

Oregon runners ready for rematch

WOMEN'S X-COUNTRY:

Oregon takes on 6th-ranked Washington in the only home meet of the year at Alton Baker Park

By Pete Schneider
Sports Reporter

The Oregon women's cross country team returns home to Eugene this Saturday for the team's only home meet of the season after placing second at the Rocky Mountain Shoot-Out in Colorado last week.

The 7th-ranked Ducks look to get healthy and tune up at the Jeff Drenth Memorial at Eugene's Alton-Baker Park for the upcoming Pacific-10 Conference meet. The biggest challenge for Oregon — other than readjusting to running at sea level after enduring extreme altitudes in Colorado last week — will be 6th-ranked Washington, who beat the Ducks in Seattle three weeks ago.

"We want to beat Washington and go into the Pac-10 meet knowing that we can beat anyone in the conference," head coach Tom Heinonen said. "As much as we want to win, this is more of the final racing test we will face before we start our championship meets."

Heinonen admitted that the home-course advantage may not prove to be that big of an edge for the Ducks because running on the road is a much more natural circumstance in cross country.

"There are some distinct disadvantages to running at home," Heinonen said. "For some people, sleeping in their own beds and not having to travel is a big deal, but for me, I'd just assume run on the road."

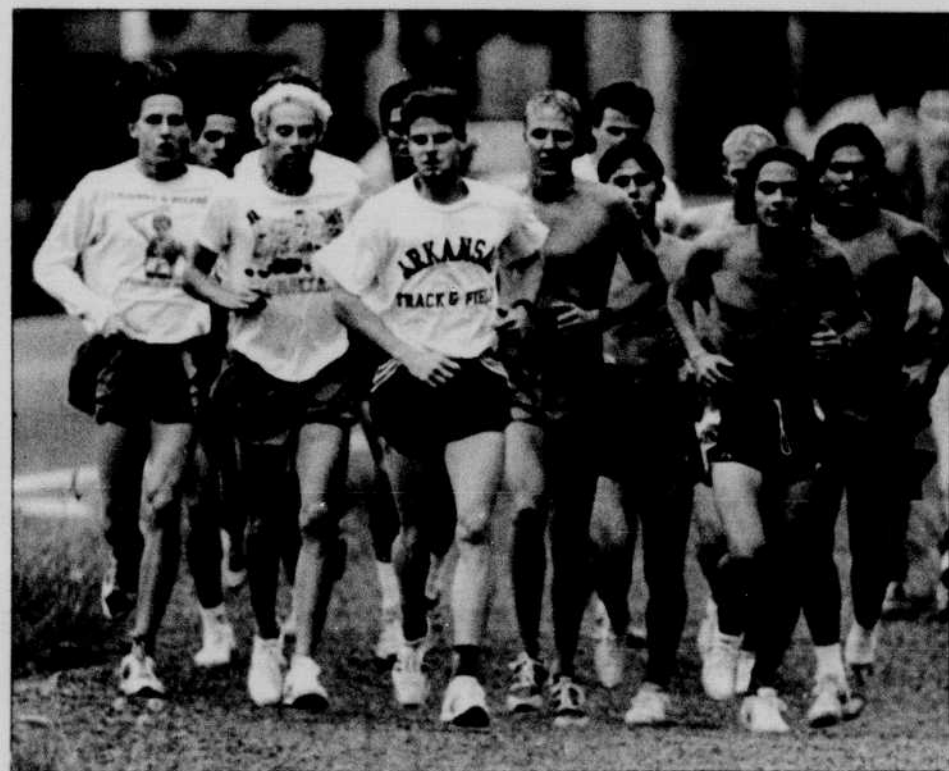
Washington is led by senior Tara Carlson, sister of Duck standout senior Jenna Carlson. The Carlson sisters have faced

Turn to **WOMEN**, Page 12



The Oregon women's cross country team gets a rematch against Washington in their only home meet of the season, the Jeff Drenth Memorial.

NATALIE MONTGOMERY/Emerald



The 12th-ranked Oregon men's cross country team will be tuning up for the Pacific-10 Conference Championships at the Jeff Drenth Memorial meet Saturday.

NATALIE MONTGOMERY/Emerald

Drenth important test for men

MEN'S X-COUNTRY: The Ducks prepare for Pacific-10 Conference Championships with their lone home meet

By Chris Stewart
Sports Reporter

The men's cross country team will compete in their only home meet of the season, the Jeff Drenth Memorial, this Saturday at 10:45 a.m., at Alton Baker Park. This meet is also the last tune-up for the Ducks before the Pacific-10 Conference Championships.

The meet will feature seventeen teams from across the country. It's a meet that will serve many purposes for the Oregon squad because they will be running against some teams they ran against in their meet two weeks ago and with some teams they don't know a lot about.

"Washington is a good team," coach Bill Dellinger said. "I also know that Boise State has a good team. Washington State has a few good runners, and Kansas and Baylor were both good last year, so we'll see how they are this year on Saturday."

Other schools that will be attending are Puget Sound, Idaho, Simon Frazier, George Fox, Humboldt State, Chico State, Southern Oregon, Lane Community College, Seattle University, Western Oregon and Oregon Tech.

Dellinger believes his team is up to the task of winning the meet despite the tough competition.

"We're not going to go unchallenged," Dellinger said. "Quite frankly it's a meet we should be able to win if everyone runs well."

Dellinger also stressed some other reasons why this meet is an important one for the Ducks.

"It's a key meet for us for a couple of reasons — first, it's a chance for our fans to get to see us run, because it's our only home meet," Dellinger said. "Also, we have to use this meet to decide who we are going to take to the Pac-10 Championships. Plus we can see where we are from two weeks ago when we competed against some of these teams."

The Ducks will enter eight runners for the varsity race and the rest will enter in

Turn to **MEN**, Page 14

Huskies and unbeaten Cougars visit the Ducks this weekend

VOLLEYBALL: Oregon comes home looking for first conference win

By Andrea DeYoung
Sports Reporter

It has been a tough road for the Ducks and things probably won't get any easier for them this weekend when the road leads back home.

Oregon visited the Arizona schools last weekend and came back with two rough losses. Although it took four games for Arizona to beat the Ducks, Oregon fell to Arizona State in three straight games. The Ducks look to play better against the Washington schools coming into town this weekend.

Washington will arrive at

McArthur Court tonight, eager to better its 2-3 Pacific-10 Conference record. On Saturday night, the Ducks will face undefeated Washington State, the only team in the Pac-10 to have an unblemished overall record. The Cougars are 13-0.

Oregon will take the court tonight, still seeking its first conference win. The last time the Ducks won was against Portland on Sept. 20 at Mac Court. However, with two weekends of home games beginning tonight there is a good chance the Ducks can post a win.

The Huskies have taken eight of the last nine matches against Oregon, including the last three in a row, with Washington holding the series lead 28-16.

In 34 meetings against the Cougars, Oregon holds the lead 22-11-1. This is the only team in the Pac-10 the Ducks have an advantage over in the series. But Washington State is on a run of eight-straight Duck defeats and doesn't look ready to end it.

Washington is ranked No. 18 in the nation by the American Volleyball Coaches' Association poll, with Washington State ranked No. 7. In the conference, Washington is at No. 7 and Washington State is behind Stanford at No. 2. The Ducks are still looking for the door out of the Pac-10 cellar.

In order to win the match against Washington, the Ducks will have to watch out for Dragana Djordjevic, who leads the

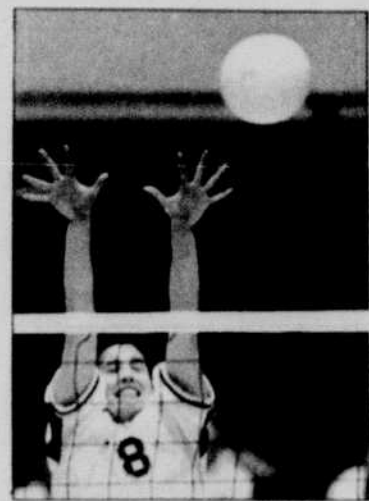
Huskies with 253 kills. She is in the top 10 of the Pac-10 in kills average.

At the net, Oregon will be keeping a close eye on Makare Desilets. She has 87 blocks and ranks in the top five in the conference.

For Oregon, sophomore middle blockers Dani Cordova and Tia Stewart have combined for 19 solo blocks and 95 assisted blocks. Cordova leads the team in total blocks with 61.

Sophomore outside hitter Shelby Edwards is showing that she is a player to watch. She led the Ducks against Arizona with 11 kills and is currently second on the team with 140 kills.

Turn to **VOLLEYBALL**, Page 14



Captain Amy McNeel and the Ducks look to get a conference win under their belt.

MARK MCTYRE/Emerald