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Ducks open road trip in Seattle

Mark McTyre
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon softball team is in store for a battle this weekend when it travels to the Emerald city to face the nationally ranked Washington Huskies and a strong Puget Sound Loggers' squad.

The Ducks (15-19 overall, 5-8 Pacific-10 Conference) are hoping to extend their winning fortunes from Wednesday's Civil War victories as they returned to the basics and found their hitting stroke.

Oregon's first foe, No. 19 Washington (33-18, 6-8), is coming off an outstanding weekend, which saw it sweep both Oregon schools.

Against the Ducks, the Huskies' Stephanie Burns and Eve Gaw demonstrated superb pitching performances en route to two shutout victories. Under the guidance of former Oregon coach Teresa Wilson, the Huskies are gunning for their second-straight trip to the NCAA tournament.

"I really feel that our bats are going to come around against the Huskies," Oregon head coach Tami Brown said.

After Oregon's opening battle, its next opponent could possibly be more of a threat than the Huskies.

Puget Sound has gotten off to a roaring start in the NAIA ranks, racking up an impressive 13-1 record.

The Loggers' main offensive threat comes from sophomore Heather Paulsen, who's batting an amazing .533 average with a homerun and 12 RBI.

From the pitching circle, Puget Sound gets even stronger, headed by ace Dani Biesel who owns an unblemished 8-0 record with a 0.34 ERA in 46 innings pitched.

The strength of the Ducks' schedule will not let up after this weekend, as Oregon will stay on the road for another two weeks and face the likes of Stanford, California and UCLA.

CLUB NOTES

Joel Hood
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon men's lacrosse team (5-5) returns to action with games on Saturday and Sunday at Huskies Stadium in Washington. The Ducks, who fell to 3-3 in league play with two road losses last weekend, will take on league rivals Western Washington and Washington.

The Oregon Crew team will host a regatta at Dexter Reservoir on Saturday. The events will

begin at 7:30 a.m. and go until noon.

The Covered Bridge Regatta is in its first year of being a nationally recognized competition. Oregon will play host to some of the top collegiate rowing teams in the Northwest as well as a few non-collegiate teams.

The Ducks will compete in several divisions, including the men and women's varsity four, novice open four and novice light four competitions.

Dexter Reservoir is located

approximately 20 miles Southeast of Eugene.

The Oregon men's cycling team will travel to Cheney, Wash., for competition over the weekend. The seven-member team will compete in a road race and criterium event.

The men and women's ultimate teams will host sectionals on the intramural and south bank fields on Sunday. The games will kick off at 10 a.m.

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COMPETITION

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hopefully race him tough."

Dellinger, too, sees the benefits of the competition.

"It is good for not just the team, but for the people that have to race those individuals," said Dellinger, adding Sullivan in particular will be an exciting runner to watch. "I think it is good for track and field because it gives the fans the opportunity to see one of the truly outstanding individuals in the country."

Another close race will be the 800-meter dash,

as Oregon junior Scott Nicholas will battle a pair of Nebraska runners in Renier Henning and Marlon Jones, both of who have personal best times of under 1:50 in the race. Nicholas' personal record is 1:51.31.

Oregon junior Karl Keska and freshman Matt Davis will also be pressed to beat Nebraska's David Iteffa, although Iteffa's PR of 14:09.35 is more than nine seconds slower than Keska's PR of 14:00.16.

In the sprints, Duck freshman Pat Johnson may see his first real competition in the 400-meter dash, as Nebraska's Mark Graham and Michigan's Trinity Townsend promise to give him a run for his money.

TRACK

Continued from Page 13

team across the board with almost no weak spots," Heinonen said. "They've got a lot of strengths and they know how good they are in this type of event.

"Porter is kind of a mystery because she hasn't run a 400 yet this season. Two years ago here, Camara won but at nationals they reversed with Porter winning."

Kelsey Stellick, who has not thrown the javelin all week after sitting out last weekend's Oregon Invitational to recuperate, will

take part in the Pepsi Invitational.

Nicole Commissiong was another absent team member last week, but she appears refreshed and will be counted on in the sprint events on Saturday.

Oregon's top athletes will be competing in their feature events on Saturday, with Jones and Commissiong running the 400 and LaReina Woods and Jamila Godfrey taking to the blocks in the 100- and 200-meter sprints.

The distance corps will remain relatively unchanged except for the addition of Jenna Carlson in the 5,000-meter run. Carlson picked up an NCAA qualifying

mark in the 3,000-meter run last week and will attempt to do the same in the 5,000 on Saturday. She will also compete in the 3,000, an event that takes place roughly two hours later.

Besides the Porter-Jones confrontation, there will also be a battle between two of the nation's top triple jump competitors.

Oregon record-holder Sara Jessie will face Nebraska's defending NCAA triple jump champion Nicola Martial. Martial owns a personal record of 44-11 3/4 while Jessie pushed her best effort up last week to 42-4 in rainy Hayward Field conditions.

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