

Oregon runners head to national championships

■ **CROSS COUNTRY:** The women's and men's cross country teams head to the Midwest on Monday

By **Pete Schneider**
and **Chris Stewart**
Sports Reporters

The Oregon cross country teams are set for national competition as they will travel to Iowa on Monday for the NCAA National Championships.

Junior All-American Milena Glusac's answering machine best describes the women's cross country team's state of mind as they roll into the nationals: "Pac-10 — been there, done that; regionals — been there, done that; nationals — we're going there and we're going to do it. Ducks cross country is number one!"

After team wins at the Pacific-10 Conference Meet and the NCAA Division VIII Championship, Oregon is on a roll and brimming with confidence.

"We've made two important steps and achieved two of our goals," said Oregon head coach Tom Heinonen, who already has two National Championships under his belt. "Winning the Pac-10 and winning region VIII are seen as stepping stones to the national meet. Now certainly the big step is still left, but I'm very confident that we have plenty left."

The Ducks must have career days from just about every one on the seven-person team to have a shot at the national title. Top-ranked Providence leads the field in a meet that will no doubt dwarf Oregon's competition this year. Brigham Young, Villanova, Colorado and Arkansas round out the top six.

"In the past, the big powerhouses have been Arkansas and Villanova," Glusac said. "This year, when Oregon walks into the room, teams are going to look at us and say, 'Hey, that's the team to beat.'"

The Ducks' biggest advantage going into the national meet is that every person on the Oregon squad, with the exception of Davis, went to the meet last year. Davis says she can feel the team's confidence level rising every day.

"When I see all my teammates being so confident about our goals, it rubs off on



NATALIE MONTGOMERY/Emerald

Ranked second in the nation, the Oregon Women's Cross Country team is looking to win the national title on Monday.

everyone," she said. "It just makes us all stronger. We all know what we can do and what we can accomplish."

On the men's side, coach Bill Dellinger said his team is concentrating on just running well as his team also heads to Iowa State for the National Championships.

"Our goal is to run as well as we can at nationals," Dellinger said. "We want to try and just put it together and have our best effort."

Dellinger said the Ducks still haven't run their best race as a team.

"I think that [the team] is capable of running better than what they have run," Dellinger said. "If we can all run well at nationals we have a chance of doing something good."

Sophomore Matt Davis was the only Oregon runner to go to the national meet

last year and he said the team's goal is quite simple.

"Our goal is to win," Davis said.

Dellinger said even though there are some very talented teams, no team should win easily.

She said Colorado, Arkansas, Oklahoma State and Stanford were other teams that have a chance to do well, and said the Ducks can hold their own with all of those teams.

Davis said he likes his team's chances to be competitive.

"Karl [Keska] and I both have to run consistent like we have been this season," Davis said. "The other guys will have to step up and run like they did at the conference championships."

Davis also said he likes the style of race that a meet like this makes you run.

"You have nothing to save yourself for anymore so you don't have to hold anything back," Davis said. "I prefer to go all out the whole race."

Dellinger said Oregon junior Karl Keska will be among the favorites for the individual title.

"Karl has been running very, very well," Dellinger said. "He's been running with confidence, courage and patience, if he can continue doing that he's going to be tough at nationals. I think Karl is going to be one of the top runners."

Keska has been hot this season after being forced to sit out last season with injuries. He has been the first place collegiate runner in every meet the Ducks have competed in including winning the Pac-10 Championship and capturing the District Championship in consecutive meets.

Women's volleyball team loses in five, tries again tonight



ANDREW BRACKENSICK/Emerald

The Oregon volleyball team lost to California in five games in its second-to-last game of the season Thursday night.

■ **DUCKS:** Oregon plays final home game of the season tonight

By **Andrea DeYoung**
Sports Reporter

The Ducks could not take advantage of their last chance to better their 1994 record as they lost to California on Thursday night.

The match was similar to when the two teams played each other in September — a long, tough nail-biter. Once again, it took the Golden Bears five games to defeat the Ducks.

Oregon and California went back and forth in the first game, and despite three hard kills by freshman middle blocker Allison White toward the end of the game, the Bears pulled ahead and won 15-11.

The second game was quick and painless for the Ducks as they devoured the Bears 15-2. Freshman defensive specialist Tanya Minion had six serves for points,

including two service aces. Junior outside hitter Amy McNeel ended the game with six straight points off serves, the final point coming on a service ace.

The Ducks took the momentum of the second game win and used it to win game three 15-12. Oregon went ahead 13-4 but then let the Bears back into the game with eight points before taking hold of the game for good and scoring the final two points.

Game four did not go the way the Ducks wanted, as they were unable to block the Bears successfully and lost 15-7.

The fifth game was played with rally scoring. The game stayed close until California pulled ahead 14-10 and won on a service ace. The loss in the fifth game gives the Ducks a 1-6 record in matches that go five games.

Sophomore outside hitter Allison Pepe led the Ducks with 17 kills and 23 digs and McNeel was close behind with 15 kills and 22 digs.

Oregon now has a Pacific-10

Conference record of 1-16 and an overall record of 8-20.

The final game of the season will take place tonight at McArthur Court as fourth-ranked Stanford comes to town.

Stanford has not lost a match to a Pac-10 opponent this season while accumulating a 17-0 conference record and 24-2 overall record. Stanford has already wrapped up the 1995 Pac-10 title and will soon head to post-season play.

Oregon and Stanford last met in mid-September with Stanford winning in three straight games 15-1, 15-6 and 15-3.

Neither team had a stellar offensive night as the match kill leaders were Stanford's Cary Wendell and Lisa Sharpley with eight each. Leading the Ducks was sophomore middle blocker Tia Stewart with seven kills. Stewart played last night for the first time since injuring her knee three weeks ago against Portland.

Oregon and Stanford meet tonight at 7 pm.