

# Women go after three in a row

By Erick Studenicka  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Threepeat. You won't find the word in the dictionary, but it's on every Oregon women's track team member's mind, as the Ducks look for their third consecutive Pacific-10 Conference team title this weekend in Berkeley, Calif.

"We don't really talk a lot about winning three straight; it's kind of our unspoken goal," said Oregon's Kelly Blair, who is a favorite in the long jump.

Oregon won by a comfortable 33-point margin last year at Hayward Field, but this year's meet promises to be the closest in the six-year history of the Pac-10, as Arizona State, UCLA and Oregon are expected to vie for the title.

"On paper, it looks like it will be the three of us duking it out," said assistant track coach Mark Stream. "I think we may have a slight advantage, but it's too close to call. All three of the teams are good enough and deep enough to win."

Oregon defeated Arizona State in the Pepsi Invitational May 1, but the Sun Devils did not enter their top runners in more than one event. With the Pac-10 title on the line, however, Arizona State has its main weapons, Tayo and Lade Akinremi, entered in four events. The Akinremi sisters led Alabama A&M to the NCAA Division II title last year before transferring to Arizona State this year.

The Ducks have not competed with UCLA this year. Stream said UCLA may be the team to beat because of its depth in every

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event.

"They cover a few more event areas better than ASU," Stream said. "ASU is still strong, but UCLA might more quality athletes in more events."

UCLA is the only other school besides Oregon to win a Pac-10 title. The Bruins won the championship four times between 1987-1990. The Ducks have never finished lower than third in the standings.

**The sprints:** USC's Inger Miller is the class of the sprint field, and she is expected to win both the 100 and 200. Oregon's LaReina Woods has been waiting for warm weather all season, and if she gets it, the school record of 11.58 is in jeopardy.

In the 400, Camara Jones has run well and is ranked third in the 400 with her time of 53.19, but she is due for an effort near her school record of 52.07. The 400 will be one of the most important events in the team title race because seven of the eight top competitors are from Arizona State, UCLA and Oregon.

**The middle distances:** Oregon's Erika Klein has taken second in the Pac-10 meet twice in the 800 meter, but she will move

up to the 1500 this year. Arizona State figures to score a bundle in this event with the top three qualifiers. Klein has the fastest qualifying time in the 1500, but if the finish comes down to a sprint, look for Arizona State's Kim Toney to win.

**The distances:** One of the featured matchups of the meet will be the battle between national 3,000-meter leader Jennifer Bravard of Washington State and Oregon's 1992 conference 5,000-meter champion Nicole Woodward. Both are entered in the 3,000- and 5,000-meter runs. Oregon's Jenna Carlson has been running well and should also contend in both events.

Oregon will look to its freshmen tandem of Heidi Van Borkulo-Goldstein and Niamh Zwagerman for points in the 10,000. Arizona's Katie Williams returns to defend her conference title in the 25-lapper.

**The hurdles:** Conference heptathlon champion Blair looks for another conference title on the California track this weekend, this time in the 100-meter hurdles. Ime Akpan is the clear favorite, however, with a qualifying time .50 ahead of her next fastest competitor.

Expect a repeat of the Pepsi meet in the 400 hurdles, with Lade and Taiya Akinremi leading the rest of the pack.

**The relays:** Oregon could find itself running NCAA qualifying times and still losing. The 4x400-meter relay is the final event of the meet, and it is quite possible the race may decide the out-

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