

Men seek fourth straight conference title

Washington State promises to provide tough challenge for Duck runners

By Dave Charbonneau
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon men's cross country team will be looking for their fourth straight conference crown when it travels to Stanford Saturday for the Pacific-10 Conference Championships.

Oregon, which moved up to No. 2 in this week's national poll, will compete with a strong field that includes three other ranked teams. Joining the Ducks in Palo Alto will be No. 10 Arizona, No. 16 Washington and No. 22 Washington State.

This year, the Ducks have won two meets and took third despite the absence of its top runners, but coach Bill Dellinger is wary of the teams in this weekend's field, especially Washington State.

"Washington State is a real contender for the Pac-10 title," he said. "They could easily go 1-2-3 in the race this week."

Seniors Pat Haller and Colin Dalton will most likely lead the Oregon attack. Both have run sparingly, but well, for the team this year.

'This week's meet means something to us because it's the conference championships, but the district meet two weeks later is an even bigger meet.'

— Bill Dellinger,
men's cross country coach

Each participated in the Mountain West Classic where Haller took fourth and Dalton finished seventh and the Jeff Drenth Memorial where Dalton placed third and Haller 13th despite a case of the flu.

Sophomore Andy Maris has also ran well for the Ducks this year, finishing seventh at the Emerald City Invitational and tenth at the Mountain West Classic. However, he was unable to finish the Drenth Memorial because of a bruised arch in his foot.

Dellinger said it's important for Maris to run well this weekend.

"Andy Maris needs to be healthy," he said. "It will hurt us if he's not our No. 3 runner."

Rounding out the team for Oregon will be juniors Tim Julian, Shannon Lemora, Tye Van Schoiack and Alan Foster.

Lemora and Foster are coming off their best performances of the year at the Drenth Memorial as Lemora took eighth and Foster finished 21st.

Van Schoiack and Julian had their strongest meet of the season at the Emerald City Invitational where they finished 15th and 19th, respectively.

Last year, the Ducks edged out Arizona by two points to claim the title. The team was led by Dalton, who finished second to Arizona's Marc Davis, and Haller (sixth).

Julian and Foster are the only two Duck runners who did not

compete in the meet last year.

Leading the charge for the individual crown along with Dalton and Haller will be Martin Keino and Brian Grosso of Arizona, Samuel Kibiri and E.J. Guo of Washington State and Greg Metcalf of Washington.

Oregon has fared well against ranked teams in their other meets this year. The Ducks

have already beaten Texas (12th), Dartmouth (13th), Portland (18th) and Weber State (21st) and also have knocked off Washington and Washington State.

As important as this meet is to the Ducks, Dellinger can't help but look ahead.

"This week's meet means

something to us because it's the conference championships, but the district meet two weeks later is an even bigger meet," he said.

Following the Pac-10 meet, Oregon will travel to Fresno, Calif. for the District VIII meet on Nov. 16, and that will be followed by the NCAA meet the following week.



Pat Haller

BETTER DUCK STUFF

Your Official Duck Shop At The
UO Bookstore Gives You A Huge Selection
Of Quality Sportswear And Memorabilia

*Get Closer To
The Action!*

VISIT OUR
**NEW
DUCK SHOP**

At the New Cas Center,
Autzen Stadium

Open Monday - Sunday, Ph. 346-4338

- ▲ SWEATSHIRTS
- ▲ 100% COTTON TEES
- ▲ DUCK TENNIS SHOES
- ▲ ALUMNI GIFTS
- ▲ UO DUCKWEAR
- ▲ KID'S DUCKWEAR
- ▲ SPORTING GEAR



**SERVING
UO DUCK
FANS
FOR OVER
70 YEARS**



UO BOOKSTORE

13th and Kincaid, Open M - F 7:30 - 6:00, Sat. 10:00 - 6:00, Ph. 346-4331