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## Davis

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for Bill, and that is it. The school came second, to be honest."

Davis had an opportunity to lead the Ducks as a freshman when teammate Karl Keska was injured. He seized the opportunity and led the team throughout his debut season.

Now a senior, Davis is Oregon's top runner and has led the Ducks in each of his meets this season. Davis still has a chance to expand the greatness of his season with a top-five finish at the NCAA Championships in Lawrence, Kan., next Monday.

"He gets a lot of respect from rest of the team, and his leadership has been invaluable over the years," Dellinger says. "Most of the other runners respect him very much, and to be respected by your peers is the highest honor you can have, and that's what Matthew has had all the time he's been here."

Davis' success did not come easy. During his senior year of high school, Davis had to undergo foot surgery that sidelined him for his senior season of track. Since that season, Davis has had 10 surgeries performed on him.

"I've had lots of injuries, but every year I run faster, and my places get higher," Davis says. "My biggest improvement is in my patience. The injuries I have had require me to have more patience and persistence. I would like to be seen as a guy who has never given up."

But between surgeries, Davis has been a key member of the

team. Dellinger says injuries have never stopped Davis from improving his skills.

"He is an example of the type of guy I like to work with, and it has not been an easy road for Matthew," Dellinger says. "He's been plagued with injuries, but he's also very talented and has qualities that I think are required to be a good distance runner. He has patience, perseverance and talent, as well as desire and dedication."

While Dellinger was the force that drew Davis to Oregon, Davis says it was Tyson who was responsible for turning him into a runner.

Perhaps Tyson was able to see through Davis' "crazy" exterior because he had past experiences with wild runners. For a portion of his time at Oregon, Tyson was a teammate and roommate of the legendary Steve Prefontaine.

"There were some similarities [between Prefontaine and Davis]," Tyson says. "They are both thick runners physically; they have wrestling bodies. Mentally, they don't like to lose. If they were to arm wrestle, they would beat 99 percent of all their guys."

As for the future, Davis is not sure where his path will take him after his Oregon career, but he says he would like to continue running if it is possible. Until his senior year is over, Davis says he does not want to think about what lies ahead — he does not want to miss the opportunities that present themselves along the way.

## Ducks

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factor in that match, but all three games were pretty close. This match is going to come down to who can make plays under pressure."

For Oregon State to get its third win and avoid last place, it will be with its blocking. Middle blocker Selina Scoble is second in the Pac-10, averaging 1.61 blocks per game. The team is second in the conference, averaging 3.21 blocks per game.

The Ducks will attack Oregon State's blocking game with Ernst and White, who rank third and ninth, in the Pac-10 in kills per game. Oregon has recorded the most kills by any conference team.

"We are teams of opposite strengths," Nelson said. "We need to rise to the challenge of their ability to block and get some good efforts by our hitters."

## Sports briefs

### Oregon equestrian in Utah

Thirteen members of the Oregon Club Sports equestrian team will compete against Brigham Young in Provo, Utah, this weekend in one of the team's last shows of the fall.

Oregon will compete in both English and Western equitation. The team will also compete in English jumping classes.

Oregon's final fall show will be in Davis, Calif., on Dec. 12 against a variety of teams from the West Coast.

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