

Track teams head for dual meet in Pullman

By Erick Studenicka
Oregon Daily Emerald

The final chapter in the famous Oregon-Washington State dual-meet rivalry will be written Saturday as the men's and women's track teams conclude their dual-meet seasons in Pullman, Wash.

Washington State men's coach John Chaplin said the meet will probably mark the final time the Cougars and Ducks ever face each other in a dual meet.

"There just isn't any interest in dual meets anymore," Chaplin said. "With the reduction in the amounts of scholarships available, you just don't see any depth on track teams anymore. No fan wants to see a 20-foot long jumper or a 40-foot shot-putter."

Chaplin said Oregon and WSU will continue to meet each year, but the meet would be a four-way meet involving two additional teams.

"With four teams, there is more for fans to see," Chaplin said. "I think the four-way meet Oregon hosts each year, the Pepsi Invitational (to take place May 1), is probably the best meet in Eugene."

The annual meet between the Cougars and Ducks, first held in 1908, marks one of the fiercest rivalries in track and field. The meet drew national attention in 1978 when WSU's Henry Rono ran 8:14.7 in the steeplechase, which was the fastest steeplechase in the United States at that time.

Oregon leads the all-time series 35-24, but WSU has won the last two meets, including the close 85-78 score last year that featured a memorable relay

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WSU men's track coach

anchor leg by Oregon's Ronnie Harris against WSU's Michael Joubert.

Harris, a 400-meter runner, and Joubert, an 800-meter runner, are expected to meet Saturday, but not in either athletes' specialty event. Both are entered in the 200-meter sprint and the two relay events.

The Cougars have another formidable distance runner in Samuel Kibiri. Kibiri, who has a lifetime best of 8:28 in the steeple, is expected to run the 1500 and 5000 this week.

The closest race of the day may be in the 400-meter relay, because only sixteen-hundredths of a second separates Oregon's and WSU's best time this season.

In the field, less than two feet separate the top five entries in the triple jump. Erik Balstrom has the longest jump this season for the Ducks (51-7), and Kali Roberts has the Cougars' best mark at 50-4.

The Oregon women will try to make it 15 wins in a row against WSU, a streak that stretches back to 1977 when the women began competing in the meet.

The most interesting women's race should be the 400-meter hurdles as Kelly Blair makes only her second appearance in this event. In her first attempt at

White gets ready for Packers

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP) — As Reggie White signed a four-year, \$17 million NFL contract Thursday at his old high school, he said he never dreamed he'd sign a contract with the Green Bay Packers.

"I never looked at Green Bay as a team I would play for," White said before a group of students at Howard School of Academics and Technology. "I went there as part of going on a trip to Detroit."

But after meeting coach Mike Holmgren and defensive coordinator Ray Rhodes, White had a change of heart.

"I never would have signed with Green Bay if I didn't think they didn't have an opportunity to win a championship," he said.

The Packers have not won any championships since the 1960s.

"I feel like I made the right decision," White said. "I will never regret it. Green Bay can go 1-15 or 0-16 for the next four years, and I will never regret it."

White, who has 124 career sacks, will make \$9 million his first season. He announced Tuesday he had selected Green Bay after a 37-day sampling of the NFL and its cities.

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