

Cross country teams finish first, second at Drenth

Men take first, upset No. 6

By Steve Mims
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon men's cross country team won the Jeff Drenth Memorial on Sunday at Alton Baker Park, upsetting sixth-ranked Notre Dame in the process.

All seven Oregon runners finished in the top 20 at the meet, including five in the top 15. Oregon finished with 44 points, 21 points ahead of the Fighting Irish.

Central Oregon Community College finished third, and No. 18 Washington finished a distant fourth, 40 points behind the Ducks.

"We ran well," Oregon head coach Bill Dellinger said. "We ran a good team race and had some good individual scores as well. The whole group really ran well."

The Ducks were led by freshmen Karl Keska and Tracy Hollister, who finished third and sixth among collegiate runners, respectively. Keska ran the 8,000-meter course in 24:40, followed by Hollister at 24:50.

Keska and Hollister were the top two Ducks to cross the finish line at Oregon's first meet of the season three weeks ago, but they were held out of the next meet so that others could run.

Oregon senior Rick Mestler, running in his first meet of the year for the Ducks, finished 10th in the race with a time of 25:07, followed five seconds later by Jason Humble in 11th. Mestler is a four-time All-American in the steeplechase, is running in his final term of eligibility and is expected to bring leadership to the young Duck squad.

Sophomore John Dimoff and seniors Colden Baxter and Tim Julian rounded out the Ducks' scoring, finishing 14th, 15th and 19th, respectively. Dimoff finished with a time of 24:17, followed by Baxter at 25:23. Julian crossed the finish line at 25:42.



Photo by Michael Shindler
Karl Keska was the first Duck across the finish line, as he led Oregon to a victory in the Jeff Drenth Memorial at Alton Baker Park in Eugene Sunday.

Women second behind No. 3

By Steve Mims
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon women's cross country team finished second at the Jeff Drenth Memorial on Sunday, behind only third-ranked Wisconsin.

Wisconsin placed four runners in the top 10 to finish with 32 points, 18 ahead of the Ducks. No. 25 Washington finished third — six points behind Oregon — with the five other teams far behind.

"We didn't achieve what I thought we could," Oregon head coach Tom Heinonen said. "We had several girls run well, but some did not and that hurt us."

Wisconsin was led by Clare Eichner, who won the individual race by coming from behind to finish one second ahead of Oregon's Nicole Woodward.

"I thought I had it. I felt like I was in control," Woodward said. "I wanted to hang with the pack and use my kick to win it, but it didn't work. I never heard her behind me."

Oregon's next finisher didn't cross the finish line until Jill Callero came in with a time of 18:06. Callero's time put her in 10th place among collegiate runners.

Oregon's Erika Klein and Heidi Van Borkulo-Goldstein finished in 11th and 12th place, respectively, with times of 18:11. Klein finished a split second ahead of Van Borkulo-Goldstein.

Niamh Zwagerman and Joni Wareham were next for the Ducks, finishing 15th and 17th, respectively. Zwagerman had a time of 18:31, followed five seconds later by Wareham.

Jenna Carlson was the final Duck to register points, finishing 20th in a time of 18:59. Carlson, who finished ninth and fifth in the first two meets of the year, was slowed by medical problems.

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