

New additions spice up already hot track team

Football players Ric Cottengim and Samie Parker lead Ducks at season opening meet at Hayward Field

By Robbie McCallum
for the Emerald

Oregon track and field athletes got business out of the way early this season. Ten Ducks claimed Pacific-10 Conference qualifying marks in 13 events Saturday at the annual Oregon Preview. It was the season opener for the Ducks, who hosted 10 other Oregon schools.

Freshmen football players Ric Cottengim and Samie Parker shocked the field in the 100 meters. Both earned Pac-10 qualifying marks of 10.46 and 10.61, respectively.

"These guys are good," men's

coach Martin Smith said. "They are going to make our track team, which is already good, much better."

Cottengim and Parker also ran legs on the victorious 4x100 meter relay team. The team's time of 40.79 was the fastest since 1998. Senior Howard Moore anchored the team.

Sophomore Jason Boness won the high jump with a height of 7 feet, 1/4 inches. Senior Steve Fein, competing outside of his marquee event—the 5,000 meters—placed second in the 800 meters (1:53.5).

Sophomore John Bello earned a spot at the Pac-10 championships

with a toss of 169-7 in the discus. Bello also won the shot put, matching his outdoor personal best of 53-8. Junior Ryan Keith won the javelin in a Pac-10 qualifying 206-6, 13 feet farther than the second place Santiago Lorenzo.

Sophomore Ross Krempley won a gutsy 400 meters, out-kicking three others in the last 10 meters to win by less than two-tenths of a second (48.46).

The Duck women dominated the field events, capturing six of the eight events inside the oval. Oregon was also impressive in the sprints, sweeping the 100, 200, 400 meters and both relays.

Led by freshman Mary Etter, the throwers enjoyed a successful first-

outing. Etter won the shot put and discus with Pac-10 qualifying marks of 46 feet, 3 inches and 160-7, respectively. Etter also qualified in the hammer throw by finishing second to teammate Maureen Morrison. The senior won the hammer in 169-2.



Junior Karis Howell re-

turned from an injury-plagued 1999 to win the javelin in 158-6 and earn an NCAA provisional mark.

Senior Hilary Holly earned a Pac-10 qualifying mark on her first attempt in the long jump (19-2). Holly also won the 100 in 12.21 and ran a leg on the victorious

4x100 meter relay team.

Freshman Heather Murtaugh won the 200 meters in 25.2 and was second in the 100 at 12.45. Sophomore Endia Abrante led a 1-2-3 sweep in the 400 meters by winning in 56.4. Senior Katie Crabb was second only to former Duck Marla Runyan in the 1,500 meters. Crabb out-kicked Nike's Kris Ihle and equaled her personal record of 4:21. Crabb also anchored the victorious 4x400 meter relay team.

Freshman Amy Nickerson also had to deal with post-collegians in the 3,000 meters. Nickerson finished sixth overall and first among collegians with a time of 9:54.

"This was a very nice start for the season," Smith said.

Basketball

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19-12 overall, 8--8 Conference USA) on Friday at 9 p.m.

The Ducks did it against Oregon State, 60-53. On Nicole Strange's senior night. In front of a sold-out McArthur Court crowd of 9,087.

Pretty darn sweet.

"We did it," Strange said. "Oh my gosh. It was so great 'cause last year we won it at [California], and this year we wanted to win it here." And, what these Ducks (23-7, 14-4) wanted, they got.

Then, after claiming the championship, no one was beside herself, overly ecstatic. Oregon, who shared the title with UCLA last season, took it all in stride.

It is a reaction reflective of the group's matter-of-fact, business-like disposition and their understanding that their season is not over.

"It feels pretty good," first-team Pac-10 forward Angelina Wolvert said. "The way it shoulda been. We're gonna enjoy the Pac-10 title, and then start focusing on making it further than the second round."

Shaquala Williams, named Pac-10 Player of the Year Sunday, echoed her teammates' sentiments. "We're happy to have this wrapped up. [We] can breathe now — and move on to the next thing."

Don't expect the Ducks to stray from their season-long theme song: one game. At a time.

Oregon's coaches will keep convincing their troops to do what they did against the Beavers — fo-

cus on whatever task stands in front of them now.

They had "three great days of practice," Runge said. "Just a tremendous effort of working on the little things, I couldn't have been more pleased with our focus and desire to get what we wanted accomplished."

Friday's Civil War battle for the championship, very much a dress rehearsal of the one-and-done tourney scenario, forced the Ducks to concentrate solely on Oregon State (14-16, 10-8).

The Beavers, statistically the conference's best defensive team, dished some blows, and naturally Oregon, No. 2 in Pac-10 scoring defense, didn't hesitate to return the favor. But through it all the Ducks kept their composure.

They withstood two ties and seven second-half lead changes before gaining the lead when Wolvert found roommate Jenny Mowe open for a jumper at the free throw line. Mowe hit the shot and put Oregon up by two points with 6 1/2 minutes to go.

Forty seconds later, Mowe got the ball to Williams for a jumper from the top of the key, which put the Ducks ahead by five.

The crowd — the second sellout in Oregon's women's basketball history — roared. The fans "gave us a lot of energy to keep fighting and keep playing," said Williams, who had 13 points and seven assists. "We knew it was gonna be a fight. We were able to get a couple shots to just pull it out."

Mowe found Williams again

with 4:36 left for a three-pointer that put Oregon back up by five.

In as strong a game as she's had all season, Mowe finished with three blocks, three key assists and a double-double with 14 points and 10 rebounds, five of which were offensive.

Oregon went to the free throw line 19 times in the second half and swished 15 of them. Conversely, in the entire game the Beavers only had five attempts all night.

When the final buzzer sounded, the sellout crowd stood and clapped in unison as the Ducks took turns triumphantly climbing the ladder and cutting down the nets.

"It was a great atmosphere to win the Pac-10," said Williams after she left the floor with one of the nets around her neck.

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 13). You're luckier in love this year — and just about everything else. Go back to a previous idea in March. Call up an old friend, too. Pay off an old debt in April. Listen to an older person in May and learn a skill that's new to you. A secret friend helps you get what you want for your home in June. Your contacts also help you get the perfect job in August. Study for a test coming in December. Faith leads you to an unusual solution to an old problem in February.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 6 — Something around your house needs attention. You might be worried that it will cost a lot of money, too. You're smart and handy with tools. Doing this job yourself might not be as hard as you think. Get a book on the subject and read it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Today is an 8 — An old friend would love to hear from you. You know, the friend you've been thinking about lately. This person thinks you're great, and you feel the same way about this person. Don't let the distance between you get in the way. You'll be glad you made the contact.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 7 — Take the information you've learned recently and put it to work. Find a way to bring more money into your pocket — soon. If you're so smart, why aren't you rich? You can be if you stop daydreaming!

CANCER (June 22-July 22) — Today is an 8 — Somebody from your past can help with your future. Your plans haven't taken shape yet. An old friend helps fill in the parts that you're missing. You might have to make a long-distance call, but it'll be worth the money.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 6 — You and your team don't have a moment to lose. Figure out your budget first so you can put the wheels into motion. A partner's a big help, and old money's better than new. Confer in private and don't waste time flirting. Stick to business.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 7 —

You're good at taking care of other people, and they know it, too. Help an older person who's confused get back on the right track first. Later, you and your friends can do something that's more fun for you! Plan a treat; you'll have earned it!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Today is a 7 — You might be doing something the hard way. Don't get stuck in a rut. Be willing to learn, even from a person who acts like a know-it-all. Sometimes the smartest thing you can do is to admit you don't know. Success could be your reward.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) — Today is an 8 — You're looking good — and getting luckier by the minute. Tomorrow and the next day are marvelous days to launch your dream ship for the cruise to your heart's desire. Hurry up and figure out what you want. The tide's turning in your favor right now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 6 — You and a partner need to get your heads together. A big expense is coming up, and you shouldn't make the decision on your own. Get somebody who understands how to pinch pennies to help. Then, do what this person says.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is an 8 — You can do almost anything you set out to do. You've proven that, time after time. Can you teach somebody else how to do it, though? If you can, you'll increase the amount you can get done! Somebody nearby would be a good student, too.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 7 — The check that's been coming in the mail could finally arrive. The work you're doing now could bring in more, too. You may be busier for a while, but that's OK if you're finally getting flushed. Look for an extra job, too.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is an 8 — You're getting cuter by the minute! You've been slightly stressed lately, possibly about a domestic project. Well, that's handled, and you're emerging from the battle triumphant. Plan some high-quality cuddling time to celebrate your victory.

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