

Women lose crown to Bruins

By Dave Charbonneau
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon women's track and field team prides itself on its competitiveness in all events.

During the weekend, the Ducks' balanced attack was enough to slip past the sprint-heavy Arizona State team, but could not overcome UCLA's power in the field events, as Oregon finished second behind the Bruins at the Pacific-10 Conference Championships in Berkeley, Calif.

Oregon scored points in virtually every event and took first in four events, but UCLA scored 60 points in the field events and coasted to a 27-point victory, breaking the Ducks' two-year lock on the conference trophy.

The Bruins tallied 146 points, Oregon finished with 119, and Arizona State took third with 104.

After the first seven events Friday, the Ducks held a six-point advantage over the Bruins thanks largely to Ashley Selman's win in the javelin and Kelly Blair's third-place finishes in the high jump and long jump. Distance runner Heidi Van Borkulo-Goldstein also helped Oregon's cause with a second-place finish in the 10,000.

Selman tuned up for the NCAA Championships with a throw of 175-2 to win over Washington's Kristin Ronning, who uncorked a throw of 167-7 early to put the pressure on Selman. Selman's throw was just six feet short of her season-best of 181-4.

UCLA was able to stay close with a 1-2-5 finish in the shot put led by Dawn Dumble and Valey-

ta Althouse. But Dumble and Althouse had more in store Saturday as they finished 1-3 in the discus.

Soon, it became inevitable that Oregon's main goal was to concentrate on the race for second, and the sprinters held their own and then some against the powerful Arizona State crew.

In the 100, Lareina Woods breezed past the field to win the event with a mark of 10.58, equaling her personal record.

Then, it was Camara Jones who stepped up and delivered with an upset victory over the Sun Devil's Tayo Akinremi and Shanequa Campbell in a NCAA automatic qualifying time of 51.55, breaking her own school record.

Jones and Woods teamed up with Lisa Bedwell and Jamila Godfrey to win the 4x100-meter relay, earning a provisional qualifying mark and also setting a school record.

Godfrey, who is only a freshman, took the baton with a slight lead over the Arizona State team, and was able to hold off the Sun Devils' anchor brilliantly down the stretch.

Oregon's Nicole Woodward came off a disappointing fifth-place finish in Friday's 3,000 to finish second in Saturday's 5,000 with a time of 16:46.43.

Erika Klein continued her tradition of coming up big in big races, finishing second in the 1,500, just two-tenths of a second behind Arizona State's Kim Toney.

Blair, who set a Pac-10 record the weekend before in the hep-

tathlon, took another third place in the 100-meter hurdles. Blair ended accounting for 28 of Oregon's points. Other Oregon point-scorers included Woods adding a fourth-place finish in the 200, Tonia Roth with a fourth place finish in the javelin, Niamh Zwagerman who also finished fourth in the 10,000, and the 4x400 relay team which finished third.

Sara Howell (triple jump), Julie Beck (shot put), Mary Anderson (long jump) and Keri Esterbrook (javelin) all took sixth in their respective events.

The only event Oregon was unable to score points in was the 400-meter hurdles.

Arizona State was able to stay close to the Ducks with a 1-2-3 in the 800, a second place in the 4x100, and first places in the 4x100, 100 hurdles and the 200. The Sun Devils scored all but six of their points on Saturday.

Arizona took fourth with 71, followed by USC (44), Washington State (38), Washington (24), Stanford (23) and California (20).

The Ducks' final chance to qualify athletes for the NCAAs will be Wednesday at the Ed Moeller Open at Hayward Field.

The NCAA championships will start June 2 in New Orleans and run through June 5.

Oregon has already qualified a number of athletes for the NCAAs, but many of those marks are only provisional. Many athletes are looking to improve those provisional marks into automatic marks.

The event qualifiers should be announced by the end of the week.

Men salvage fifth after weak first day

By Dave Charbonneau
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The Oregon men's track and field team salvaged a fifth-place finish after a troublesome first day at the Pacific-10 Conference Championships in Berkeley, Calif., over the weekend.

After Friday's seven events, the Ducks found themselves in dead last and flirting with the worst finish in Oregon history at the meet.

But on Saturday, the Ducks regrouped with some timely performances and dug themselves out of the cellar. UCLA demolished the field, winning nine of 20 events and outscoring second-place Arizona by 79 points. The Bruins ran up 170 points, the Wildcats had 91, followed by USC (89.5), California (78), and Oregon (69.5).

On Friday, the Ducks failed to earn a single point in the hammer, javelin and long jump, and Derek Snelling, who came into the pole vault event with the second-best qualifying height, failed to finish in the top six.

Despite the fact Oregon failed to win a single event the entire meet, Saturday's performances gave the Ducks reason to be optimistic for next season.

Sophomore Eric White was the highest finisher for Oregon, placing second in the high jump. Junior Gordon Johnson was fourth in the 800, junior LaVon Pierce finished fifth in the 100, and sixth in the 200, freshman Jamar Williams placed fourth in the 400, freshman Ray Livingston took sixth in the pole vault, sophomore Todd Bleakney was fourth in the triple jump, and freshman Scott Nicholas got third in the 1,500.

Nicholas also earned an NCAA provisional qualifying mark in the race, the third Duck to do so this season.

Oregon also made up ground in the 400-hurdles, where Erik Ylitalo set a PR in event and finished fourth ahead of teammate Grady O'Connor who finished fifth.

Ronnie Harris ran an impressive 46.66 in the 400 but could only salvage fourth in the event. Devon Hosey placed third in the triple jump, and Jason Walton took fourth in the high jump. Heath Howington's sixth-place finish in the shot put rounded out Oregon's scoring in the meet.

UCLA fed off a 1-2-3-5 finish in the shot put, and a 1-2 finish in the hammer on the first day of competition. From there, the Bruins' sprinters took over with a 2-3 finish in the 100, and first-place finishes in the 400, and both relay races.




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