

SPORTS

FRIDAY
November 20, 1998

TRIVIA QUESTION

How many NCAA appearances has the Oregon men's cross country team made under coach Bill Dellinger?

the Box

NFL: Week 12

Green Bay vs. Minnesota

Detroit vs. Tampa Bay

Philadelphia vs. N.Y. Giants

Jacksonville vs. Pittsburgh

Seattle vs. Dallas

Indianapolis vs. Buffalo

Chicago vs. Atlanta

Arizona vs. Washington

Carolina vs. St. Louis

Oakland vs. Denver

Kansas City vs. San Diego

N.Y. Jets vs. Tennessee

Baltimore vs. Cincinnati

New Orleans vs. San Francisco

Sagarin Rankings

1. Kansas St. 10-0
2. UCLA 9-0
3. Tennessee 9-0
4. Florida 9-1
5. Florida St. 10-1
6. Arizona 10-1
7. Nebraska 8-3
8. Oregon 8-2
9. Texas A&M 10-1
10. Ohio St. 9-1
11. Arkansas 8-1
12. Wisconsin 9-1
13. USC 7-3
14. Texas 7-3
15. Missouri 7-3
16. Georgia 7-2
17. Penn St. 7-2
18. Air Force 9-1
19. N. Dame 8-1
20. Kentucky 7-3
21. Tulane 9-0
22. Michigan 8-2
23. Purdue 7-4
24. Syracuse 6-3
25. Tex. Tech. 7-3

Trivia answer

It has made 25 appearances.



Best Bet

College Basketball
Michigan State at Temple
4:30 p.m., ESPN

"He is an example of the type of guy I like to work with, and it has not been an easy road for Matthew."

Bill Dellinger
Oregon head coach

Davis key ingredient for Ducks

After 10 surgeries to repair an injured ankle, Davis has returned this season to lead the Ducks to the NCAAs

By Scott Pesznecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

When Matthew Davis became a freshman at Mead High School in Spokane, Wash., he was not the running type. Rather than using his legs, Davis could be found cruising around his high school campus on a skateboard.

That soon changed.

Although he didn't know it, Davis was being watched by Pat Tyson, Mead High School's track and cross-country coach, who remembered how successful

Matthew's brother, Nathan, had been at the same school. Tyson recalled Matthew's early days, describing him as "a crazy kid."

Eventually, Tyson invited Davis to attend some running workouts. He was very impressed by the freshman's 4 minute, 50 second mile.

"He had an excitement about running," Tyson says. "During his sophomore year, he started doing running workouts, and he impressed the seniors because he was able to keep up with them."

Davis only got better.

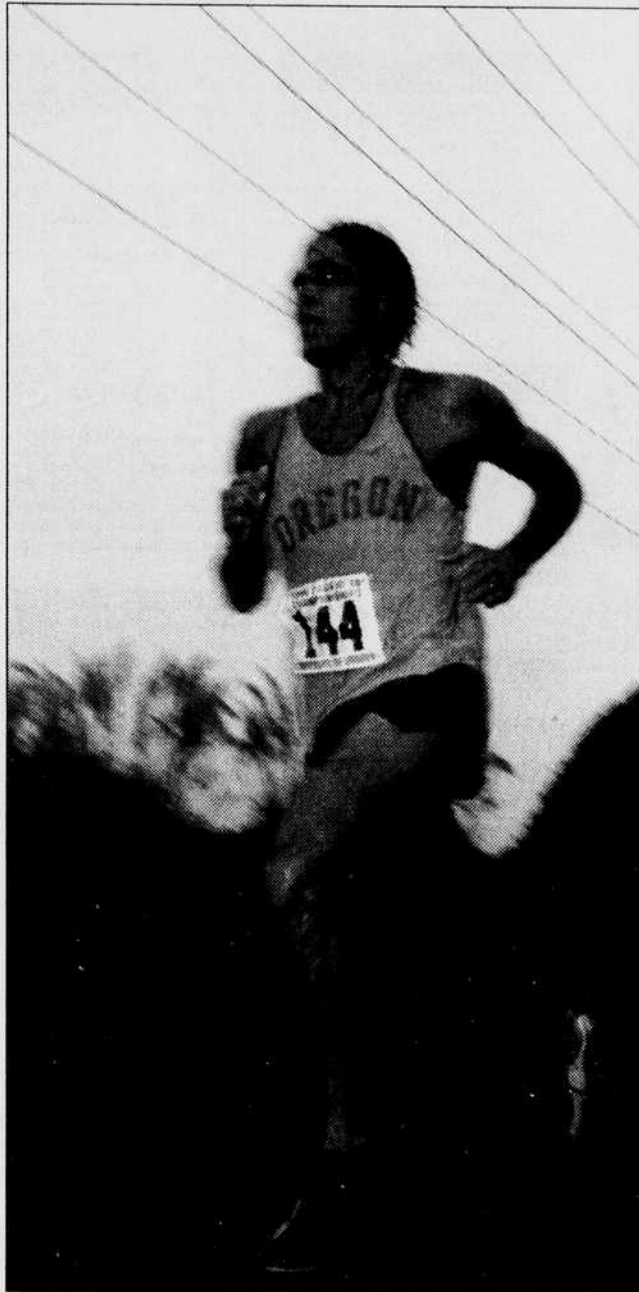
By the time he graduated from Mead, Davis had led the track program to three consecutive state championships.

Despite his success in high school, Tyson says Davis did not have serious plans to run in college. That was before Davis attended the Oregon Track Camp, where he met Oregon coach Bill Dellinger for the first time.

From that moment, Davis made up his mind to run for the Ducks.

"I knew him and the team beforehand, and that is why I wanted to come down here," Davis says. "I came to run

Turn to DAVIS, Page 10A



Senior Matthew Davis, Oregon's top finisher at the Pac-10 Championships, leads the Ducks into the NCAA Championships in Lawrence, Kan., Monday.

Oregon ready to attack Oregon State

The Ducks are looking for their fourth Pac-10 win against the Beavers tonight

By Allison Ross
Oregon Daily Emerald

It would be the perfect end to a not-so-perfect season. It would bring things full circle.

The Oregon volleyball team swept rival Oregon State in its first Pacific-10 Conference match of the season Sept. 18. The Ducks travel to Corvallis tonight for their final conference match and are hoping to end the same way they began — with a victory.

If Oregon (8-20 overall, 3-14 Pac-10) can find a way to win, it will be its fourth Pac-10 win of the season, something the Ducks have not done since Cathy Nelson became head coach.

"I would like to think that serves as motivation," Nelson said. "This match is important, and it will generate momentum going into next year."

For Oregon seniors like Alli White and Madeline Ernst, who face their rivals for the last time tonight, a four-win season would be a sweet ending to three bittersweet seasons.

"The team gets so pumped up for Oregon State," White said. "It's fun to end with your rival, and to get that fourth win is something everyone wants. It really serves as motivation for us."

White, who suffered a concussion last week against California, has been practicing this week and will be ready to play tonight.

Oregon State is in the midst of a three-game losing streak after falling to California and No. 4 Stanford last week. With those losses, the Beavers dropped to last place in the Pac-10. But a victory against the Ducks would even the two schools' records and create a tie for ninth place, which, according to Oregon State head coach Jeff Mozzochi, is better than last place.

The Beavers are composed of five freshmen, five sophomores and three juniors, which has had an impact on the team's success. After a season of struggle, however, Mozzochi said that they have been able to gain experience and that they have a shot at defeating Oregon.

"We've matured since we last played Oregon," Mozzochi said. "Inexperience was a big

Turn to DUCKS, Page 12A

Ducks set to hit the mats as wrestling season begins

Oregon hopes to improve over last year as it readies for the Southern Oregon Open

By Scott Pesznecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

Last season, the Oregon wrestling team sent six wrestlers to the NCAA Championships.

The bad news, if you can call it that, was that only two returned with All-American honors.

The good news is that one of those All-Americans returns this season, along with a few other key characters from last year's team.

Chael Sonnen finished eighth at the NCAA finals last season while posting a 23-second pin in his first match of the tournament. He said the Ducks have the potential to go further this season.

Whether they can will be gauged Saturday, when the Ducks travel to Ashland to compete at the Southern Oregon Open. The tournament will not score teams on overall performance but will focus on the individual wrestlers.

"It is the first main tournament of the year, and there are a lot of Pacific-10 Conference schools that go," Sonnen said. "We would like to go and do well anytime we compete, obviously. At the same time, this will let us know where we are and where they are."

The Ducks would like to redeem themselves for last season's disappointing post-season. Heavyweight Kevin Keeney said the team has the

potential to be a force at the Pac-10 Championships and post a top-10 NCAA finish.

"I think we can do that; we have a lot of good wrestlers and great practices, and we seem to be getting better every day," Keeney said. "It's good that we're going into the competition part of the season so we can measure ourselves and see how good we really are."

First-year head coach Kearney said Sonnen, who ranks fourth in the nation at 190 pounds, is one of four core wrestlers from last season. The other three wrestlers are 157-pound Daryl Christian, 165-pound Sean Morgan and 184-pound Doug Lee.

"We've got four guys who are kind of the core group, and obviously we want to turn that number into a seven or eight number," Kearney said. "We've got three freshmen starting for

us at 125, 133 and 141 pounds. We're hoping that, as those guys progress, they will step into the core group."

This is the first season with the NCAA's rule that wrestlers must weigh into their weight class an hour before the match. Under the old rule, a wrestler could weigh in as much as a week prior to his match and then spend the rest of the week adding weight.

Because there is little or no recovery time in an hour, many wrestlers have been forced to change the way they keep their weight off.

"We need to be able to keep our weight down for weigh-ins and stay healthy," Keeney said. "An hour is not enough time to recover. You need to have your body down at your weight class all year round. If you cut a lot of weight, you're not going to be able to compete as best as you can."

