Denver vs. Cincinnati Miami vs.

Buffalo

Minnesota vs. Tampa Bay

N.Y. Giants vs.

Washington Jacksonville vs.

Baltimore New England vs. Indianpolis

New Orleans vs. Carolina

Tennessee vs. Pittsburgh

Arizona vs. Detroit

St. Louis vs.

N.Y. Jets vs. Kansas City

San Francisco vs. Green Bay

Oakland vs. Seattle

Associated Press top 25

1. Ohio State 2. UCLA 3. Kansas St. 7-0 4. Tennessee 6-0 5. Florida 6. Florida St. 7-1 7. Nebraska 7-1 8. Wisconsin 8-0 9. Texas A&M 7-1

10. Penn State 11. Georgia

12. Arkansas 6-0 13. Oregon 6-1 14. Virginia

15. Arizona 16. Notre Dame 5-1 17. Virginia T. 6-1 18. Tulane

19. Syracuse 20. W. Virginia 21. Missouri 22. Michigan

23. Air Force 24. Georgia T. 5-2

25. Colorado 6-2

Trivia answer

Bev Smith scored 38 points against Montana on Feb. 5,



Best Bet

Tennis 1998 Eurocard Open 9 am, ESPN

PAC-10 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Oregon runners host Pac-10's best



Andrew Bliss, who led Oregon's second team at the Oregon Invitational two weeks ago, hopes to be among the Ducks' top finishers this

Does cross country still matter at UO?



Hood

Oregon cross country has reached the crossroads.

It has been eight years since the Oregon men have seriously competed for a nation-

The Ducks finished third at the NCAA Championships in 1996, finished fifth overall in 1990 and have failed to crack the top seven on four seperate occasions in the

So on the eve of Bill Dellinger's final home meet in his 32-year head coaching career, there are those who wonder if the best days of men's and women's cross

country at Oregon have gone by. And probably a lot more who could care less either

On Wednesday, sitting on a stiff wooden bench sandwiched between the Bowerman Building and the East end of Hayward Field, Dellinger was asked if the sport of cross country still mattered to the University of Oregon?

He gave a refreshingly honest answer. Cross country is the most successful program in the history of this school," he said. "But we have never really been recognized for it in our own community. We've

Turn to HOOD, Page 18A

The Ducks are coming prepared to face the competition in this years championships

By Scott Pesznecker

Call the Pacific-10 Championships the beginning of the final chapter for the Oregon men's cross country team.

The story of this year's team picked up where last season left off. The 1997

Ducks made a run at the national title but fell short, finishing eighth at the NCAA Championships Greenville, S. C.

But this season has been a different story

The No. 3 Ducks have the weapons needed to win a title. Oregon is stronger than ever with three all-Americans, including Mathew Davis, Oliver Wirz and Steve Fein, who transferred from Wisconsin earlier



Women's Xcountry Marie Davis leads

the Ducks into the Pac-10s this week-

story on Page 19

in the season. Oregon also has an advantage that no other team has; a team chemistry that is magnified by the fact that this will be head coach Bill Dellinger's last year coaching the Ducks.

On Saturday, the Ducks will run in the Pac-10 Championships at Alton Baker Park. The meet will be Oregon's first major stepping stone toward the NCAA Championships, which will be held Nov. 23. The men's race will begin at 11:30 a.m..

However, every good story has an antagonist. No. 1 Stanford dominated Oregon with a score of 80-103 at the Pre-NCAA Invitational in Lawrence, Kan., and they would not mind repeating that

Turn to CROSS COUNTRY, Page 18A

Struggling Ducks aim to break scoring slump

Oregon looks to end a five-game losing streak by putting away both Arizona and Arizona State

By Tim Pyle

According to forward T.J. Johnson, going backward is not an option.

With that in mind, the Oregon women's soccer team is determined to break a fivegame losing streak by defeating Arizona for the second straight season in a Pacific-10 Conference game that kicks off at 2 p.m. today at Papé Field. Oregon will close out its home season at 3 p.m. on Sunday by trying to take a step forward against Arizona State, which it lost to, 2-0, in 1997.

"Our focus has been showing the teams that beat us badly last year that we're totally different," Johnson said. "So this weekend it's not redeeming ourselves with [Arizona], it's showing them that we deserved it last year. With ASU, we are redeeming ourselves because we had a great game on Friday night against Arizona last year, and then, by the time Sunday came, we were a totally different team."

After beating Oregon State, 3-0, on Oct. 9 to start the Pac-10 season off on a winning note, the Ducks (4-8-2 overall, 1-4 Pac-10) have been shut out in four of the five games

that make up their losing straight conference games.

Head coach Bill Steffen said the scoring drought has weighed heavily upon his attacking players.

"It almost becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy," Steffen said. "When you don't score, people realize you're not scoring, and then you feel like, 'I'm scared of trying to score because I don't want to mess up.' We have to have individuals step up and say, 'I'm going to be the person who scores. I'm going to be the one who does it."

Forwards Chalise Baysa, Erin Anderson

Turn to SOCCER, Page 24A



Leading scorer Chalise Baysa, a freshman forward who has tallied seven goals for 14 points, will play a big role in Oregon's attempt to end a long scoring drought.