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Cross country

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Davis said the Ducks are not intimidated by the Cardinal.

We have the capability to run with Stanford," Davis said. "In running, it doesn't matter how good you are. You're only as good as the day you race.'

Davis and Fein will lead the Ducks into tomorrow's meet. Also running will be Rob Aubrey, Micah Davis, Greg James, and Lincoln Nehring. Andrew Bliss earned the seventh spot on the roster by finishing fifth overall at the Oregon Invitational.

In most cases, the hometeam has an edge over the competition because it would be familiar with the playing grounds. However, the squad that will run on Saturday — with the exception of Bliss sat out of the Oregon Invitational to rest.

'We won't have any advantage racing at home because we haven't even ran on the course

66 We have the capability to run with Stanford. "

> **Matthew Davis** Oregon runner

yet," Dellinger said. "But we will be accustomed to the weather and the terrain.'

For many members of the cross country team, the start of next season will mark the beginning of yet another story. But this year's story has been special, and the Ducks would like to finish it with happy ending.

"It will be a fun way for Dellinger to go out in his last home meet," Davis said. "He's the coolest coach you can run for. For our team to do well, people will have to step forward. I'd be flaming if we didn't get second."

Hood

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been recognized plenty outside the state for our accomplishments, but never really at home."

The hey day of men's cross country at Oregon ran from about the late 1960s, when Dellinger first took over the head coach position, to the mid-to-late 1970s. During that stretch, the Ducks won four NCAA Championships and finished second six times.

Those were great Oregon teams, comprised of some exceptional individual athletes: Steve Prefontaine, Ken Moore, Rudy Chapa and Alberto Salazar just to name a few.

But it has been nearly a decade since Oregon cross country was a force on the national level. Stanford, the two-time defending national champion, and Arkansas, which won the the four previous NCAA titles before the Cardinal, are the new kings of the sport.

But does anyone care?

"I've always thought of cross country as just the foundation of track and field," Dellinger said. "It's never really bothered me that we haven't gotten the recog-

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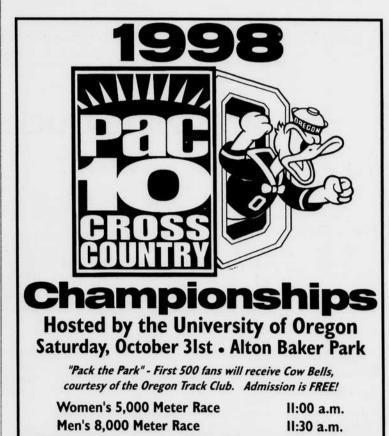
> **Bill Dellinger** Oregon head coach

But it should.

Oregon has never before hosted a Pacific-10 Conference Championship in cross country, before this Saturday's race at Alton Baker Park. And it has still never come close to hosting a regional or national meet.

Part of the problem is the weather. Part of the problem is politics, but Oregon — arguably the most successful cross country team in the history of the sport - has never been able to run a big meet with a home-field advantage. Yet they've been able to win year in and year out.

"Imagine what people would say about the athletic tradition at this school if our football or basketball teams had had that much success," Dellinger said.



For more information, call the **Duck Athletic Department 541-346-5417**