

## Matt, Marie Davis lead Ducks at NCAA meet

■ **CROSS COUNTRY:**

*Karl Keska finishes a disappointing 34th place for the second year in a row*

**By Ryan Halvorsen**  
Sports Reporter

Oregon's Matt Davis came up big again to lead the men's team at the NCAA Cross Country Championships, and Marie Davis, the only qualifier from the women's team,

accomplished her goal to become an All-American.

Matt Davis led the men Monday to a third-place finish under the 81-degree sun in Tucson. His time of 30 minutes, 43 seconds over the 10,000-meter course placed him fifth, improving on his 15th-place finish from a year ago. The Ducks also improved on its seventh-place from 1995.

"It felt really good," Davis said. "I was really tired at the end, but

still got [past] four guys in the last mile. I just tried to be relaxed and strong and push through it."

Oregon standout Karl Keska equaled his disappointing 34th-place performance from last year and was the third Oregon runner to cross the finish line.

Oliver Wirz finished second for the Ducks and 18th overall, earning himself an All-American honor. Daniel Das Neves finished 51st and Greg James finished 61st to

round out Oregon's scorers.

Marie Davis finished in 18th place, improving her 59th-place finish from a year ago. Davis' time of 18:06 on the 5,000-meter course was just eight seconds out of the top 10, but she was lucky to even make it to the finish line after surviving some early adversity.

"I had a great start, but then I got pushed a little and almost went down at the first turn near 800 meters, but I hung in there and stayed

up," Davis said. "I was a little shaken up, but then realized I had to get going."

Arkansas' Godfrey Siamusiye came away as the men's winner in 29:49, while Stanford grabbed the national title and Arkansas finished second. Arizona sophomore Amy Skieresz was the women's individual winner in a time of 17:04, but Stanford grabbed the team title, and Villanova finished second.

## Ducks open season tonight against SDSU

■ **BASKETBALL:** Oregon has been working on weaknesses in practice

**By Andrea De Young**  
Assistant Sports Editor

Forget China. Forget Lithuania. The real season begins tonight.

The Oregon men's basketball team takes on San Diego State to begin its regular season. The Ducks are coming off of two exhibition wins, but picked up the victories in two different ways.



**Men's Basketball**

- **OPPONENT:** San Diego State
- **TIP-OFF:** 7 o'clock
- **WHEN:** Tonight
- **WHERE:** McArthur Court

Against China, Oregon came out running and looked to be in midseason form as they won 114-89. Although head coach Jerry Green called the defense "lackadaisical in the second half", the Ducks had enough of a lead at halftime to easily put away their opponent.

A few nights later, Oregon struggled to beat the Lithuanians. It took last minute clutch free-throw shooting to pull out the 81-79 victory.

The Ducks have now had a week of practice since closing out the exhibition season. Now they face the Aztecs for the first time since 1982. In that game San Diego State won 49-47.

Last season, the Aztecs finished sixth in the West Coast Conference with a record of 15-14 overall and 8-10 in the conference, but there are many new faces to the team this season. Only two players return as eight new players and two redshirts join the squad.

San Diego State is led by guard Chad

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Jamar Curry (23) and Henry Madden, along with the rest of the Ducks, begin their quest to return to the NCAA tournament after a one-year absence, tonight.

## Aloha Bowl blinded by Cal's Pat Barnes

The Aloha Bowl selection committee blew it. There is pretty much no other way to describe it.

Its decision to take California instead of Oregon for its Christmas Day Bowl game was a slap in the face of the Oregon football players, the coaching staff and particularly, the Oregon football fans in this state and all over the country.

Where's the logic in its decision to take a California team that has lost five out of its last six games?

Did it even bother to look into the fact that the one win the Golden Bears got in that six-game span was a quadruple overtime victory against Arizona, a team that Oregon had no problem pummeling three weeks ago 49-31?

Did it not take into consideration that lowly Oregon State — the same Beaver team that Oregon destroyed 49-13 on Saturday — took California into triple overtime before losing? Obviously not.

And apparently, the Aloha Bowl representative that was in attendance at Autzen Stadium when Oregon kicked California's ass two weeks ago must have been sleeping in the press box.

Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti called the decision a "travesty."

Oregon athletic director Bill Moos called the decision "disappointing."

Add disgusting, idiotic and baseless, and you will still just be skimming the top.

What is really irritating about this whole thing is that Aloha Bowl assistant executive director Marcia Klompus talked out of both sides of her mouth when trying to justify her committee's decision.

Klompus admitted that the primary rea-

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**OPINION**



**Chris Hansen**

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