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## SPORTS

# Styles differ, successes the same



### FROM THE SIDELINES

BY DAVE CHARBONNEAU

Minutes after Art Skipper unleashed his record-setting javelin throw at Saturday's Pepsi Team Invitational, a man approached him.

"Message from Bill," the guy said. "Take a victory lap."

Skipper grinned, finished his interview and then obeyed the relayed orders from Oregon coach Bill Dellinger and circled the Hayward Field track, much to the delight of the 3,000-plus fans.

When the meet was over and those 3,000 fans left the premises, a flock of little kids took control of the track for a meet of their own. Trying to bring some order to the chaos of energetic miniature track athletes was Duck women's coach Tom Heinonen.

Dellinger was virtually invisible for the entire meet. Not until the final event did Dellinger finally appear on the field.

Heinonen was on the track all afternoon, mingling with athletes, coaches and reporters.

Dellinger was dressed in a sports coat and tan slacks. Heinonen was decked out in sweats and a baseball cap.

Two very different coaches.

Two very different men.

Two very successful programs.

It seems the only thing these two coaches have in common is just that, they're coaches.

They are friends, but don't expect to see them together at the local bar reminiscing about old track stories.

They are two of the most successful coaches in Oregon history in any sport.

And judging from the results of Saturday's meet — upset victories for both the men and women — it looks as if the Oregon track machine is ready to roll through another successful season with Heinonen and Dellinger at the controls.

In this day and age, where a college coaching position seems to come with a stamp, "Expires in three years ... or whenever the alumni are fed up," Oregon's two track coaches have held their positions for a combined 36 years (Dellinger 20, Heinonen 16).

Not only have Dellinger and Heinonen been able to stay at Oregon, they have given Duck supporters something to be proud of. Track is the one sport Oregon fans can always rely on to be successful.

Since Dellinger took over in 1973, Oregon has a 93-23 record in dual meets and has been ranked in the top 10 dual meet teams every year, including two No. 1 rankings.

Since Heinonen took over in 1977, the women have compiled a 79-9 mark and have been ranked in the top 10 for 12 of the past 13 years, with one No. 1 ranking.

Combined, that's a 172-32 record and an 843 winning percentage.

People have come to expect success from Oregon's track program, whether it be a local Eugene resident out to enjoy a sunny day at the track or a top high school recruit. Oregon's coaches have a reputation to uphold.

Perhaps the greatest accomplishment by Dellinger and Heinonen is they have done a great job of producing excellence from a core of athletes that mostly comes from within the state of Oregon. Ten of Oregon's 15 first-place finishers on Saturday were from this state.

Maybe Heinonen was keeping his eyes open for future Oregon track athletes as he watched youngsters tumbling through the long jump pit Saturday evening.

As Dellinger strolled by Heinonen on his way out of Hayward Field, he stopped, called Heinonen over and they shook hands and congratulated each other.

Then Dellinger left, sports jacket and all.

And Heinonen went back to working with the kids.

Two different coaches, indeed.

Dave Charbonneau is a sports reporter for the Emerald.

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