

SPORTS



Best Bet

NL Championship Series
San Diego at Atlanta
5:15 p.m., FOX

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OREGON CROSS COUNTRY

Transfer adds depth, character to UO

Junior Steve Fein follows assistant coach Martin Smith from Wisconsin to Oregon

By Scott Pesznecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

Nobody knew exactly what to expect from the Oregon men's cross country team before this season began.

Bill Dellinger, who has coached the Ducks for the last 32 years, had already announced his plans to retire at the end of this season. The athletic department knew that it would have to search for a successor to Dellinger during the season, but at what cost to the team?

And certainly nobody could predict that junior Steve Fein — who earned all-American honors during his freshman year at Wisconsin and is regarded as one of the nation's top distance runners — would be in a Duck uniform midway through the season.

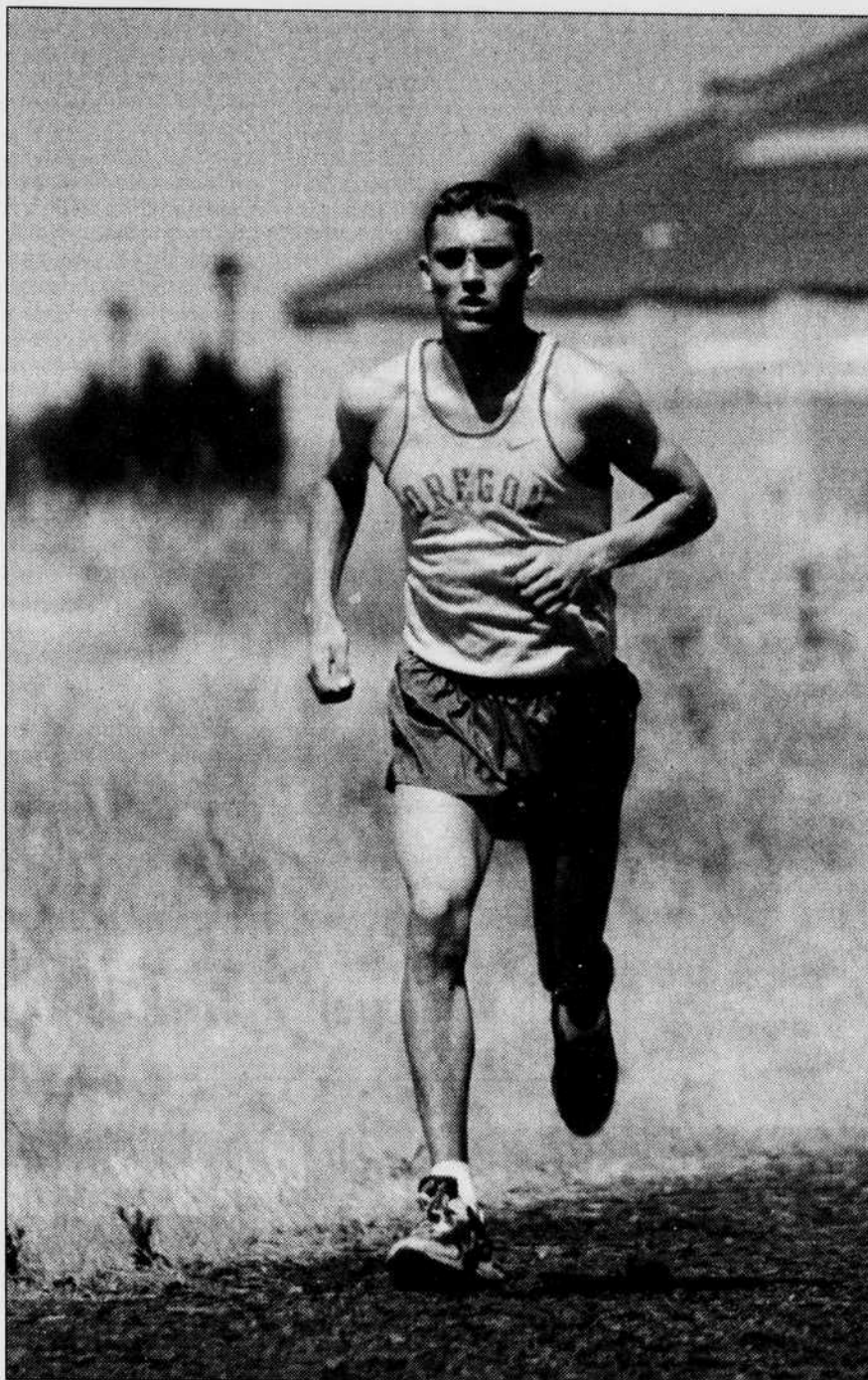
But then again, the greatest gifts are often those you never expect.

Oregon began getting answers to its questions early last summer when it was able to lure Wisconsin's assistant coach Martin Smith to the program with the opportunity to fill Dellinger's shoes next season. Not wanting to run for another coach at this point in his career, Fein decided the best thing would be for him to move to Oregon also.

"We have an extremely good coach/athlete relationship, which is what I always wanted," Fein says. "So far what we've done has been successful, as far as training and racing go. I didn't want to break that bond at this point."

The Ducks hope Fein will be in good enough shape to earn one of the top seven spots on the team's roster by midseason. Smith praises Fein's willingness to learn and says he is always working to better his running skills.

"I've had the opportunity to coach Steve for three years, and over those years he has gradually gotten better and made great improvements in his athleticism," Smith says. "From a coach's per-



Geoff Thurner/Courtesy

Steve Fein, awarded all-American honors in Wisconsin, brings his talents to the Ducks.

Heisman watch begins in Eugene

Akili Smith remains calm amid the talk of his season record thus far

By Rob Moseley
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Akili Smith Heisman Trophy watch may have begun unofficially with Brett Musburger's decree during the Michigan State telecast on Sept. 5, but the Oregon propaganda machine didn't get rolling until this past week.

The athletic department began mailing postcards to the 500 or so members of the award's voting body. The postcards feature an action shot of Smith accompanied by the phrase "Mr. Smith Goes to New York" on the front and updated stats and results on the back.

Despite the public relations frenzy, Smith has remained calm in his preparations for Washington State this weekend.

"I can't really let it get to me right now," said Smith, the nation's No. 1 passer with a 193.1 efficiency rating. "We're 4-0. We've got seven tough games coming up, and October's going to be a real tough stretch for our team. Hopefully we can get on the road and win these tough games."

Smith leads the Pacific-10 Conference in passing efficiency, touchdowns (12), total offense (295.75 yards per game) and passing yardage (284.5 ypg) and has helped the Oregon offense become the second most prolific in the nation.

"I owe a lot to my teammates," the 6-foot-3, 220-pound senior said. "They're doing a great job. I have a great line, and the defense is playing really well. The quarterback is in the middle. If we're winning, the quarterback gets all the praise. If we're losing, everyone points fingers at the quarterback. And that's OK."

Improving O-Line

Speaking of the offensive line, the group of Marco Aguirre, Stefan DeVries, Deke Moen, Michael Klews and either Scott Ferguson or Josh Beckett has played as big a part in the Ducks' early season success as anyone, according to head coach Mike Bellotti.

"The experience factor in that offensive line has been the most important key to our success, because they allow the play to get started, they allow the running backs to get



Turn to CROSS COUNTRY, Page 12

Turn to FOOTBALL, Page 13

Furious final round moves Ducks to 7th-place finish

Duke keeps its day two lead to finish first in the Bama Fall

Preview, followed by Tulsa and Southern California

By Scott Pesznecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

When the golfing got tough, the tough got golfing.

The No. 7 Oregon women's golf team put up a fight on the third day of the Bama Fall Preview in Tulsa, Okla., to finish seventh overall with a final team score of 615.

Playing on rugged terrain after Monday's competition was rained out, Oregon knew that it was in a position to make a statement on the final day of the NCAA's preview tournament.

They did just that.

Oregon's performance on the final day was surpassed only by two other schools, Arizona and Tennessee. The Ducks also managed to move up from the previous day's finish of eighth place.

Karen Bristow and Jerilyn White led the Ducks on the third day of the Preview. Bristow finished in a tie for third place with a

six-over-par 148, and White improved her game seven strokes from the day before, shooting 75 on the day and 157 for the tournament.

After leading the Ducks on day two with a 74, Claire Hunter slipped to a 79 and finished tied for 18th. White and Pam Sowden finished tied for 42nd with a score of 157, and Angie Rizzo finished in a tie for 68th place.



Duke held its lead from day two to win the tournament with a final team score of 606. Tulsa followed in second place with a score of 608, and Southern California finished third with a score of 610.

Tulsa's Nina Laitinen won the tournament's individual title with a two-round score of 144. Furman's Stacey Burnett finished second with a score of 145. Arizona State's Jody Niermann and Duke's

Jenny Chausiriporn and Beth Bauer tied Bristow for third overall with a score of 148.

Before the Preview, Baumgartner said she would be happy if the women finished in the top 10. By finishing seventh, the team continues its successful season.

Perhaps the most important invitational of the season, the Preview gave the women a chance to experience the course that will be the site of the NCAA Championships in November.

The team's first tournament of the year was the Portland Invitational Sept. 28-29 in Aloha. The Ducks finished strongly in that competition, winning first place with a score of 908.

Karen Bristow has been a solid leader for the team, leading Duck scorers in both the Portland Invitational and the Preview.

The women will play next at the Northwest Invitational in Corvallis Oct. 12-13.

Leaderboard

1. Laitinen	144
2. Burnett	145
3. Bristow	148
3. Niemann	148
3. Chausiriporn	148
3. Bauer	148
7. Daniels	149
7. Rosales	149
9. Dalkas	150