

No love lost between foes this weekend

One of the great things about sports is rivalries. What could seem to be the crap game of the week to the ignorant bystander could turn out to be the most exciting game of a season simply because deep down, the two teams competing have an understood dislike for each other.

The Oregon-Washington football series is no different. It goes beyond any mild rivalry or over-hyped intrastate match up. In reality, Oregon-Washington football games are more than bragging rights; they are satisfaction to the utmost.



OPINION
Kevin Kearney

"Every game in the Pac-10 is huge, but there are always a few that stick out," Oregon tight end Josh Wilcox said. "Washington is always one that has been really big to us."

"It's the Dawgs and the Ducks and that is what it is all about. What it comes down to is just two teams that want to win, and are kind of blue collar and want to kick ass," he said.

Oregon's victory last year has seemed to spark a whole new chapter to the fire between the two teams. In the final minutes of the game, the Ducks mounted one of the biggest drives in Oregon history and capped the win off with an in-your-face celebration as the fans poured down the aisles of Autzen Stadium onto the field.

The rivalry between the two teams has developed into a unique situation. The intensity level of the game contends with even that of the Civil War game with Oregon State.

"It is big-time. It is getting up there with the Civil War," Wilcox said. "We won last year and they didn't like that. They want a piece of us, no doubt about it."

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Freshman running well for women's team

■ **Cross Country:** Marie Davis is adjusting well to college life and is running with new confidence

By **Pete Schneider**
Sports Reporter

Freshman Marie Davis is all smiles these days after placing 11th at the Pacific-10 Conference cross-country meet at Stanford last weekend.

One would think the 5-foot-4-inch Portland native would probably be smiling anyway. That's the kind of person Marie Davis is. She's young, talented and has enough positive energy in her petite body to take on the world.

Davis has shown a steady improvement this year after starting slowly. Her performance at the Pac-10 meet may show that she has adjusted to collegiate competition.

"I was really nervous going into the Pac-10 meet," she said. "I didn't know what to expect. There I was, surrounded by all these old girls. I didn't think it was realistic that I could place in the top 25."

Even with her pre-race anxiety, the Pac-10 race proved to be Davis' best this season. She had an advantage over many of the runners at the meet because she had

run on the course before. Her experience enabled her to pace herself into the challenging hill midway through the race and still have enough energy to charge down the stretch.

"If I hadn't run the course before, I would have gone harder up that hill and just died," she said.

"When I finished, I was so happy and so excited that I did that well. My parents were there, so it was even more thrilling."

Davis is no stranger to doing well in big meets. She won six Oregon state titles in cross country and track and field between her freshman

and senior years. She was the number one runner in the Oregon track 2,000-meter race for three years and dominated prep cross-country competition for most of her high school career.

Her running resume at Lincoln High in Portland merited much attention on the national level. More than 150 colleges and universities contacted Davis her senior year.

"Recruitment was really tough," she



DAVIS

said. "I narrowed it down to Arizona, UCLA and Oregon. I didn't like Arizona, and I can't imagine living in L.A. I'm so glad I came here now."

The transition from high-school to college racing has been relatively easy for Davis. She's been able to balance the pressures of being away from home for the first time while adjusting to the stress of a student athlete. The major difference she sees between racing in high school and in college is the pressure level.

"At Lincoln, I would get a lot of pressure from outsiders and people at school," she said. "Here, people are usually just impressed that I am on the team. They just say 'wow' and wish me luck. I don't have to be the one that every one looks to. Obviously, there are a lot of girls who are better and more experienced than I am."

Davis was close with her teammates in high school and did not expect college running to be team-oriented. To her surprise, she found cross country at Oregon to be every bit a team sport.

"We don't ever run against each other here," she said. "Instead we run with each other and try to push each other to be better. Everyone is so nice, and there isn't

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Crew to open conference season in Portland

■ **ROWERS:** Oregon prepares for this weekend's race after a strong finish at a Boston regatta

By **Jason Lewis-Berry**
Freelance Reporter

Coming off a strong showing in an important Boston regatta, Oregon men and women crew teams push off their conference season this Saturday at the Portland Loop.

The entire varsity team will travel up Interstate-5 to race on the Portland Loop's 5,000-meter course. This competition is the first of the collegiate year in which both the entire men's and women's varsity teams will participate. Oregon will race against several teams from the Pacific-10 Conference and other club teams.

This being the first team event of the fall season, Oregon considers the Portland Loop to be a warm-up race for the rest of the

autumn season, and more importantly, for the spring season. Oregon's ranking in Portland will be a check point for the team, in terms of its preparation for the rigorous spring schedule. The general rule for crew is: If you do well in the fall, you'll be ahead of other teams in the spring.

Two weeks ago, five members of the varsity crew raced in the Head of the Charles, North America's biggest crew regatta. The Oregon athletes finished 24th out of 70 club teams.

"With the international competition, we were very pleased with our finish at the Head of the Charles," rower Scott Jones said.

Jones added that it was exciting to race with thousands of cheering spectators packed onto bridges and both sides of the river for several miles of the course. A total of 450 competitors raced 1,100 boats at the Boston regatta. The event drew 250,000 spectators, which is about as many people Oregon's football team will draw during the home season. It was the Ducks first east-coast competition.

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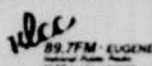


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