

Oregon dominates Pac-10s

By Steve Mims
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon men's cross country team shocked second-ranked Arizona on Saturday, part of the sweep for the Ducks at the Pacific-10 Conference Championship in Palo Alto, Calif.

Ninth-ranked Oregon was led by its pair of fabulous freshmen, Karl Keska and Tracy Hollister, who finished fourth and eighth, respectively. Keska ran the 8,000-meter course in a time of 24:10, 24 seconds ahead of Hollister.

The Ducks' next three runners were the keys to victory, finishing 11th, 12th and 13th. Senior Rick Mestler crossed the finish line at 24:50, one second ahead of sophomore John Dimoff and three seconds ahead of junior Jason Humble.

The top five runners for each school receive points corresponding to what place they finish, and despite placing four runners in the top 10, Arizona's fifth runner finished 29th to give the Ducks the victory.

Oregon seniors Colden Baxter and Tim Julian, the only

two Ducks with previous Pac-10 Championship experience, finished out of the scoring with times of 25:16 and 25:17, respectively.

The Ducks' 48 points nipped the Wildcats by three points. Oregon and Arizona, clearly the two dominant teams in the conference, ran away from the rest of the field. UCLA finished third with 89 points, followed by host Stanford with 93.

Washington State's Joseph Kapkory won the individual title in a time of 23:46, 12 seconds ahead of Arizona's Martin Kaino.

The Oregon women won their meet by 15 points over Washington. The Ducks, ranked eighth in the country, were the favorite in the meet and finished with 58 points. The victory was Oregon's sixth team title in seven years.

Oregon senior Nicole Woodward won the individual title, her third victory of the year, finishing the 5,000-meter course with a season-best time of 16:51, 13 seconds ahead of Stanford's Louise Watson. Woodward, who finished third at last year's Pac-10 meet, is the

fifth Oregon woman to win the conference title.

Freshman Heidi Van Borkulo-Goldstein was the only other Duck to crack the top 10, finishing eighth with a time of 17:30. It was the third top-10 finish of the year for the freshman from Seattle.

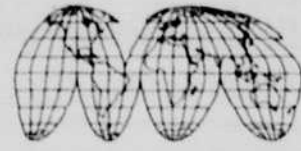
All five runners who counted for Oregon finished in the top 20. Senior Erika Klein finished 13th in a time of 17:45, 10 seconds ahead of sophomore Jill Callero, who placed 16th. Niamh Zwagerman was the final Duck to score points, finishing 20th in a time of 18:00.

Oregon's Joni Wareham was the sixth Duck to finish, running the course in 18:26.

The victory was Oregon's third in four races this season, with the only loss being to third-ranked Wisconsin at the Jeff Drenth Memorial two weeks ago.

Both Oregon teams now prepare for the Region VIII Championships on Nov. 14 in Tucson, Ariz. At regionals, the top two teams and three individuals from non-qualifying teams will advance to the NCAA Championships on Nov. 23.

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