



Women cross-country runners (left to right) Lucy Nusrala, Liz Wilson, Lisa Karnopp and Nicole Woodward head for the finish line in Saturday's Jeff Drenth Memorial run at Alton Baker Park.

Women's cross country team cruises to victory

By Dave Charbonneau
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon women's cross country team can only hope its next three meets go as well as its first three.

On Saturday, the Ducks easily won the Jeff Drenth Memorial at Alton Baker Park, placing three of the top four finishers for the third meet in a row.

The Ducks outclassed a field that consisted mostly of smaller Northwest schools in a meet that was more of a tune-up for the upcoming Pacific-10 Conference Championships than anything else.

"A low-key race was fine considering we have three championship races coming up," Oregon Coach Tom Heinonen said.

The Pac-10 meet will be held Nov. 2 at Stanford and will be followed by the Region VIII Championships on Nov. 16 and the NCAA Championships the following week.

Senior Lucy Nusrala led the way for the Ducks, winning her third race in as many attempts with a time of 17:11. Sophomore Nicole Woodward finished second with a time of 17:14, and Lisa Karnopp finished fourth behind ex-Duck star Liz Wilson at 17:24.

In the three meets this year, Nusrala, Woodward, and Karnopp have all finished in the top four.

"I think today Lucy reaffirmed herself as the strong runner she is," Heinonen said, "and Nicole and Lisa also ran

as strong as ever."

The three runners and Wilson stayed in a tight group for much of the race until Nusrala broke away from the pack.

"I waited 'til about the two-mile mark, and then I made my move and no one went with

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— Coach Tom Heinonen

me," Nusrala said. "Sometimes it's easier to run on your own on these trails."

Woodward said she was happy with the way the meet went and looked ahead to the Pac-10 meet.

"I was really pleased with the way I ran, and Lucy ran terrific, as usual," she said. "I'm excited for the Pac-10 meet. I think we're doing even better than we thought we'd do this season."

Junior Carol Holmen also ran a strong race, finishing seventh at 17:45. Freshmen Jill Callero, Jenna Carlson and Monica Davidson finished 15th, 16th and 17th, respectively.

The four will most likely round out the team the Ducks

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Despite flu, men runners stay undefeated

By Erick Studenicka
Emerald Contributor

A cool, crisp fall Saturday afternoon. A large crowd of partisan fans cheering on outstanding collegiate athletes. A close struggle not decided until the final seconds of the contest. Sounds like another great football game, doesn't it?

Well, maybe in most collegiate towns, but in Eugene with the Oregon football team having a bye week, this scenario better describes the Jeff Drenth Memorial cross country meet at Alton Baker Park, where the Ducks' men's team captured the team title despite being hampered by injury and the flu.

With top-20 teams including Dartmouth, Washington, and

the University of Portland in the field, it looked uncertain whether the Ducks could continue their unbeaten season string when Andy Maris was forced to drop out with an injured foot, and Tim Julian dropped out due to flu symptoms.

Fortunately for Oregon, it proved to have the depth necessary to cover for Maris' and Julian's anticipated high finishes.

A large field of 103 runners started the 8-kilometer race, including collegiate athletes and famous Olympic hopefuls such as Dan Nelson, Brad Hudson and Greg Whitely. About 10 runners remained in the lead pack at two miles, where Nelson began to press the pace and

force the field to string out. Oregon runners Colin Dalton, Shannon Lemora, and Pat Haller all found themselves in good position within the second and third packs of runners.

After four miles of the approximate five-mile course, Nelson, a former Oregon steeplechaser, broke away from the field with Karl Van Calcar, a former Oregon State steeplechaser. The two ran stride for stride until the final 200-meter straightaway, where Van Calcar was able to sprint away from Nelson for a narrow two-second victory in 24:06.

Barely 80 meters behind was Dalton, who had run a fantastic final mile to capture third over-

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Runner Colin Dalton crosses the finish line first in Saturday's Jeff Drenth Memorial at Alton Baker Park.

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