

Cross country teams set for second meet of season

By Steve Mims
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon women's cross country team will be back in action this week after a successful opening meet last weekend in Canada.

The Ducks opened the season by winning the Simon Fraser Invitational last Saturday in British Columbia. Oregon placed four runners in the top 10 at the meet, including Nicole Woodward, who won her first collegiate cross country title in a time of 17:13.

"We got off to a really good start," Oregon head coach Tom Heinonen said. "Nicole ran strong from the start and no one could catch her. She beat Sarah Howell, last year's NAIA cross country champion, and Leah Pells, a Canadian Olympian who ran in Barcelona."

Three other Ducks broke into the top 10 at the meet, including freshman Heidi Van Borkulo-Goldstein, who was impressive in her first college meet, finishing fourth with a time of 17:35. Sophomores Jenna Carlson and Jill Callero finished eighth and ninth, respectively, giving Heinonen reason for optimism.

"Heidi ran aggressive from the front and was close in her first race," Heinonen said. "We got solid performances from Jenna and Jill, but both think they can run better."

Two other Ducks who almost cracked the top 10 are Erika Klein and Niamh Zwagerman, who finished 11th and 13th, respectively. Klein, a senior from Edmonds, Wash., finished the meet in 18:17, seven seconds ahead of Zwagerman.

Also running for the Ducks this season are Joni Wareham, Mon-

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Oregon women's
cross country coach

ica Davidson and Ann Patton. Oregon enters this Saturday's meet in the Sundodger Invitational in Seattle ranked 15th in the nation, but Heinonen said that may even be too low.

"That is fine for now," Heinonen said. "I don't know if we are better, but we may be. It is still too early to tell."

This weekend's race should give Heinonen and his team a better chance to see where they are at. The Abbotsford Royals, a club team from Canada that finished second behind the Ducks last week, will be in the meet, along with Washington. The Huskies

finished third at the Simon Fraser Invitational, but Heinonen said Washington ran its second team.

"We will run against Washington this weekend, and they are better than they showed last weekend," Heinonen said. "Abbotsford is also in the meet, along with Seattle Pacific and some teams from the mountain states."

One person who probably will not be running this weekend is Sally Maier, a sophomore from Portland, who is still recovering from a swollen achilles tendon in her right foot.

"Sally is improving but she is very doubtful for this weekend," Heinonen said. "There is a chance we may redshirt her if the injury does not heal."

Heinonen said he feels good about his team but is still not sure where the Ducks are at this point in the season.

"Cross country is probably the most difficult sport to judge your team," Heinonen said. "The nature of the sport is that you don't get specific feedback on your performance because every course is different."

The men's cross country team will compete in the Willamette Invitational on Saturday.

The Ducks are coming off a successful appearance last weekend at the Mountain West Classic in Missoula, Mont. Oregon finished second in the meet and was led by freshman Karl Keska, who finished eighth in the race.

Redshirt freshman Tracy Hollister was the second Oregon finisher and finished in 15th overall.

The two teams are preparing for the Pacific-10 Conference Championships, which will take place Oct. 31.



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