

Women down Cougars, Gophers

By Jake Berg
Emerald Sports Editor

For Oregon women's track coach Tom Heinonen, Saturday's meet at Hayward Field came down to the final event. But not really.

Heinonen, who had been too busy during the week to bother with making a form chart for the three-way meet with Washington State and Minnesota, figured that it all came down to the 4X400-meter relay — the final event — for his team to beat the Cougars Saturday.

After looking at the scoreboard declaring his team's 74-62 win over Washington State, Heinonen smiled.

"I thought we had to win the relay, but we didn't," he said. "It looked pretty grim there for a while."

It certainly did. Ten events into the meet, the Ducks trailed 44-42, and the Cougars were making a surprising bid for an upset win.

Divided into three separate dual meet scores, Oregon beat Washington State, the Ducks topped the Gophers 99-36, and the Cougars beat Minnesota 96-39.

Washington State perhaps made the most ground in the 1,500, where the Ducks were counting on points from Nicole Woodward. Instead, a bout of flu kept the senior from the race, and the Cougars' Jennifer Carpenter, who wasn't expected to enter the 1,500, got impor-

tant second-place points for her team.

Oregon took its biggest step back into the chase, though, by shutting out the Cougars in the 3,000. Lucy Nusrala ran a provisional NCAA qualifying time of 9:28.46 for first place, and Washington State landed a big goose egg in the event, with its only competitor finishing eighth.

"That was a given," Heinonen said. "We got that handily."

Victories that maybe weren't so given as much as earned came in the sprints, where the Ducks dominated.

Camara Jones, running in her first 400 since the NCAA Championships, cruised to an easy first place in an NCAA provisional time of 54.16 that maybe would have been faster if not for the wet conditions that prevailed Saturday.

Freshman LaReina Woods also won both the 100 and 200 in impressive times.

"LaReina ... that was a big step for her," Heinonen said.

Woods, Jones, Lisa Bedwell and Regina Warren also won the 4X100-meter relay for the Ducks in 46.17.

Other key wins for the Ducks came in the javelin, where Kim Hyatt and Keri Esterbrook took first and second, Karen Wiedmann's surprising win in the 400 hurdles, Amy Olson and Elisa Ruegg's 1-2 sweep in the high jump, and Julie Beck's first place in the shot put.

Brooks' surprise picks search for big offense

By Dave Charbonneau
Emerald Sports Reporter

Oregon football coach Rich Brooks wants his offense to find itself, and that desire translated into a few surprises at Saturday's scrimmage.

The first surprise was the insertion of freshman tailback Ricky Whittle into the first-string offense. Brooks opted for Whittle over senior Donovan Moore and junior Sean Burwell, the two regulars at the position last season.

The other surprise was Brooks' decision to start Doug Musgrave over Danny O'Neil at quarterback. Brooks said at the beginning of spring practice that O'Neil was first on the depth chart at the position.

Musgrave completed five of nine passes for 43 yards but was unable to guide the offense to a touchdown. O'Neil completed his first four passes and finished 6 of 13 for 133 yards and two touchdowns.

Even third-stringer Kyle Crowston had his moments, throwing for a touchdown and going three of seven for 40 yards.

"The quarterbacks are at least making better decisions and executing better than we were at this stage last spring," Brooks said.

At tailback, Whittle ran six times for 20 yards, but he aggravated a pulled groin and had to sit out the remainder of the scrimmage.

Moore was the most impressive of the backs, with 16 carries for 93 yards. Burwell had nine carries for 25 yards.

Brooks said there is still a lot of work to be done before solid decisions are made as to who will be starting at the positions come fall.

"The depth chart changes almost daily," Brooks said. "I would like to be further ahead than we are, but I think I would say that any year."

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