

Runners fall short

By Steve Mims
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon men's and women's cross country teams struggled in their final races of the year at the NCAA Championships at the Indiana University Cross Country Course in Bloomington, Ind. on Monday.

The Oregon men, ranked sixth in the nation entering the race, finished eighth out of 22 teams in the race, while the women finished in 15th place.

Freshman Karl Keska was the first Duck across the finish line for the fourth time in five races this year, finishing 43rd with a time of 32 minutes, one second over the 10,000-meter course. Keska improved his time by one second over his performance at the District VIII Championships on Nov. 14.

Senior Rick Mestler, running his final collegiate race, finished four seconds behind Keska, coming in 46th place. Sophomore John Dimoff was the third Oregon finisher, placing 87th in a time of 32:47.

Senior Tim Julian ran in his first NCAA Championship and finished 95th with a time of 32:51. Senior Colden Baxter, who finished 110th at the meet two years ago, improved on his performance by one place, finishing 109th in a time of 33:06. Junior Jason Humble finished 122nd in a time of 33:18.

Freshman Tracy Hollister, who ran second for the Ducks most of the year on 8,000 meter courses, struggled for the second straight race over the longer course, finishing 179th.

Arkansas, led by four runners in the top 20, won their third consecutive team title. Oregon had 276 points, 210 behind the Razorbacks. Indiana Senior Bob Kennedy, an 1992 Olympian, won his second individual title, setting a course record with a time of 30:15, 41 seconds ahead of Gary Stolz of Stanford. Wisconsin finished second in the team race, 21 points behind Arkansas.

The Oregon women, ranked 13th in the nation entering the race, slipped to 15th place when Pacific-10 Conference Champion Nicole Woodward was unable to finish her second consecutive race due to an illness.

With Woodward out of the race, the Ducks were led for the second consecutive race by freshman Heidi Van Borkulo-Goldstein, who finished 61st with a time of 18:19.

Senior Erika Klein and sophomore Jenna Carlson finished next to each other in 79th and 80th place, respectively. Klein ran the 5,000 meter course in a time of 18:26, one second ahead of Carlson.

Niamh Zwagerman finished 127th overall with a time of 10:02, five seconds ahead of sophomore Jill Callero, who finished 136th. Joni Wareham was the sixth Duck to finish, placing 161st with a time of 19:45.

Villanova captured its fourth straight team title, led by Carole Zajac who won the individual title. Zajac, who finished was the Wildcats fourth consecutive individual champion.

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