

Oregon runners secure NCAA Championship bids

■ **TRACK:** Melody Fairchild also earns a trip to the Olympic trials

By Andrea De Young and
Pete Schneider

Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon Invitational showcased many of the top men and women competitors in the nation on Saturday, including two Ducks who gained automatic qualifying numbers for the NCAA Championships.

Senior Melody Fairchild ran a 33-minute, 18.99-second 10,000-meter run, earning her a berth not only in the NCAA Championships, but also qualifying her for the Olympic trials. Fairchild had previously picked up the NCAA indoor title in the 10,000 this season.

Fairchild's teammate, sophomore Milena Glusac, motored her way to a NCAA bid in the 3,000-meter race with a time of 9:13.29, almost six seconds less than the automatic time.

Glusac said the race felt good throughout.

"It felt great, really easy and smooth," Glusac said. "It felt much easier than the indoor meet did. It's good to have a good outdoor meet. It's also much nicer and much more of a relief to have [the NCAA automatic time]."

According to women's head coach Tom Heinonen, other Oregon athletes used the meet to work on events they may not be familiar with.

"In the 4x400-meter relay, [assistant coach Mark Stream] experimented with the runners," Heinonen said. "He gave people challenges. He had Jamila [Godfrey] run the 200 and anchor the 4x400 a few minutes later."

The women's long relay came in first by more than a second and the 4x100-meter relay team also accomplished a first place finish.

Junior Nicole Commissiong and senior LaReina Woods both picked up wins, Commissiong in the 200-meter dash and Woods in the 100.

Sophomore Katie Pearmine gained a NCAA provisional spot in the javelin throw last weekend and had another good performance on Saturday.

"Pearmine had a nice javelin series," Heinonen said. "It confirms that last week wasn't a fluke. She proved that she can do this week after week."

On the men's side, the Oregon Invitational was a time to rest many of the team's top performers — a number of whom have been slowed by a score of nagging injuries — and to stay in condition for the Pepsi Team Invitational next weekend.

Only one Oregon male athlete walked away from the invitational with a nifty duffel bag, which was the reward to the winners of each event on Saturday. The Ducks ran a skeleton crew for the most part, with Oregon athletes competing in only a handful of events.

"We didn't want to push it today," said Damien Smith, who finished fifth for the Ducks in the 400-meter dash. "We want to stay fresh for the Pepsi Invitational next week. I didn't want to take any chances today..."

The big story for the men was the achievement of junior thrower Dusty Carlson in the shot put competition. Carlson set a personal record and eclipsed 60-0 for the first time in his collegiate career.

"Sixty feet is a big barrier for shot putters," said Carlson after his victory lap, celebrating his throw of 60-0 1/4. "The funny thing is that I didn't think it was a 60-foot throw when I let it go. Most of the time, when you have a big throw, you don't even feel it."

Other top Oregon performances, in a field dominated by post-collegians, included a third place finish by junior Jim Lile in the javelin (209-10), and fourth place finishes by senior Tracy Hollister in the 1,500-meter run, freshman Tanner Cropper in the high jump (6-8 3/4), senior Matt Classen in the triple jump (46-5 1/4) and sophomore Jody Mortimore in the long jump (23-5 1/2).



MATHEW STIFFLER/emerald

Jamila Godfrey completes the anchor leg of the winning 4x400-meter relay team on Saturday at the Oregon Invitational.



EN MIN CHANG/emerald

Pitcher Jennie Cook pitched a complete-game shutout for the Ducks in the first game against Arizona State.

Ducks take two from Arizona State

■ **SOFTBALL:** The Sun Devils came into the games ranked No. 20 in the nation

By Chris Hansen
Sports Reporter

When a team is in the midst of seven-game win streak, not only does the team itself have to be playing well, but certain players have to step-up and play above and beyond what is required.

Sunday, as the Oregon softball team swept the doubleheader against No. 20 Arizona State Sun Devils, that player was freshman pitcher Jennie Cook whose two-game statistical total was 8.2 innings pitched, zero earned runs, one complete game shutout, three hits in four at bats, one home run and three RBI.

"Huge," is how head coach Tami Brown summed up Cook's performance. "We need Jennie in every aspect. She is the key position and key person on this team because (everything) stems around pitching."

The shutout and the home run were the first of Cook's career. "The shutout was more pleas-

"We need Jennie in every aspect. She is the key position and key person on this team because (everything) stems around pitching."

— Tami Brown
UO softball head coach

ing," said Cook. "The home run was totally shocking. I knew I hit it hard, but I didn't think it would go over the fence."

Oregon (19-17 overall, 5-5 in the Pacific-10 Conference) has won 12 out of its last 14 games, including the last seven in a row. But Sunday's wins are arguably the most significant because of the Sun Devils' ranking.

The first game was won 2-0 in a duel between pitchers Cook and Arizona State's Carrie Breedlove. Both pitchers went the distance, the difference being a couple of timely two-out hits by Oregon in the second and fourth innings to give the Ducks the slight lead.

That was all that Cook needed, though, as she improved her record to 9-6 and recorded the complete game shutout.

The second game, a 9-3 romp, featured a little more offense for the Ducks as they jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning off consecutive, bases loaded, RBI singles from senior Kim Kampfer and Cook and a sacrifice bunt from senior Trina Salcido.

Oregon scored two more in the third off of Cook's two-run home run, one in the fourth and three more in the sixth.

Sophomore Patrina Martinez threw a solid 5.1 innings to earn the victory, giving up three runs on eight hits before leaving the game with the bases loaded and being replaced by Cook.

The Sun Devils had their chances in both games, but solid defense from the Ducks led the way.

"We did everything well today," said Brown. "We played solid, solid defense. That took the wind out of their sails."

On Friday, the Ducks swept Puget Sound to end their four game road trip a perfect 4-0.