

## Sideline

TODAY IN SPORTS

### Oregon setter makes all-academic team

Oregon setter Casey Crisler was one of six student-athletes selected to the Division I District VIII Academic All-America Volleyball Team.

Crisler maintains a 3.97 GPA in Fine and Applied Arts.

Crisler, a former walk-on, collected 55 assists, one shy of her career-high, on three separate occasions and led the team with 29 service aces.

"Casey works hard in the classroom and truly deserves this award," said Cathy Nelson, Oregon head coach.

### Whittle highlights Duck football awards

Senior tailback Ricky Whittle was presented the Hoffman Award as the Oregon football team's most outstanding player at the Oregon football banquet on Sunday.

Senior defensive end Troy Bailey won the Wil Gonyea Award, given to the team's most inspirational player, while freshman kicker Joshua Smith was awarded the Len Casanova Award for being the team's top first-year player.

Other players honored were senior inside linebacker Jeremy Asher (Bob Officer Award), senior outside linebacker Paul Jensen (Elmer Salstrom Award), junior offensive tackle Paul Wiggins (Oregon Club of Portland Award), junior outside linebacker Derrick Barnes (Gordon Wilson Award) and sophomore cornerback Ronnie Gipson (Clarke Award).

## Ducks finish strong season with strong meet

■ **CROSS COUNTRY:** The men's and women's teams capture their best finishes in recent history

The Oregon women's cross country team captured fifth place and the men's team finished seventh at the NCAA Championships at Iowa State University on Monday.

The men's and women's teams finished strong seasons with strong national performances as both squads notched the best team finishes in the past several years.

Oregon senior Melody Fairchild placed ninth and senior Jenna Carlson finished 15th to lead the Ducks to fifth place, matching performances



FAIRCHILD

set in 1990 and 1991. Sophomore Matt Davis finished 15th to lead the men to their best finish since placing fifth in 1990.

Fairchild had one of the strongest races of her year and, head coach Tom Heinonen said, maybe of her career.

"Melody had her sights set on a top 15 finish," he said. "She ran maybe her best race ever as a collegian. She was in 15th at the half-way mark and wouldn't be denied."

Providence won the women's meet with 88 points, receiving their first NCAA title in any sport. Colorado placed second followed by Villanova, Brigham Young and Oregon with 174 points. Wisconsin's Kathy Butler won the individual title in 16-minutes, 51-seconds.

Heinonen said he was pleased with the overall team effort, adding that the course and the weather made the race more of a challenge.

The temperature was about 45 degrees with winds at 20 to 30 mph and gusts of up to 40 mph.

Heinonen said, adding that the weather conditions particularly affected Carlson.

"Jenna was freezing cold and just never warmed up," Heinonen said. "It was still her best performance at the NCAA meet. The top 15 get awards and the Pacific-10 Conference had a third of the top 15 runners."

Senior Milena Glusac finished 44th, freshman Marie Davis came in 59th and sophomore Rosy Gardner placed 77th to round out Oregon's scoring contingent. Junior Niamh Zwaggerman and sophomore Kaarin Knudson placed 150th and 175th.

"Milena moved up from 60th at the half-way mark and Marie and Rosy moved up from between 80th and 88th with a mile to go," Heinonen said. "Niamh got a side stitch with about 600 meters to go and went from 90th to 150th."

Heinonen said the team ran better than they did at the Pac-10 meet, but not as well as at the

District VIII race.

"We wanted more," Heinonen said. "But they ran the best they could today and that is what you have to expect at the nationals."

Oregon's men's team was the only team to run with just five runners in the race, and all of them scored. Junior Karl Keska finished an uncharacteristic 34th at the national meet after winning both the Pac-10 Championship and the District VIII meet. Rick Cantwell placed 40th with David Gurry at his heels in 41st place. Tracy Hollister, who had not run competitively since the Jeff Drenth Memorial in Eugene on Oct. 14, was the Ducks' final scorer at 165th.

Arkansas won the men's title, their fourth in the last five years. Northern Arizona received runner-up honors, followed by Oklahoma State, Colorado, Stanford, Georgetown and Oregon. Arkansas' Godfrey Siamusiya won the men's title in 30:09.

## Can Cotton Bowl draw fans without a Texas team?

■ **COTTON BOWL:** The 60th anniversary of the bowl is only the ninth without an in-state team participating

DALLAS (AP) — Will the Cotton Bowl be a hit without a Texas team?

After landing No. 8 Colorado and No. 12 Oregon for their marquee, organizers of the Jan. 1 classic are more hopeful than optimistic.

Without a Texas team in the 60th annual classic, it remains to be seen if enough fans of the Ducks and Buffaloes will migrate south to fill the 68,252

Cotton Bowl seats.

A Texas team has played in all but nine of the 59 Cotton Bowls. And former Southwest Conference-member Arkansas, a close neighbor, played in eight of the nine non-Texas games.

The only game between schools from outside the region pitted Clemson and Boston College in 1940. The game drew 15,000 fans.

"We're going to have to have some sales effort here in the Dallas area in order to fill it up, but we all know what kind of football fans we have here," said John Crawford, president of the Cotton Bowl Athletic Association.

"The fact that we don't have a Texas team — I don't know if we're troubled by that. We've got higher-ranked teams than we've had in a good while."

The Cotton Bowl had featured the SWC champ since 1941, but with the SWC dissolving after this season, that association ended after last season's game between Southern California and Texas Tech.

Under the new Tier 1 Bowl Alliance, the national championship game was awarded to the Fiesta, Orange and Sugar bowls on a rotating basis for three years.

That left the Cotton Bowl to scramble without a corporate sponsor since Mobil Corp. dropped its affiliation in March.

Without Mobil's support, Oregon and Colorado each will receive between \$2 million and \$2.5 million, depending on ticket sales, said Charlie Fiss, media director for the Cotton Bowl. With Mobil's support, Tech and USC each got \$3 million.

Each school is responsible for selling at least 12,500 tickets at \$45 each, Fiss said.

"Oregon is planning on taking more tickets," Fiss said. "The Oregon people are fired up."

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