

Duck runner aims for '92 Olympics

By Dave Charbonneau
Emerald Sports Reporter

Colin Dalton won the men's Pacific-10 Conference cross country championship two weeks ago, but he has much bigger plans in mind.

Dalton, a senior for Oregon, will take the winter term off to travel home to his native Australia where he will try to earn a spot on the 1992 Australian Olympic Team.

"I think I have a realistic chance of making the team," said Dalton, who also went back to Australia during the 1990-91 school year to try out for the Commonwealth Games.

"I did pretty well at the commonwealth try-outs, but I didn't make the team. Now I have a couple more years under my belt, so hopefully that will help," he said.

Although Dalton has been the top runner for the Ducks, coach Bill Dellinger realizes his runner is aiming higher.

"This season is simply a stepping stone for Colin in preparation for the Olympic trials," he said. "It's worked out well because, although he may

not be pointing toward our team, he has still been able to contribute."

"Contribute" may be an understatement.

Dalton has been the most consistent runner for the Ducks this season, finishing third at both the Mountain West Classic and the Jeff Drenth Memorial, in addition to winning a Pac-10

'I thought I would be a god and win at the Olympics.'

— Colin Dalton,
Oregon cross country runner

title.

Dellinger said Dalton, at age 25, is the oldest runner on the team, which gives him a real advantage.

"Colin is a little more mature than some of the other runners," he said. "His maturity and experience are a real asset to himself and the team."

Dalton came to Oregon in 1988 with the plan of just staying for one year to experience

life in the United States.

"Just like everyone in the U.S. wants to go to Australia, everyone in Australia wants to go to the U.S.," he said.

After one year at Oregon he decided he wanted to stay. There was only one problem: attending school.

Dalton, who is an English major, openly admits that he is not a big fan of academics.

"School is like at number ten on my list of priorities. My first few terms here were horrendous," he said. "But I realized if I wanted to stay and continue running, I'd have to get into schoolwork a little more."

At the top of his priority list is, of course, running. He considers it his hobby as well as a big part of his life.

"I don't have any hobbies other than running," he said. "Running takes up everything, or at least all of my energy."

Running has been a big part of Dalton's life since age 15, when he first had aspirations of someday competing in the Olympics.

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Both cross country teams pegged to make nationals

By Dave Charbonneau
Emerald Sports Reporter

"We'll look like idiots if we don't go to nationals."

So says senior Colin Dalton of the sixth-ranked Oregon men's cross country team's expectations at this weekend's NCAA Region-VIII meet at Arizona.

Dalton's words could also hold true for the third-ranked Duck women's team.

Although "idiots" could be a little harsh, it does show the two teams have every intention of making it to the NCAA Championships next week.

The teams competing in the Region-VIII meet consist of basically the same teams that make up the Pacific-10 Conference. This seems to favor the women more than it does the men.

The women easily won the Pac-10 meet two weeks ago, led by the 1-2-3 finish

of seniors Lisa Karnopp, Lucy Nusrala and junior Nicole Woodward. Coach Tom Heinonen said Cal-Irvine is the only other school that could give them trouble, but he doesn't seem too worried.

"I think both Arizona (which finished second at the Pac-10s) and Irvine think we're going to win the meet," he said. "I don't think they see us as a target but are concentrating more on each other."

The top two teams from regionals go to the national meet, and the third-place team has a shot at making nationals.

The men could have a little more to worry about. The Ducks finished second behind Arizona at the Pac-10s and coach Bill Dellinger said his team needs to be wary of Washington State as well.

"Washington State is capable of running better than they did at the Pac-10s," he said.

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