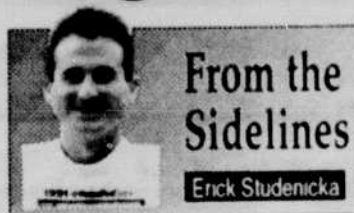


Eugene continues to draw world-class athletes



From the Sidelines

Erick Studenicka

There is a faster track in Santa Monica. There are relatively few soft-surface trails to train on. It is not at a significant altitude.

The city hosts no major marathon or road races. The men's cross country team has not won a national title since 1977.

Yet despite all of the negatives, young world-class runners continue to flock to this seemingly nondescript college town. Why do so many top athletes continue to feel that, nowadays as much as ever, the road

to Olympic glory still leads through Eugene, Ore.

Karl Keska, Oregon's top cross-country runner this fall, said it was Eugene's international reputation that lured him to Oregon from England.

"Even in England, we recognize Eugene as the distance running capital," Keska said. "Bill Bowerman (Oregon's track coach between 1949-1972) is widely known throughout Europe. It was Bowerman who helped establish Eugene's reputation."

Keska, who as a 19-year-old ran a 13:57 5,000 meters, has been extraordinarily linked to Eugene since the first day he stepped on the track for the Burtchfield Harriers, his English track club.

"My coach on the Harriers, Ian Stuart, battled with former

Oregon runner Steve Prefontaine for the bronze medal in the 1972 Olympics. The two became good friends, and I would always hear from Stuart how Eugene was one of the best running locations in the world," Keska said.

"There aren't many places in the world where one is within an hour's drive of both the beach and the mountains. If I want to train on sand dunes I can, or if I want to train in the mountains, I can do that also," Keska said.

Hardened by English winters, a little rain doesn't figure to hamper Keska's training.

"I think the climate's great," Keska said. "The weather is never so bad that you can't go out and run."

Kenny Moore, a Eugene native and former Olympian, said

he believes Eugene has the perfect climate for a distance runner, despite the wet winters.

"You don't want perfect conditions all the time," explained Moore, now a staff writer for *Sports Illustrated* magazine. "For example, take two equal runners battling for the finish. One has trained in perfect conditions while the other has done his interval training in a head wind; you can guess who will win. Adverse weather and conditions are good for distance runners; it gives them some additional fortitude."

Sabrina Han, the 1991 Pacific-10 Conference 5,000 meter champion from California, is now a graduate student studying industrial relations.

"You couldn't even guess

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File photo
Karl Keska, Oregon's top cross-country runner this fall, said it was Eugene's reputation that lured him here.

Traditional powers start to slip

(AP) — With five weeks left in the college football season, a number of ex-powerhouses seem to be bottoming out, operating in the also-ran area of a sport they once dominated.

Consider some records.

A year ago, Iowa was 10-1-1, making its 10th bowl appearance in 11 years and armed with 35 returning lettermen. Now, the Hawkeyes are 3-5 after a 27-16 loss to Purdue on Saturday, tied with seven other teams for second place in the Big Ten and hoping to get rid of the other six to gain the conference runner-up's invitation to the Florida Citrus Bowl.

"We're not down the drain," coach Hayden Fry said. "We're just like all those other folks not named Michigan. Everyone is taking turns whipping one another, other than Michigan."

"I think if we lose one more, our opportunity to go to a bowl game is really down."

And maybe out. Clemson was 9-2-1 last season, champions of the Atlantic Coast Conference for the 13th time. That made the Tigers 49-10-1 over the five-year period beginning in 1987 — third best in the country, behind only Miami and Florida State.

Beaten 20-6 by North Carolina State last Saturday, Clemson

'We're not down the drain. We're just like all those other folks not named Michigan.'

— Hayden Fry,
Iowa coach

is 4-3 and out of the Top 25 for the first time in three years. It is the first time since 1985 that the Tigers have lost three ACC games.

"I understand why we aren't ranked because we have three losses," said Coach Ken Hatfield. "But I think this team has the capabilities to return to the rankings."

Arkansas, once a Southwest Conference powerhouse, decided it needed a new league and moved into the SEC. After the first game, the Razorbacks decided they also needed a new coach, dismissing Jack Crowe and replacing him with Joe Kines.

UCLA, 9-3 last year and ranked No. 18 in the preseason poll, is 3-4 and languishing in the Pacific-10 basement with an 0-4 league record. The Bruins also had their 245-game scoring

streak end in a 20-0 loss to Arizona State on Saturday.

Poised on the 1-yard line at game's end, it seemed UCLA would at least salvage a field goal to keep the scoring streak intact. Instead, Daron Washington fumbled and ASU recovered, clinching the shutout.

"I don't think it gets much worse than this," defensive end Mike Chalenski said.

Oh, yeah?

He could be playing for LSU, once an SEC heavyweight, now 1-6 and bending under the burden of a five-game losing streak, the school's longest since 1956. The Tigers have locked up an unprecedented fourth straight losing season, making the current senior class the first in the school's 99-year football history to graduate without ever posting a winning record.

"It hurts a lot," said defensive tackle John Morgan, one of the LSU seniors. "When I came here, the program was on top of the world. Since I've been here, it's been all downhill."

Oklahoma was 8-3 a year ago, averaging 30 points per game and No. 16 in the final AP poll. Now the Sooners are 3-3-1 and licking their wounds after losing to — of all teams — Kansas, 27-10 on Saturday.

RIM RESULTS

| Oct. 19-25 | | |
|--|--|--|
| FOOTBALL | | Pikes 32, Sig Eps 0 |
| Blowout of the Week: | | Phi Psi B2 26, E.M.B.O. 0 |
| Chi Psi 1 48, Mataakoheds 0 | | Cunning Linguists 18, The Wickers 6 |
| Nickname of the Week: | | Kappa Sig def. ATO Team Spam (forfeit) |
| Fillet Sho' Fish | | Razzle Dazzle 1 |
| | | Kappa Sig/Alpha def. Tri Deltas/DU |
| | | ATO/DC def. SAE/Alpha Phi (forfeit) |
| Oct. 19 | | Men's 3 |
| Men's 2 | | Shazam! 42, Pnar's Bears 6 |
| Fiji 12, ATO 2B 0 | | Seventh String def. Kappa Sigma Freaks |
| Sigma Chi 2A 30, Fiji White 6 | | VOLLEYBALL |
| Razzle Dazzle 2 | | Oct. 19 |
| Theta Chi 19, Sig Eps/Pi Phi 12 | | Men's 1 |
| Sweetser def. ATO/DC Two (forfeit) | | Solag def. ATO Team 1 |
| | | Team Phi A def. Theta Chi A |
| Oct. 20 | | Phi Psi A def. Kappa Sigma 1 |
| Men's 2 | | Men's 2 |
| Brew Crew 12, KGB's 12 | | SAE def. Fiji 11 |
| Phi Psi B1 21, Phi Psi B4 0 | | Kappa Sigma II def. Phi Psi B2 |
| Team Evil 12, Fillet Sho' Fish 6 | | Coed |
| There Was One def. Lambda Chi Alpha | | AAK's def. Masters of the Universe |
| Oct. 21 | | No Dink def. Kappa/Fiji |
| Men's 1 | | Oct. 20 |
| Sigma Nu A 20, Sigma Chi One 12 | | Men's 1 |
| Kappa Sigma 6, Thern Again 6 | | 4 Continents def. Sigma Chi 1 |
| | | Beta 1 def. Fiji 1 |
| Oct. 22 | | Men's 2 |
| Men's 1 | | Delta Upsilon def. Phi Psi B1 |
| Fiji 22, Lambda Chi Alpha 8 | | Coed 2 |
| BETA One 35, Leftovers 0 | | SAE/Alpha Chi def. Wild Types |
| ATO Team One 12, SAE 8 | | Driving Force def. Sig Eps/Alpha Phi |
| Phi Psi A 12, Theta Chi A 7 | | (forfeit) |
| Razzle Dazzle 1 | | Oct. 21 |
| DU/Kappa Alpha Theta def. Lambda | | Women |
| Chi/Kappa | | Chi Omega def. Essayons |
| Asparagus Spear 52, Sig Eps/Pi Phi 13 | | C Phi B def. Kappa Alpha Theta |
| Men's 3 | | Men's 2 |
| No Play 32, The TKO's 12 | | Pikes def. Lambda Chi Alpha |
| Punani Pokers 22, Humu Humu Nuku 0 | | Coed 2 |
| Oct. 23 | | Point Breakers def. Well Dunn |
| Men's 2 | | DU/Gamma Phi def. Chi Omega/Chi Psi |
| Delta Upsilon 13, Run & Stumble 7 | | Coed 3 |
| Deltas 25, Theta Chi B2 18 | | Dymment def. Raul's |
| Phi Psi B3 12, Sigma Nu B 0 | | Miyakeenes def. Hawaii |
| Team Phi A 22, The Dirty Dozen 6 | | Oct. 22 |
| Kappa Sigma 2C 12, Rim Job 6 | | Coed 2 |
| Kappa Sigma 2B def. Team Phi B (forfeit) | | Thornton Thunderbolts def. Suicide |
| Coed 2 | | Squad |
| The Right One 38, Chi Omega/Fiji 25 | | Decou Diggers def. Air Mail |
| Chi Psi/Gamma Phi 64, Primal Urge 26 | | Coed 3 |
| Oct. 25 | | Mr. Robbins Neighbor def. Collier B |
| Men's 2 | | Sheldon def. Collier |
| Now We're One 19, Intiki 12 | | |
| Chi Psi One 48, Mataakoheds 0 | | |

Commissioner: Orangemen QB deserved ejection after brawl

ORGANTOWN, W.Va. (AP) — Big East commissioner Mike Tranghese said Monday that Syracuse quarterback Marvin Graves should have been ejected after a bench-clearing brawl with West Virginia.

However, the league didn't announce any disciplinary action against the officials, and the Orangemen's 20-17 victory won't be overturned.

Tranghese issued a report on the Oct. 17 incident, which prompted complaints from West Virginia coaches, players and fans.

The fourth-quarter fight started after West Virginia defensive back Tommy Orr knocked Graves out of bounds and Graves responded by throwing the ball at him.

Three of West Virginia's key defensive players and one Syracuse reserve offensive lineman were thrown out. Graves later threw the winning touchdown pass against the West Virginia reserve defensive back who replaced one of the ejected players.

"Although the four players ejected

performed acts that called for ejection, many others deserved the same treatment," Tranghese said. "If there were to be ejections, Syracuse's Marvin Graves needed to be included among those ejected. Obviously, the ejections hurt West Virginia."

Tranghese said Orr's hit of Graves "was a close call, but in my estimation, it was a legal hit."

Tranghese criticized the officials for throwing a late penalty flag for interference against West Virginia on fourth down shortly after the fight.

"The controversial fourth-down pass interference, from the officials' point of view, was a judgment call," Tranghese said. "Both coaching staffs, after reviewing the film of the play, have differing opinions on the call."

"What is bothersome is that the flag thrown by the official was late, which created even greater doubt in the minds of many."

Tranghese threatened to discipline league coaches who criticize officiating,

apparently in response to comments from West Virginia coach Don Nehlen.

"In the future, this conference will consider strong measures in terms of a coach's responsibility to control his team as well as making public comments critical of officiating," Tranghese said.

Tranghese said the fight probably could have been avoided if officials had acted quickly.

"The confusion around the scene was further compounded by the officials' failure to display a flag at the time the incident occurred," Tranghese said.

Tranghese said he has spoken to a Syracuse assistant coach who grabbed Orr after he knocked Graves out of bounds.

"It is clear to me that his reactions were instinctive based on his perception that his quarterback received a late hit," Tranghese said.

West Virginia athletic director Ed Pastilong said he appreciated the attention Tranghese gave to the incidents.

"Hopefully, the evaluation will prevent this type of thing from happening in

'It is clear to me that his reactions were instinctive based on his perception that (the Syracuse) quarterback received a late hit.'

— Mike Tranghese,
Big East commissioner

the future to any team," Pastilong said. "Coach Nehlen and I felt that it was important to our team and to our fans for the Big East to address these serious officiating concerns quickly and thoroughly."

Nehlen declined comment. "Hindsight is 20-20," Syracuse athletic director Jake Crouthamel said of Tranghese's report. "It was the official's responsibility to make the call and he made the call."