

Sports

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Editor in chief: Laura Cadiz
Sports Editor: Tim Pyle

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8 p.m., FoxSports Northwest



Tomey nervous about UO



PAC-10 NOTES

Mirjam Swanson

Dick Tomey has his charges sweating down in Tucson, Ariz. First, the Wildcats' upcoming date with Oregon has reportedly poured some nervous energy into the Arizona camp.

With five games left in the regular season, Arizona, the preseason No. 3 pick, is desperate to make up for a disenchanting 2-2 start with a strong finish.

But before the 'Cats can do that, they'll have to deal with the Ducks on Saturday night.

And that has Arizona concerned.

Tomey broke it down like this to the Arizona Republic: "With [Oregon] coming off a bye, to me, this is the biggest challenge we've had all year."

Bigger than the Wildcats' season-opening matchup with Penn State, which became a high-profile embarrassment as the Nittany Lions bowled over Arizona?

Yes, probably, considering the implications the game could have on either team's chances at a Pacific-10 Conference title.

ference title.

Tomey continued: "We all know how we felt against [Southern California] with an extra week of rest. [The 'Cats won 31-24.] Plus, Oregon's coming off two straight losses, which will make them extraordinarily hungry."

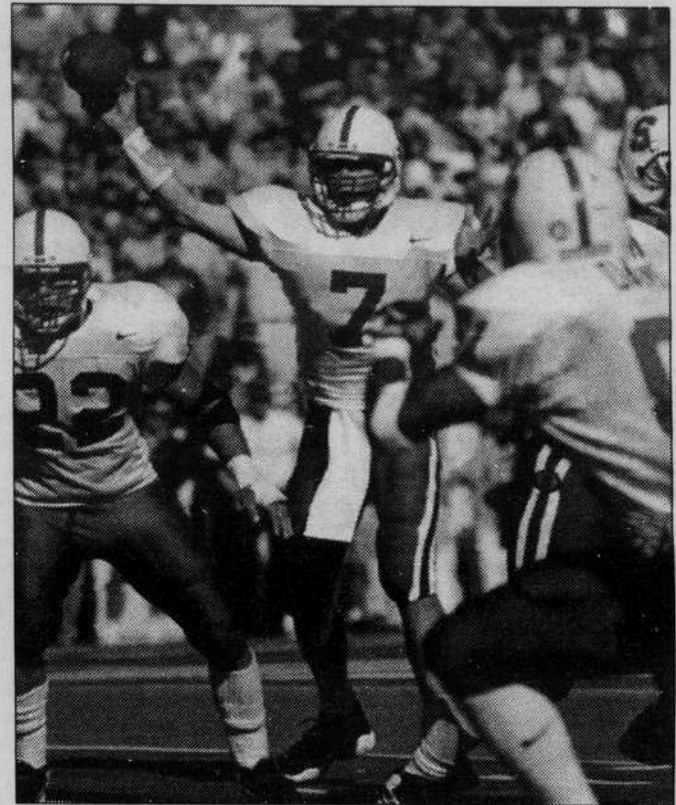
Oh, and the Ducks head to the desert remembering last season's 38-3 debacle, and with payback in mind.

The prospect of facing Oregon without starting quarterback Keith Smith, who injured his ribs on the first play of last Saturday's win against Texas-El Paso, doesn't give Arizona reason to rest any easier.

Secondly, several Wildcats must be sweating simply because they're neither getting the opportunity to catch their breaths nor wipe the moisture from their brows.

Players like Dennis Northcutt are spending almost the entire game on the field. Offensively against USC two weeks ago, Northcutt manned his usual wide receiver slot and caught eight passes for 121 yards. Defensively, he played cornerback and managed to contain the Trojans' star receiver, R. Jay Soward. As if he wasn't involved enough, Northcutt is also the Wildcats' punt returner.

Other players doing double-time include Eli Wnek, who has started at both defensive end and fullback. The quarterback tandem of Smith — if healthy — and Ortege Jenkins is still splitting snaps, but that doesn't mean that either is heading to the sidelines. When one lines up at quarterback, the other has been sliding to re-



Emerald Archives

Todd Husak has helped make Stanford the Pac-10's top scoring offense.

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Women join men in top-25 polls



CROSS COUNTRY NOTES

Jeff Smith

For the first time this season, both the men's and women's cross country team are ranked in the current NCAA Coaches Top 25.

The women's tie for 16th in the talent-rich Pre-NCAAs field Saturday pushed the Ducks into the polls at No. 23 and has them in good position to go after one of the 13 at-large berths for the NCAA Championships on Nov. 22.

"We got at-large points that we needed but missed a golden opportunity to get more," head coach Tom Heinonen said. "The meet was really demanding with it making up about 90 percent of the national-championship field, and the experience that was gained will help a great deal."

On the men's side, the Ducks finished seventh overall in Indiana, but dropped three places in the polls to No. 12. The strong showing, however, earned the men vital at-large points that greatly help the Ducks' chances of securing a berth in the championships.

On the medical front Both teams ran into physical problems in Indiana with one runner being pulled out of a race and another collapsing afterward.

The women's top returnee, junior Katie Crabb, decided to give it a go even though she

has been dealing with a nagging Achilles aggravation. Crabb, who was pulled out of a race in Notre Dame earlier this month, gutted it out through most of Saturday before spotting Heinonen in the crowd with one kilometer to go.

"Katie somehow saw me in the crowd and mouthed, 'It hurts a lot,'" Heinonen said. "I hadn't seen her until that point, and I pulled her out of the race when I did. We gambled twice with her and lost both times."

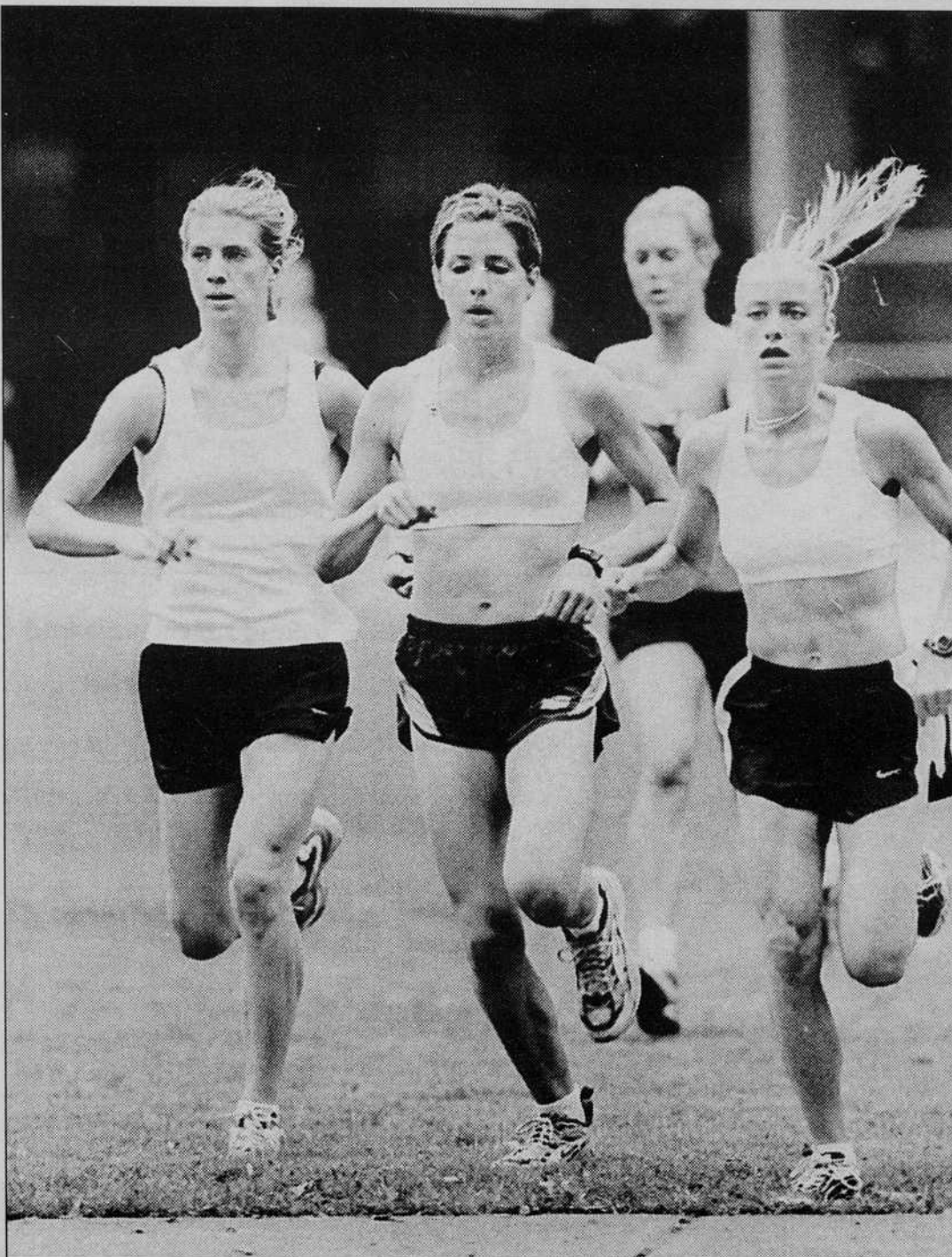
Crabb is unlikely to race in the Pacific-10 Conference Championships on Oct. 30, and Heinonen lists her as "possible" for the NCAA West Regionals on Nov. 13. She will begin running daily in a pool to enhance the healing process.

A bright note for the women is the health of freshman Amy Nickerson, who had been battling a mild Achilles aggravation. Nickerson led Oregon for the second time this fall with her 32nd-place finish at the Pre-NCAAs and has gone through solid follow-up runs Sunday and Monday.

The men had a scare after Saturday's race when freshman Travis Stehman collapsed after his run for the second time in as many races. Stehman also collapsed after his run in the Roy Griak Invitational on Sept. 25.

Oregon officials said Stehman collapsed with a hypoglycemic reaction. He was taken to a hospital in Indiana before returning to Eugene on Sunday. Stehman was evaluated Tuesday by physicians,

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Jeffrey Stockton Emerald

The Oregon women broke into the top-25 poll for the first time this season after a strong 16th-place finish at the Pre-NCAAs.