," he said.

"The fact that my team is 100 percent American athletes and that I'm a former Eugenean myself. I'm hoping I can pick up a little home crowd support to give me a little intangible plus on my side."

One thing all of the coaches seem to be looking forward to is coming back to Hayward Field for the NCAA Championships, which were last held in Eugene in 1988.

And although some teams like Arizona are strong in the sprints. Wildcat Coach Dave Murray is looking forward to the support the Hayward fans will give the distance runners like his own Marc Davis in the 5,000 meters.

"It's a great situation for distance runners," Murray said. "During the distance races, those aren't the times these people get up and go get a hot dog and take a break.

"They're always clapping and they've always had a tremendous amount of respect for our people."

While the weather might be conducive for the distance runners, sprinters might be running for cover if rain breaks out, and there's no question the cold weather will not be what the sprint-heavy teams like Brigham Young, Oklahoma, TCU and Texas-El Paso are looking for.

In fact, Brown cites the weather as one of the big reasons he favors Washington State at this meet.

"The Washington State team is coming south for this meet," he said. "Everybody else is coming north so they (the Cougars) think they're coming south to warmer weather."

Weather aside, all of the coaches like the Hayward Field facility, and they will see some new additions from 1988.

The new weight room on the east side of the stadium is now complete, and a new score-board sits near the clerk's circle, courtesy of Phil Knight and Nike Near the 15th Avenue entrance, construction began this spring on the Bowerman Building, which should be completed by next spring.

"All the coaches down at the track were talking about how great things are." Oregon Coach Bill Dellinger said Sunday night. "All the coaches are impressed."

Tennessee is picked by Track and Field News to win the men's title and Gary Verigin's Trackwire statistical service also picks the Vols to win, but both strongly caution to watch out for Washington State.

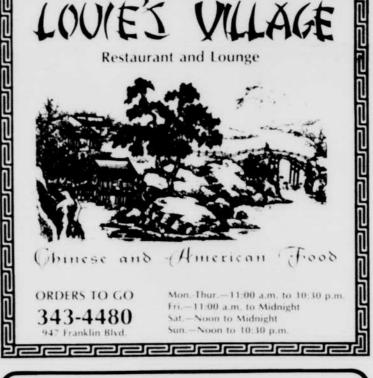
Simply put. Tennessee is loaded. They sport two 8,000-point decathletes in Brain Brophy and Aric Long. Pole vaulter Rich Fulford has gone 18-4½ this season and is the only Vol who has competed at Hayward Field, no-heighting at the 1988 NCAA meet.

Tennessee also has good experience with John Richardson in the javelin (249-3) and distance runners Todd Williams (13:41.50 in the 5.000 and 28:18.32 in the 10.000) and Glenn Morgan (13:46.35 in the 5.000). Morgan will run the 5.000, but Williams will double to try and get the Vols some needed points.

"I have to pick Tennessee."
Dellinger said. "They're head
and shoulders above the rest in
the decathlon, and they have a
lot of other good people."

But Brown still likes Washington State.

"John Chaplin is a veteran coach at the NCAA level," Brown said. "He's been second place about a million times.





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