

BEST BETS



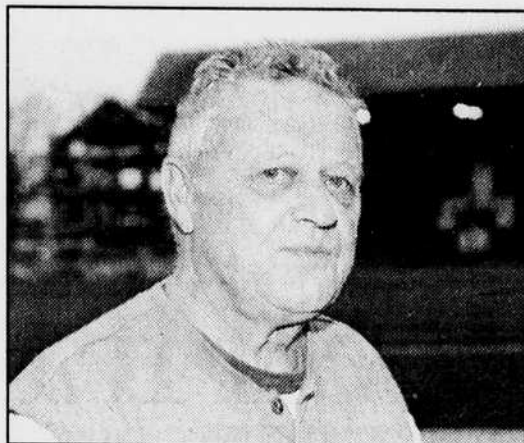
NCAA Men's Basketball
Georgia vs. S. Carolina,
ESPN (34), 6:30 p.m.

SPORTS

Oregon Daily
Emerald



"Some guys dream of being millionaires or whatever. I dreamt of coming to Oregon and being a coach."



"As you get older and older there are more and more things that can happen to you, and most of them are bad...."



"I've been either competing or coaching since I was about 14 years old. So in a way, I look forward to being able to do something different...."

END of an ERA

Legendary track and cross country coach Bill Dellinger ends his long, storied career at the end of the year

By Alex Pond
Sports Reporter

In life, change is imminent. Sometimes for better, sometimes for worse.

And often, change is bittersweet. That is likely to be the case when Bill Dellinger, just the third head coach in the 94-year history of the Oregon men's track and field program, steps off the track and into retirement at the end of the year.

Like so many of the athletes he has guided during his tenure, the 64-year-old Dellinger is in a sense rounding the corner and heading down the final straightaway of his coaching career, recently deciding to call it quits after he guides the Ducks for a 26th season in 1998.

Dellinger found out late last summer that he has prostate cancer, which he says was one of the factors in deciding to retire.

He will coach the Oregon men's cross country team in the fall and officially call it a career on Dec. 31.

In a program rich in tradition, Dellinger has undoubtedly left his mark.

Since taking over for the legendary

Bill Bowerman in 1973, Dellinger has guided the Ducks to an NCAA outdoor track and field title in 1984, to second place in 1973 and to top-10 finishes 12 other times. The Ducks have won four Pacific-8 and Pacific-10 conference titles under his guidance. And Dellinger has coached athletes to 18 individual NCAA titles.

His cross country teams have won four NCAA Championships and 11 Pac-8 and Pac-10 titles.

Involved in the program in some aspect for nearly 35 years of his life, Dellinger has literally done it all in the sport, both as an athlete and a coach.

He was a two-time NCAA champion as an Oregon distance runner from 1953 to 1956 and was a three-time Olympian, winning the bronze medal in the 5,000 meters at the 1964 Olympic Games.

Dellinger cherishes the nearly lifelong relationship he has had with the University.

"This was a dream, you know," he

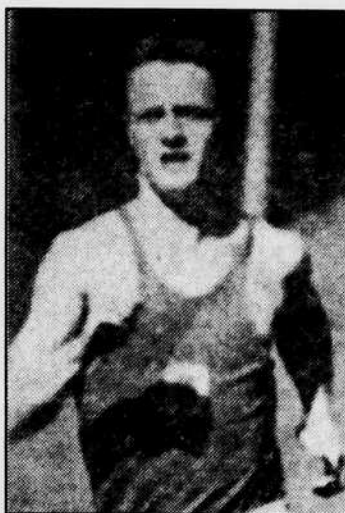
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1956



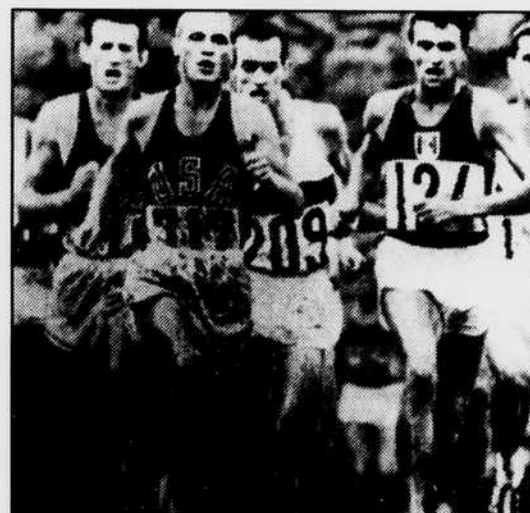
As a sophomore, Dellinger won an NCAA title in the mile.

1956



He took fourth in a race vs. the world mile record holder.

1964



In 1964, Dellinger (No. 717) won bronze in the 5,000 meters on a cinder track in Tokyo.