

Men hope to stay close at Pac-10s

By Dave Charbonneau

As has been the case all season, Oregon head coach Bill Dellinger is keeping the expectations of his team low as it heads into today's Pacific-10 Conference Track and Field Championships in Berkeley, Calif.

And who could blame him. His team is full of young talent that has yet to compete at the Pac-10 level and has a top three qualifier in only two of the 20 events.

"We are looking forward to the Pac-10 meet, and not just to get it over with," Dellinger said. "We should be able to fight it out in the next echelon below UCLA and probably USC. UCLA is a very strong favorite to win.

The Bruins are indeed heavy favorites, with top five qualifiers in 16 of the 20 events. Dellinger is not setting his sights on the powerful UCLA team. and rightfully so. The Ducks' best hope is to finish at the top of the rest of the field.

The Ducks will need their veteran performers (Ronnie Harris, Grady O'Connor, Heath Howington, Derek Snelling and Jason Walton) to carry the load and hope a few younger guys come up big if they expect to compete for third place.

Sprints: USC and UCLA traditionally dominate the sprints, and this year is no exception. Combined, the two teams have three of the top four qualifiers in the 100, 200 and 400.

Although Oregon has three qualifiers in the 100. LaMont Woods seems to have the best chance of cracking the top three. Last weekend qualified for the event in 10.58, but will likely need a better time than that to have a chance at third place.

Ronnie Harris has been the talk of the Ducks' team this season, but his time of 46.84 in the 400 is still four-tenths of a second behind the top qualifier.

Middle distances: Oregon's Gordon Johnson has the third-best time in the 800 and is not far behind Washington's Mitch Leffler, who holds the secondfastest time. Arizona State's Jim McCreary is the heavy favorite in the event.

In the 1,500, Oregon's Scott Nicholas could feed off his impressive performances over the past three weeks to crack the top three. Although he is still more than a second behind the the third qualifier in the event, a personal record for Nicholas could have him in the running.

Distances: Washington's Greg Metcalf should easily win the steeplechase, with Arizona State's Erin Scroggins and Arizona's Martin Keino battling for second. Jason Humble is Oregon's only entry in the event.

Metcalf and teammate Neil Panchen are the top entries in the 5,000 and should finish 1-2, but the Ducks' Karl Keska is the fifth qualifier and has the potential to finish higher with a PR performance.

Hurdles: UCLA's Ross Flowers and Arizona's Leo Simmons should take the top two places in the 110-hurdles, but Oregon freshman Jamar Williams is right there in the hunt for third.

Grady O'Connor and Erik Ylitalo should earn points for Oregon in the 400 hurdles, but anything above a third-place finish for either is unlikely.

Throws: The Bruins should get big points in the throws, especially the shot put, where they have the top three qualifiers. Oregon's Heath Howington is the Ducks' lone entry in the shot and discus, but he is not likely to finish higher than fifth in either

Jumps: Snelling is one of the favorites in the pole vault and has the ability to win in such a volatile event.

Oregon freshman Ray Livingston is the only Oregon qualifier in the long jump and could finish in the top five with a solid performance. Devon Hosey has the third-best mark in the triple jump, and Oregon's Jason Walton could also make some noise in the high jump where he goes in with the fifth-best mark

Relays: UCLA and USC should dominate the relays, with Arizona State giving them a run in the 4x100. Oregon's 4x400 team has the third-best time this season and has a shot at finishing second behind USC.

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come of the meet.

The throws: The javelin should be one of Oregon's best events, with national leader Ashley Selman and teammate Tonia Roth expected to rack up some big points. The Ducks only have one entry in the shot and discus, but Julie Beck should be competitive in both events.

The jumps: Blair broke through the 20-foot barrier with a 20-4 long jump earlier this season, but she may have to jump 21 feet to win the Pac-10 title. Blair said she has recovered fully from her record-setting performance in the heptathlon last week. If her back holds out and she can compete at 100 percent, Oregon head coach Tom Heinonen could find himself soaked after being ceremoniously tossed into the steeplechase water pit as the winning Pac-10 coach.

PAC-10 TOP QUALIFIERS

11.11 2. Less Parker (ASU) 11.57 3. LaReina Woods (ORE) 11.59. Oregon Entries: Woods and Jamila God-frey (11.94). 100 Meters: 1. Inger Miller (USC) 11 2. Lesa Parker (ASU) 11.57 3.

Oregon Entries: Woods and Jamina God-frey (11,94).

200 Meters: 1. Inger Miller (USC) 22.33
2. Tayo Akinremi (ASU) 23.67 3. Shelia Hurrelf (UCLA) 23.73.
Oregon Entries: Woods (23.94).

400 Meters: 1. Tayo Akinremi (ASU)
52.43 2. Shanequa Campell (ASU) 52.74
3. Camara Jones (ORE] 53.19.
Oregon Entries: Jones, Lisa Bedwell
(55.82). Nilka Thomas (56.50), and Shawna Krasowski (56.56).

800 Meters: 1. Kim Toney (ASU)
2:04.37 2. Sharette Garcia (ASU) 2:06.32
3. Janice Nichols (ASU) 2:06.40.
Oregon Entries: Tyrza Hunt (2:12.60).
1.500 Meters: 1. Erika Klein (ORE)
4:23.94 2. Beth Bartholomew (UCLA)
4:24.91 3. Kim Toney (ASU) 4:24.92.
Oregon Entries: Klein and Sally Maier
(4:34.44)

3000 Meters: 1. Jennifer Bravard (WSU) 9-15-29 2. Nicole Woodward (ORE) 9-22-58 3. Beth Bartholmew (UCLA)

Oregon Entries: Woodward and Jenna irlson [9:34.84]. 5,000 Meters: 1. Nicole Woodward (ORE) 16:22 14 2. Louise Watson (STAN) 16:25:30 3. Jennifer Bravard (WSU) 16:26:36.

Oregon Entries: Woodward, Jenna Carl-son (16:49.34), Heidi Van Borkulo Gold-stein (17:00.06), and Niamh Zwagerman (17:19.10).

10,000 Meters: 1. Katie Williams (ARIZ) 4-13-98-2, Jean Harvey (ARIZ) 34:39:16 Heidi Van Borkulo-Goldstein (ORE)

35:43.33.

100 Hurdles: 1. Ime Akpan (ASU) 13.14
2. Felice Lipscomb (USC) 13.56 3. Claudine Robinson (WASH) 13.69.
Oregon Entries: Kelly Blair (13.84).
400 Hurdles: 1. Lade Akinremi (ASU)
57.12 2. Erin Blunt (USC) 57.81 3. Roslyn
Mack (CAL) 56.52.
Oregon Entries: Karen, Wiedmann.

Mack (CAL) 58.52.
Oregon Entries: Karen Wiedmann (1:01.39) and Jennifer Maitling (1:03.14).
4x100 Meter Relay: 1. ASU 44.59. 2.
ORE 44.95. 3. USC 45.35.
4x400 Meter Relay: 1. ASU 3:30.45. 2.
UCLA 3:33.85. 3. ORE 3:36.49.
Shot put: 1. Dawn Dumble (UCLA) 56-1. 2. Valayta Althouse (UCLA) 53-10.3. Jennifer Wheichel (UCLA) 52-0.
Oregon Entries: Beck (49.2).

Oregon Entries: Beck (49-2). Discus: 1. Dawn Dumble (UCLA) 188-

4 2. Julie Beck (ORE) 167-10 3. Annette libiwa (CAL) 163-5 Javelin: 1. Ashley Selman (ORE) 181-4

Oregon Entries: Selman, Tonia Roth (154-5) and Kari Esterbrook (150-5).

Triple Jump: 1. Juliana Vandork (UCLA) 42-0 2. Sharon Li (WSU) 41-11 Oregon Entries: Sara Howell (39-8). High Jump: 1. J.C. Broughton (ARIZ) 6-3 2. Tanya Hughes (ARIZ) 6-2 3. Shelly Choopa (ASU) 6-0.

Long Jump: 1. Chantal Brunner (WSU) 20-10 2. Mariako Voltman (UCLA) 20-6 3. Kelly Blair (ORE) 20-4.

