

Women's team places fifth in Pac-10

By Scott Pesznecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

Fittingly, it was a dark and rainy afternoon when Oregon hosted the Pacific-10 Conference Championships at Alton Baker Park on Saturday.

The Ducks finished second at the Oregon Invitational on the same course two weeks ago, despite many of its top runners being stricken with colds and the flu.

On Saturday, though, it seemed as if the Oregon women's cross country team was ready to beat up on some unsuspecting Pacific-10 Conference competitors. Gone were the illnesses that held them back in the weeks before.

But when the race was over, the Ducks did not feel well.

Oregon finished in fifth place with a final team score of 125 points. The No. 16 Ducks were three points shy of catching No. 15 Arizona State.

"We almost got fourth place, and

only one of our runners felt that she ran well," coach Tom Heinonen said. "I think we are a better team than we showed today, and now we've got to prove it."

Unfortunately, the Ducks must prove themselves again at the West Regional Championships Nov. 14, with their hopes of going to the NCAA Championships on the line. It's no secret the Ducks would like to beat Arizona State at the regionals.

"I feel like we could have competed better," Marie Davis said. "I hope we can move up farther, and I feel like next time we can catch [Arizona State]."

Davis finished fifth overall to lead the Ducks with a time of 17 minutes, 31 seconds. But she was not satisfied with her performance and suggested that "maybe

it was the cold" that slowed her.

"I gave it my best, but I wasn't pleased with the outcome," Davis said. "This probably wasn't one of my best races. Mentally, it was there. I could hear every cheer from the crowd, and that helped me, but it was a tough race."

Heather McMahon put out a good effort for the Ducks, placing 22nd with a time of 18:16. She said the team has improved a lot, but "the Pac-10 is a tough conference."

No. 2 Stanford won the meet with a final score of 53. Washington finished in second place, and Arizona placed third.

Amy Skieresz held a commanding lead over the competition throughout the race, winning the women's individual title with a time of 16:59. Stanford's Julia Stamps and Sally Glynn took home second and third place, respectively. Fourth place went to Jennifer Smith of Washington.



News briefs

Golf team eliminated from championships

The Oregon women's golf team will not win the Rolex National Match Play Championship this season.

But when No. 6 Oregon faces No. 4 Texas today in the final round of play, the Ducks will have a shot at finishing in fourth place.

Head coach Renee Baumgartner is proud of her team.

"We're playing very close," Baumgartner said. "We have played well all weekend, and we need to play well tomorrow if we're going to beat Texas."

Oregon won five straight matches to beat No. 7 Furman on Sunday afternoon.



"All the girls played really well, and they finished strong," Baumgartner said. "Karen Bristow and Jerilyn White won their matches, which is a tribute to how well they're playing."

Baumgartner said that beating Texas would be a great finish for the Ducks but that defeating the higher-seeded team will be a chal-

lenge.

"The most important thing for us to do will be to get off to a good start and finish well," Baumgartner said. "In match play, if you do that you will win because it puts a lot of pressure on your opponents."

Southern California and No. 1 Duke will play today for the team title. No. 5 Louisiana State and No. 2 Arizona will square off for third place, while No. 8 Florida will fight Furman for seventh place.

Oregon lost to No. 3 Southern California on Saturday in the first round to be eliminated from the championship match.

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