

Revenge-hungry Ducks upend WSU

The men avenged a one-point loss to WSU in Pullman last season with a 90-73 drubbing of the Cougars on Saturday

By Alex Pond
Sports Editor

The latest two dual-meet editions of the long-standing rivalry between the Oregon and Washington State men's track and field teams can now be labeled bittersweet for the Ducks.

Last season's one-point loss in Pullman — when a post-meet scoring change gave the Cougars the victory — left the Ducks bitter.

After a year of bottling up their frustrations, the Ducks unleashed them Saturday. And payback was



oh-so-sweet.

Oregon won 11 of the 19 events and had several athletes pick up points in multiple events as the Ducks upended the Cougars 90-73.

"We'll take it," said Oregon head coach Bill Dellinger. "It was a good win. We had a lot of good performances from a lot of people."

On a rare spring day with no rain, the meet provided a little of everything.

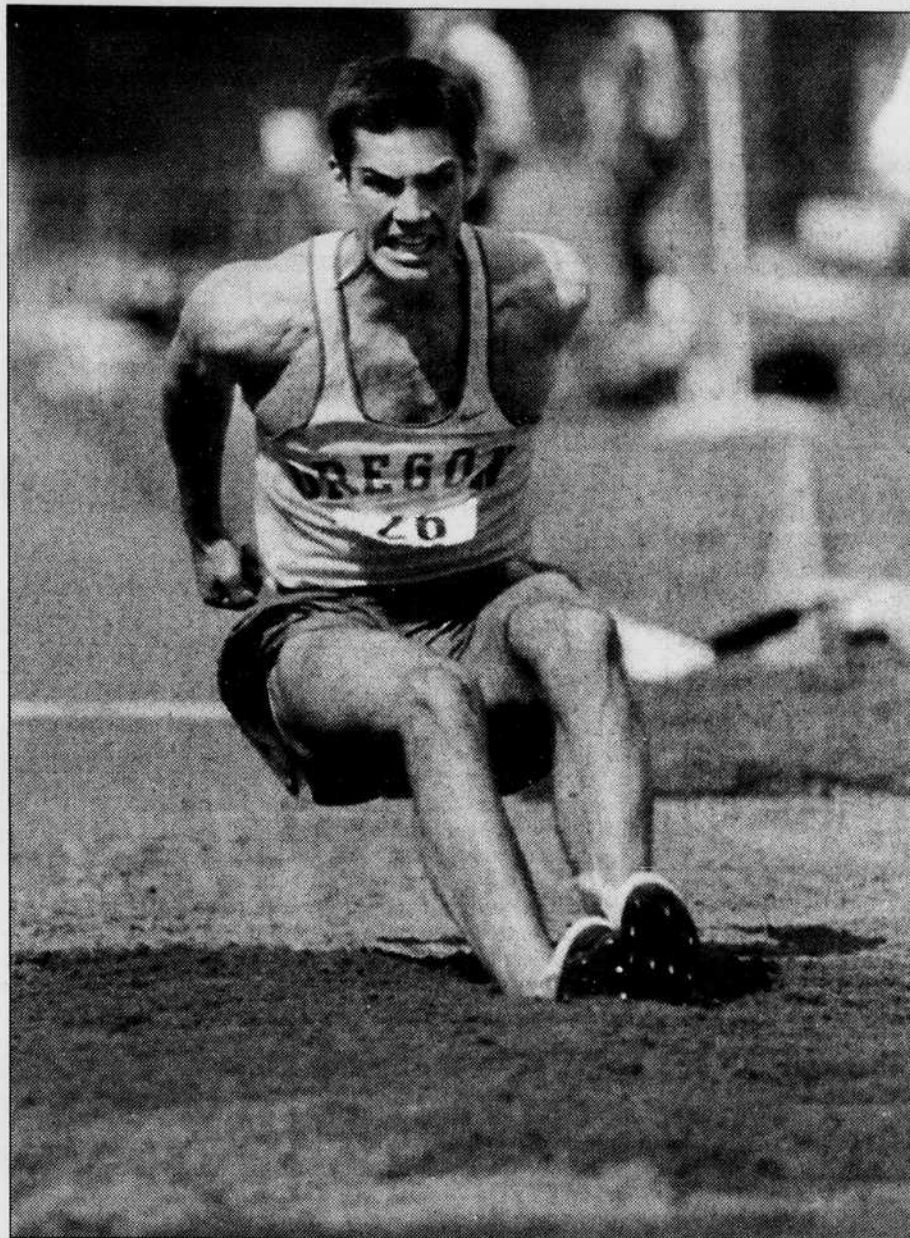
There was the expected, such as Washington State's Ian Waltz winning in the discus and shotput. His 206-foot toss in the discus was a personal best and just two feet, 10 inches off the school record.

There was the unexpected, such as Oregon junior Richard Girvan surprising everyone to win the 800 meters with a time of one minute, 51.50 seconds.

For Girvan, a native of Ireland who arrived at Oregon prior to the start of fall term, it was his first win at Oregon and his first real opportunity to perform in front of a sizable Hayward crowd that numbered 2,518.

"This place has an atmosphere," Girvan said. "In Belfast, I ran in front of two

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Jody Mortimore lands a long jump attempt during the dual meet on Saturday at Hayward Field. Mortimore won the event with a jump of 25 feet, 2 3/4 inches.

NICK MEDLEY/Emerald

Teamwork led the Oregon women to a 91-63 win over Washington State

By Rob Moseley
Sports Reporter

Not a single member of the Oregon women's track and field team recorded a mark worthy of an automatic NCAA qualification at Hayward Field on Saturday.

And after the dual meet with Washington State, not one of the Duck athletes spoke of her own performance in particularly glowing terms.

What was important to the women on this day was avenging their first-ever loss to the Cougars, which came last year in Pullman and ended a



streak of 23 consecutive wins for Oregon.

And avenge it they did with a 91-63 dual meet win that had head coach Tom Heinonen and his athletes basking in the celebration of the team spirit that enveloped the Oregon women on Saturday.

"I'm really proud of the way the team competed," Heinonen said. "You come into this meet hoping to do well and not concentrating too much on marks. But when you give it your all, often the marks will come, too."

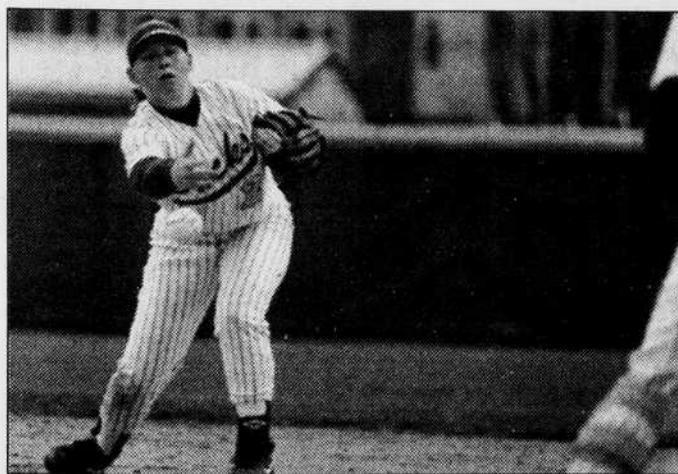
Three Oregon women who did record provisional NCAA qualifying marks were Karis Howell, who won the javelin with a throw of 168 feet, one inch; pole vaulter Karina Elstrom (11-5 3/4); and Marie Davis, whose provisional time of 9 minutes, 36.95 seconds in the 3,000 meters was just her first winning time of the day.

Davis completed an extremely difficult double less than two hours later by winning the 1,500 meters in 4:29.58.

"This is a meet where I realize individual performances aren't really what matter," Davis said. "I wanted to go out there and get 10 points for the team."

Also recording 10 points for Oregon was Tish Henes, who won the 400 meters (54.79) and 400 hurdles (1:01.35) and

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NICK MEDLEY/Emerald

Melinda Walton throws to first base during the second game of the doubleheader against Stanford on Sunday afternoon.

Oregon falls to Stanford in Game 2

The Ducks swept a doubleheader with Cal on Saturday but fell one game short of a weekend sweep of both the Bears and the Cardinal

By Joel Hood
Sports Reporter

For two hours on Sunday, the Oregon softball team was tied for second place in the Pacific-10 Conference.

However, by the end of the day — and a 4-0 Stanford shutout — the No. 21 Ducks had been dropped back to the middle of the pack.

All this despite taking three games from conference powers California and Stanford at Howe Field over the weekend and carrying a .500 Pac-10 record for the first time in three seasons.

So much for wishful thinking.

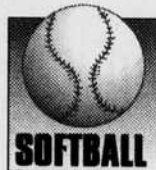
Oregon accomplished three quarters of what it had set out to do this weekend, stealing a pair of one- and two-run games from the No. 17 Golden Bears (22-15 overall, 2-4 Pac-10) on Saturday and pouncing the No. 13 Cardinal (25-7, 6-4) in the first of two games on Sunday.

Each victory put the Ducks (31-14, 4-4) a step closer to postseason play.

"I'm very comfortable with where we are at this point," head coach Rick Gamez said. "We played well; it's just extremely tough to sweep both Cal and Stanford. I'm proud of how far we've come."

Proud, but Gamez grimaced throughout the Ducks' three-error performance in Game 1 and the two errors

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Replacing eight starters is top priority of spring practice

Damon Griffin will return to the Oregon lineup, but Akili Smith remains suspended

Coming off its first bowl victory since 1989, the Oregon football team begins preparation for the 1998 season when it opens spring practice this afternoon.

The Ducks will go through 15 practices in the next four weeks, culminating with the final spring scrimmage in Volcano Stadium in Kaiser on May 2.

Top priority for the Ducks this spring is finding replacements for eight departed starters, including Oregon's single-season rushing leader in running back Saladin McCullough, wide receiver Pat Johnson

and tight end Blake Spence. The three players combined for 4,407 of the Ducks' 6,712 all-purpose yards last season as the Ducks went 7-5 and beat Air Force 41-13 in the Las Vegas Bowl.



The Ducks return 14 starters and 45 lettermen overall from last season's team. In addition, they also regain the services of senior wide receiver Damon Griffin.

Griffin missed all of the 1997 season with a thumb injury after starting six games in 1996, when he was named to the all-Pac-10 second team.

Four players will miss the spring workouts because of injury, including offensive lineman John Bello, linebacker Kamaal Martin, cornerback Davis Sanchez and linebacker Ruben Vaughan.

Quarterback Akili Smith remains suspended indefinitely and currently cannot take part in any team workouts.

Fast Facts

■ **Starters Back:** 18 from 1997, plus Damon Griffin, a 1996 starter

■ **Starters Lost:** 8, including Saladin McCullough, Pat Johnson and Blake Spence

■ **Spring Game** May 2 at Volcano Stadium in Kaiser