

SPORTS

Track team to host Pepsi meet

By Jake Berg
Emerald Sports Editor

The Oregon women's track team has never lost the Pepsi Team Invitational, but coach Tom Heinonen's form chart of Saturday's sixth annual event doesn't have the Ducks in favor.

Heinonen says Nebraska, the 1991 mythical dual meet champions, should have the edge Saturday at Hayward Field. But the 16-year coach said he's not going to let the Ducks' best competition prior to the Pacific-10 Conference get away unscathed.

"We're just going to go after this one tooth and nail,"

Heinonen said. "This is our chance for an unbeaten season."

Washington and Northern Arizona will also be on hand at the Pepsi meet, but Heinonen doesn't expect as much of a challenge from the two schools. Oregon ripped the Huskies 98-38 in the Ducks' dual meet opener, and Heinonen said that Northern Arizona would be sending off some of its best runners to a separate event.

The Cornhuskers, though, will be more than a challenge. Heinonen called Nebraska an "overwhelming team," similar to the Ducks in that the Huskies are solid in nearly every

event.

"They just come at you," Heinonen said. "They're strong in a lot of events."

Nebraska coach Gary Pepin said he sees the meet in much the same way.

"This will be an extremely competitive meet for both teams," Pepin said. "Oregon has a great team as always."

The Pepsi meet differs from other meets in the way that the events are scored. All competitors will get points for their team, but, for example, a third- and fourth-place score will get a school more points than a first- and last-place combination in an event.

Ducks face tough Nebraska team

By Dave Charbonneau
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon men's track team will begin a season-long home stand on Saturday when the Ducks host the Pepsi Team Invitational at Hayward Field.

The Ducks will be joined by Washington, Nebraska and Northern Arizona at the meet. Although Oregon could be considered the favorite at the meet, coach Bill Dellinger is not so sure.

"I think Nebraska could be the team to beat," he said.

The Ducks took last week off after defeating Washington two weeks ago in their only scoring

meet thus far this season.

"I can see it as a blessing," he said. "It gave guys like Bob Gray and Ronnie Harris needed rest."

Harris has run in the 100-meter dash, the 200 and the 400 this season but will only run in the 400 on Saturday. Gray will compete in the 110- and 400-meter hurdles races for the Ducks.

Dellinger said he believes his team is talented but said it's still too early to tell just how talented.

"We're definitely not a bad team," he said. "We'll have a better idea after this meet."

At the invitational, each team is allowed two competitors in each event. The field events begin at 12:30, and the track events begin at 2:05.

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