

Weather doesn't stop Ducks at NCAA meet

By Ashley Conklin
Emerald Sports Editor

It didn't rain on Oregon's parade at the NCAA Track & Field Championships Wednesday at Hayward Field.

The host Ducks advanced three people to Friday's finals, and a fourth, Bob Gray, made it to the semifinals of Friday's 400-meter hurdles.

Most of the first day was contested under rainy and cold conditions, but even though the Ducks are used to such conditions, they didn't have any extra advantage, Coach Bill Dellinger said.

"I wished the weather was better," Dellinger said. "It got to be pretty bad. That doesn't help anybody."

But Oregon adjusted and advanced

Tye Van Schoiack and Rick Mestler to the 3,000-meter steeplechase finals on Friday, Art Skipper to Friday's javelin final and Gray to Friday's semifinals in the 400-meter hurdles.

Not advancing were Shannon Lemora in the 800 and Brian Wright, who reinjured his left hamstring at the start of the 400 hurdles.

"I felt bad for Brian because he made a good attempt," Dellinger said. "I was hopeful Shannon might make it."

Still, the Ducks are in the thick of the team race.

"I don't think we lost any points on Shannon and Brian," Dellinger said.

Tennessee, the pre-meet favorite, got eight points out of the day's only final event as Todd Williams was second in

the 10,000 meters, clocking 28:26.92. Louisiana State's Terry Thornton won the event in 28:25.92.

Tennessee Coach Doug Brown called it a so-so day for the Volunteers, who advanced most of their athletes to Friday's rounds but did lose Harlan Davis and Tommy Walker in the 200 meters and their 4x100-meter relay team.

"I think we have enough (potential) points to win," Brown said. "We still have eight points on the board and that bodes well for us."

Brown added that it would be hard to see how the team race shapes up until more finals are held Friday.

Although the Volunteers didn't lose any major points on Wednesday, Brown wasn't happy with how some of his ath-

letes performed.

"I don't think they were prepared to run in the cold," he said. "The weather was awful, but you have to be mentally prepared to run because there were still fast sprint times and fast relay times out there."

Van Schoiack and Mestler also had fast times for the Ducks in the steeplechase.

Both ran in the second heat, and after watching most of the runners in the first heat run between 8:42.04 and 8:43.80, both knew they would have to run faster to get into Friday's finals.

And both did.

Van Schoiack was in sixth place with about 400 meters to go but used a dead-

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Blazers look to square playoff series with L.A.

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP) — The Portland Trail Blazers believe they can become the fifth team in NBA history to rally from a 3-1 deficit and win a playoff series.

They're one-third of the way there, but now comes the hard part.

In order to stay alive in the Western Conference finals, the Blazers have to beat the Lakers at the Forum, an arena where they've been beaten soundly twice in the series.

"With our backs to the wall, either you have the intensity or you don't," said Clyde Drexler, who had 19 points, seven rebounds and five assists in Portland's 95-84 victory in Game 5 Tuesday night. "But there's going to be a lot of pressure on the Lakers."

Drexler was referring to the fact that if the Blazers win Game 6 Thursday night, a seventh game will be played Saturday in Portland.

"It's gut-check time," said Magic Johnson, who had 29 points, eight rebounds and seven assists in Game 5. "If we rebound, we have a good chance to win the game."

The Lakers didn't rebound in Game 5 — they lost the battle of the boards 52-33, with the Blazers grabbing a 26-9 advantage on the offensive boards.

"They attacked the offensive boards," Johnson said. "We didn't box them out. You can't half-body them. You'd body one guy, and here came two more."

The Lakers were outrebounded 51-28 in Game 2, a 109-98 loss. Then, they came home and held their own on the boards while winning Game 3 106-92 and Game 4 116-95.

A significant difference in Game 6 from those two games will be the physical condition of James Worthy, limited to 24 minutes in Game 5 because of a

sprained left ankle.

Worthy arrived at the Forum early Wednesday to receive treatment on his ankle. He sprained his ankle in the first quarter and was used sporadically after that. He finally sat down for good with 9:34 remaining, having scored 12 points.

Lakers trainer Gary Vitti issued a statement Wednesday calling Worthy's injury "a mild-to-moderate sprain."

Vitti said precautionary X-rays revealed no fracture in Worthy's injured ankle.

"We feel comfortable about where he is right now," Vitti said. "A decision (on Worthy's availability Thursday night) will be made just before game-time. He will receive significant treatment before the game, two times today, two times tomorrow."

"We will use a number of electrical stimulants, one to control inflammation, one to control pain, and another to promote healing. Nature is going to take its course, we're just trying to speed up the healing process."

"James is a pretty tough guy. If there's any way he can play, he will play. We're not going to put him at risk. We've got our fingers crossed."

The Blazers showed they could win at the Forum during the regular season, winning a pair of overtime games. Now, they have to show they can win there in the playoffs.

"Hopefully, you'll see a different team come out at the Forum," Blazers Coach Rick Adelman said. "We were a little embarrassed, especially by the second game."

"We have nothing to lose. We're just going to try and play a solid game and see what happens."

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