

Oregon cross-country teams head to Regionals

■ RUNNERS:

The Ducks are looking for berths to the NCAA meet

By Ryan Halvorsen
Sports Reporter

The Oregon men and women's cross country teams will face one last stepping-stone in their quests for the NCAA meet at the Region VIII cross country meet this weekend in Fresno, Calif.

The two teams can qualify automatically with a top-two finish at the district race. If a team doesn't finish in the top two, there is still a chance at qualifying for the NCAA Championships with an at-large bid that will be handed out on the Monday following the district meet.

The men aren't even worrying about how they are going to qualify because every member is confident the team will finish in the top two, despite being ranked third in the region behind Portland and Stanford. A big boost for Oregon will be the return of one of its top runners: Matt Davis. Davis

sat out the entire season with a possible stress fracture in his leg, but he is ready to go this week.

"I'm nervously expecting it," Davis said. "I wouldn't have come out of this redshirt season if I didn't think that I could make an impact. I'd forego my personal goals to be a part of a national championship team."

Oregon's Oliver Wirz, a former Portland runner who finished second among the Ducks at the Pacific-10 Conference meet, is looking forward to running against his old team and denying it the automatic bid.

"I know those guys [from Portland], and it would really, really surprise me if they could even keep up with us," Wirz said.

The Oregon women don't have such a clear cut path to the NCAA meet, but rather are hoping for

an at-large bid. If the Ducks placed fourth in the district meet, there would be a good chance of them capturing an at-large bid, head coach Tom Heinonen said.

Even if the team doesn't capture an NCAA berth, several individuals could still qualify. The first three finishers from non-qualifying teams automatically advance, as do six at-large runners selected from across the nation. Oregon's top runner Marie Davis had a strong showing at the Pac-10 meet and likely will advance even if the team doesn't.

"Last year I was afraid going into this meet as a freshman," Davis said. "All of the people I looked up to last year will be on the runway, and I'm even running better than some of them."

The NCAA meet is scheduled for Nov. 25 in Tucson, Ariz.

Ducks win high-scoring exhibition

■ **BASKETBALL:** Oregon used all 12 of its players in the win over China

By Andrea De Young
Assistant Sports Editor

It's almost as if last season never ended. Some of the faces were different, and the opposing team wasn't from the United States much less part the Pacific-10 Conference, but the Oregon men's basketball team looked as if it was ready to take on the world

in its 114-89 win over China August One on Thursday night.

The Ducks jumped out to an early 11-0 lead in the first half. Head coach Jerry Green brought in as many as five reserves at a time, and the Ducks were still able to hold a 33-point lead at halftime.

In the second half, reserve players saw a significant amount of playing time. Although

the Ducks' lead dwindled to 24 points, Oregon took the victory in the exhibition game.

"I thought we came out of the game pretty good," Green said. "We shot around 64 percent in that first half, and as good as our offense was, our defense was just as good."

"In the second half, though, I thought



ANDREW BRACKENSICK/ Emerald

Oregon's Mike Carson goes for the dunk over the team from China on Thursday night. Carson had 12 points off the bench in the game and helped the Ducks win 114-89. Oregon continues its exhibition season against Lithuania on Monday night.

Turn to **BASKETBALL**, Page 12A

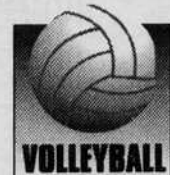
Ducks to battle for Civil War victory

■ VOLLEYBALL:

The last time the teams met, the Ducks took the five-game win

By Andrea De Young
Assistant Sports Editor

Fresh off its ninth win of the season, the Oregon volleyball team travels to Corvallis tonight to play Oregon State.



The Ducks (9-17 overall, 2-13 Pacific-10 Conference) beat the Portland Pilots in four games Wednesday night, 15-7, 9-15, 15-11 and 15-8.

Amy Barnes tied a career-high mark with 23 kills and added 20 digs. Madeline Ernst and Alli White contributed

Turn to **VOLLEYBALL**, Page 12A

UO wrestlers open season this weekend

■ **PREVIEW:** The Ducks return six starters from last year's squad

By Ryan Halvorsen
Sports Reporter

The Oregon wrestlers will get their season under way this weekend when they travel to Ashland for the Southern Oregon Open. The field of 10 teams will feature Oregon State, Stanford, UC-Davis, Pacific Lutheran, Portland State, San Francisco State, Southern Oregon State College, Clackamas Community College and Lassen Community College.

The Ducks will be looking to better their third consecutive fourth-place Pacific-10 Conference and 47th-place national finish this season and might have the personnel to do so. The Ducks have six returning starters this season, including four who qualified for the national meet last year.

Senior Scott Norton is the big name returning for Ore-

gon. Norton is the two-time defending Pac-10 champion at 150 pounds. Three other returning Ducks had 20 or more wins last season. John Taylor (126 pounds), Jeremy Ensrud (134 pounds) and Rich Polkinghorn (heavyweight) will all be solid performers in Oregon's scoring arsenal.

Other Ducks that will be significant contributors this year will be senior Rob Tanner (142 pounds), Kevin Keeney (167 pounds) and Royce Repenn (177 pounds). Also Chael Sonnen, a transfer from Brigham Young University, should strengthen the 190-pound weight class.

Oregon also had a successful year recruiting, signing two high school All-Americans in Doug Lee (177 pounds) from Central Point, Ore., and Jeremy Presta (134/142 pounds) from Missoula, Mont.

After this weekend's match, the Ducks will open their regular season Nov. 30 at the Mat Town Classic in Lockhaven, Penn. Oregon will start its home schedule Dec. 17 with a dual meet.