

Women: Karis Howell 10th in javelin

Continued from Page 1

déjà vu must have set in for Davis, as Stanford's Monal Chokshi flew past the leaders on the way to a win, just as she did three weeks ago at the Pacific-10 Conference Championships, where Davis finished second.

Chokshi's winning time of nine minutes, 20.18 seconds on Saturday was nearly three seconds better than that of the second place finisher. Davis brought home Oregon's third All-American award in as many days with her fifth-place finish in 9:25.74.

"You have to hand it to her, Marie ran a great race," Oregon head coach Tom Heinonen said. "She wanted to stay clear of trouble but still be in contention. To do so, she had to run a lot of the way in Lane 2 since the running quarters were so tight. That might have cost her some strength at the end since she had to run farther than the others, but she did a great job doing what she could in a race where nobody wanted to lead."

On Friday, Oregon sophomore Karis Howell continued her run of success in the postseason, as she followed up her win at the Pac-10 Championships with a 10th-place finish in Buffalo.

Howell was awarded All-American honors as one of the top eight finishers from the United States. Her mark of 168 feet was fifth best by an American, 16 feet, 8 inches short of the winning throw by SMU's Windy Dean and more than 16 feet farther than her 15-place effort at last year's NCAAAs.

"[After my first two years] this is almost where I want to be throwing-wise," Howell said. "I've continued to get better, faster and stronger, so I have a lot to look forward to next year. I know now, especially after being so close, that I really need to go after it next year — that it's right here."

Oregon's third All-American was senior Jennifer Thomas, who took sixth in the heptathlon on Thursday.

Also on Friday, freshman pole

vaulter Karina Elstrom joined 10,000-meter runner Milena Glusac, 400-meter hurdler Tish Henes and 1,500-meter runner Katie Crabb as those Oregon women who either missed qualifying for finals, as was the case for Henes and Crabb, or couldn't overcome more experienced fields.

Glusac finished 16th in just the second 10,000-meter race of her career, while Elstrom's inexperience showed when, after clearing the opening height of 11-1 3/4, she ran through her first attempt at 11-5, made only a partial attempt on her second effort, then hit the bar on her descent after clearing it on her final try.

"I guess this shows me that I need to work on some other area, like my strength and my speed, so that I can go even higher," Elstrom said. "I know my coaching in regards to vault technique has been great this year, so that wasn't a problem, but this will definitely give me something to work towards next year."



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