

Men's, women's teams qualify for NCAA championships

The men finished second behind Stanford, while the women finished with a close fourth place

By Scott Peszner
Oregon Daily Emerald

When the Oregon men's and women's cross country teams traveled to Fresno, Calif., to compete at the NCAA West Regional meet last Saturday, only one thing was for certain — success was a must.

Both Oregon teams have made it their goal this season to compete in the NCAA Championships, which will be held in Lawrence, Kan., on Nov. 23. But the prestigious national competition can only be reached by a strong performance at the regionals.

And a strong performance is exactly what the Ducks delivered. At the regional meet, the men's and women's teams both qualified for the NCAA Championships.

The men finished in second place with a final team score of 65 points, advancing to the national competition for the fourth consecutive year. No. 2 Stanford won the meet with a final score of 37.

"We completed our objective, which was to qualify," men's head coach Bill Dellinger said. "We would have liked to have been a little closer in second place, but our guys ran well. They did what they had to do, which was qualify."

Senior Matthew Davis led the Ducks, finishing third overall with a time of 30 minutes, 37 seconds. Davis' performance made it his best-ever regional meet, surpassing his fifth-place performance in 1996.

Davis' time was even more impressive considering he had not worked out all week as he was suffering from a cold.

"He had a cold all week, so he was not able to do his normal workouts," Dellinger said. "He ran

very well. He's getting over his cold, but he's still coughing a lot. I didn't know how well he would run because he had no workouts, but he ran very well."



Following Davis was Steve Fein and Rob Aubrey. Fein finished eighth overall with a time of 30:53 and Aubrey, who was also sick and did not work out last week, finished in 30:58.

Andrew Bliss, who earned a spot on the active roster at the Oregon Invitational on Oct. 17, contributed to the effort by finishing 22nd. Micah Davis finished in 23rd. Lincoln Nehring and Adam Bergquist finished but did not score for the Ducks.

"Adam got a cramp in his hamstring, and Lincoln didn't have the best race of his season," Dellinger said. "Other than that,

the guys ran well."

Washington State finished the meet in third place with a score of 129, and Arizona finished in fourth place with 133. Arizona's Abdi Abdirahman won the individual title with a time of 30:06.

The women finished in fourth place with a final team score of 118, falling short of third place Washington, which finished with a score of 110. The team's performance earned the Ducks an at-large invite to the NCAA Championships.

"Our goal was to place better individually than we did at the [Pacific-10 Conference Championships]," women's head coach Tom Heinonen said in a released statement. "We did that even with 120 more runners in this race."

The No. 16 Ducks accomplished another goal at the regionals by beating No. 14 Arizona State. The Sun Devils beat the Ducks on two previous outings this season, including the Pacific-

10 Conference Championships at Alton Baker Park on Oct. 31.

"We jumped past Arizona State in the qualifying race and beat the other teams we had to beat," Heinonen said in a released statement. "This was a really good step at a critical time for us, and after the race the women were really exhilarated."

Marie Davis posted her best finish at a regional competition by placing fourth overall with a time of 16:58. Heather McMahon also set a new personal best at a regional with a 17th-place finish in 17:27.

Liz Howell finished in 29th, Katie Crabb finished 33rd, and Annie Ebner rounded out the team with a 37th-place finish. Robyn Sutherland and Lisa Jansen did not score.

The Wildcats won the women's race with a score of 78. Arizona's Amy Skiersz won the individual title with a time of 16:26.

Two Kentucky football players involved in fatal car accident

By Tim Whitmire
The Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — A truck carrying two Kentucky football players on a deer-hunting trip flipped on a rural highway Sunday, killing one of them and injuring starting center Jason Watts.

Another man, who was not on the team, was also killed in the early-morning accident in which the pickup truck veered off the highway and then swung back onto the road before rolling over.

Killed were Arthur Steinmetz, 19, of Edgewood, a defensive line-

man, and Scott Brock, 21, of Hyden.

Watts, the driver, was in fair condition Sunday after being airlifted to Lexington's University of Kentucky Medical Center from Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital in Somerset. Brock and Steinmetz were pronounced dead at the scene.

Watts suffered a severe laceration of his forearm and was to have surgery Monday to begin cleaning the wound and repairing the damage, Kentucky athletic director C.M. Newton said at a Sun-

day evening news conference.

Kentucky's director of media relations, Rena Vicini, said about two dozen teammates had come to see Watts in the emergency room Sunday.

Watts was aware of what had happened and was grieving, said Newton. Vicini described the scene as "very emotional."

The accident occurred just hours after Kentucky (7-3) defeated Vanderbilt 55-17 on Saturday at Commonwealth Stadium. Watts was one of the players honored during Senior Day cere-

monies on the field that were attended by his parents.

Pulaski County Sheriff Sam Catron said the accident happened about 60 miles south of Lexington.

Catron said the 1985 Chevy truck in which the men were traveling drifted onto the shoulder of the road. Watts apparently got the truck back on the pavement but overcorrected, sending it across the two-lane highway and off the other side, throwing all three men from the vehicle, Catron said.

None were wearing seat belts.

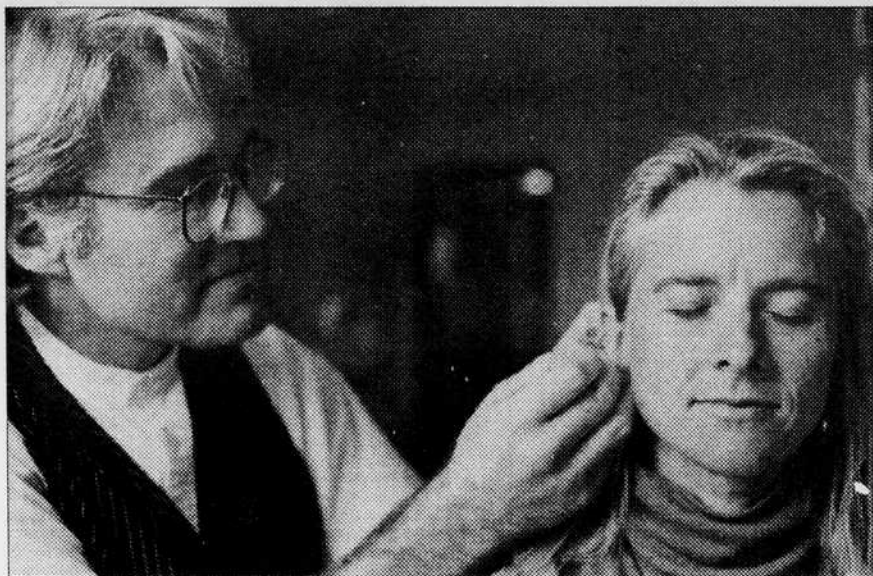
According to Newton, Watts walked to a nearby farmhouse for help. In addition to the cut to his forearm, which stretched from his elbow to his wrist, Watts suffered a number of bruises and other cuts.

Catron said the weather was clear at the time and police were investigating. He said investigators took blood samples from Watts for alcohol testing, a routine step in such cases.

Newton said he had been given no indication alcohol was involved in the accident.

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