

SPORTS

Women finish fifth behind Karnopp's strong running

By Dave Charbonneau
Emerald Sports Reporter

Some of the runners on the Oregon women's cross country team peaked at just the right time, and others were victimized by illness at the wrong time.

The result was a fifth-place finish at the NCAA Championships Monday at Arizona.

Senior Lisa Karnopp led the Ducks, finishing third overall; senior Lucy Nusrala took eighth place. The meet marked the first time Oregon placed two runners in the top 10 at the national meet.

Coach Tom Heinonen was overwhelmed by the performances of the two.

"In terms of team effort, Lucy and Lisa ran way beyond expectations," he said. "Lisa's performance was beyond words. The improvement she's made in a year is unparalleled."

Villanova easily won the team title with three of the top 10 finishers and 85 points. Arkansas was a distant second with 168 points, Northern Arizona was third with 184 points, and Cornell edged Oregon by two with 189 points.

With two runners in the top 10, it would have seemed as though Oregon was on its way to easily improving on its fifth-place finish of a year ago.

Unfortunately, not all of the Duck runners were feeling as good as Karnopp and Nusrala.

Junior Nicole Woodward, who dropped out of the regional meet a week ago because of fatigue, could not completely recuperate and ran well off her normal pace, finishing 54th.

Heinonen said Woodward performed well considering the circumstances.

"Nicole ran way below her level earlier in the year," he said. "She started out slow but rallied at the end, which was

'Lisa's (Karnopp) performance was beyond words. The improvement she's made in a year is unparalleled.'

— Tom Heinonen,
women's cross country
coach

the difference between our team getting fifth or ninth."

Junior Carol Holmen, who finished fifth at the regional meet, was the third Duck finisher at 33rd overall. Freshman Sally Maier, who was just inserted into the Duck lineup last week, was the fifth scorer for Oregon, finishing 93rd.

Freshmen Jill Callero and Jenna Carlson were both hampered by colds. Callero was recovering from a cold she had last week and finished 132nd.

Carlson was in such bad shape she had problems making it up routine hills the day before the race. She finished last at the meet.

Villanova's Sonia O'Sullivan and Carole Zajac were 1-2 with times of 16:30 and 16:34, respectively. Karnopp finished at 16:47, and Nusrala came in at 16:59.

The race marked the final collegiate run for Karnopp, who finished 102nd at last year's national meet. Karnopp's third-place finish was the highest finish for a Duck since 1983 when Kathy Hayes also was third.

She has been unable to train with the team for much of the year because of an internship in Portland but won the Pacific-10 Conference championship three weeks ago.

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