



Nick Medley/Emerald

Sophomore high jumper Kyley Johnson will look to improve his career-best mark of 7 1/2 feet at Washington State this Saturday.

UO seeks revenge in Pullman

A controversial 1997 loss at WSU has Oregon looking for a reprisal

By Allison Ross
Oregon Daily Emerald

The last time the Oregon men's track team traveled to Pullman, Wash., to compete against the Cougars, a controversial referee's decision declared after the meet reversed an Oregon victory.

Although that one-point loss was two years ago — and is Washington State's only win against Oregon since 1990 — the Ducks have not forgotten the loss and are looking for revenge.

Oregon's chance to redeem itself will come on Saturday when the Ducks travel to Pullman to compete at Moobery Track in the Washington State/Idaho Triangular.

"We lost to them by one point, and it was a meet that we should have won," Oregon senior Will Driessen said. "You want to go out and win especially because of the rivalry with Washington State."

Driessen will lead Oregon in the sprints and will anchor both hurdle events. In the 1997 meet, Driessen won the 400 hurdles with a time of 53.37 seconds.

Four of Oregon's best distance runners — NCAA qualifiers Matthew and Micah Davis, Steve Fein and Oliver Wirz — will not be competing in Saturday's meet as they recover from last weekend's Stanford Invitational. Competing for Oregon in the 3,000 meters will be junior Sam Hill and senior Derek Schueren.



Junior Laird Prosser, who is ranked sixth among conference returnees in the 1,500 meters, will look to improve on his third-place finish in the 1,500 at Pullman in 1997. Seniors Ross Dammann and Rob Aubrey join Prosser in the 1,500 meters.

One of Oregon's top middle-distance runners, Richard Girvan, was not part of the track program in 1997, but the senior from Ireland is well aware of the implications this meet brings.

"This is such a big rivalry that goes way back," Girvan said. "We are going to try and turn them over on their home track, but it does make a difference with them being at home."

Despite missing the 1997 fiasco,

Girvan was successful last season at the dual meet with Washington State at Hayward Field. Girvan won the 800-meters race with a time of 1:50.42 and on Saturday will be looking for his second straight victory against the Cougars.

But Girvan also knows that a team victory is equally as important.


"If we can get a win under our belt it will help our confidence," Girvan said. "Everyone wants to beat Washington State. We won't be as fresh for later meets, but it's important to get a win."

Also competing in the 800 meters are senior Greg James and junior Todd Humcke.


In the field events, Oregon boasts three-time All-American pole vaulter Piotr Buciarski and freshman John Bello, who is also a member of the Ducks football team.

Although Oregon wants a win to erase the memories of a victory that slipped through its fingers, Driessen said, it is also a chance for the Ducks to prepare for bigger meets later in the season.

"It's a chance to get some decent times," Driessen said, "but any time there is competition I want to come across the finish line first."



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