

Krempley does it again

■ Sophomore Ross Krempley's down-to-the-wire finish highlights the men's track and field weekend

By Scott Pesznecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

Most of Oregon's big guns were 1,500 miles away, squaring off against the high-powered competition at the Drake Relays in Drake, Iowa.

So naturally, many of the Ducks who stayed to compete at Saturday's Oregon Invitational didn't draw a lot of attention from the Hayward Field faithful. Howard Moore was there, but he didn't run his signature 400 meters. Nat Johnson was there, but only because he was injured.

Ross Krempley was there too, carrying on a common theme that has developed over the last two track meets: Where there's a Krempley, there's a way.

Ross Krempley won the 800 meters in photo-finish fashion for the second time in as many meets, ousting Western Washington's Devin Kemper. His time of 1 minute, 49.76 seconds was a new lifetime best by more than a second.

The noise level of 2,763 fans grew from a rumble to a roar as Krempley

leaned in for the win. When the sophomore looked up and saw his time, he jumped in the air, pumping his fists in wild celebration.

"That was unbelievable," Krempley said, still regaining his breath. "I've been waiting for a 1:49 my whole — forever. I don't have any words for it. And then winning at the same time, just barely again, I can't believe it."

"When I saw my time, I was dancin'. It was just ... man. I can't help it but just dance."

Then, Krempley saw sprinting coach Tony Veney, and the two embraced on the side of the track as the crowd celebrated. Later, he said he came close to tears after his victory.

Krempley may someday look back on the last two weeks as a turning point in his collegiate track and field career.

"We really thought we were going to get a good run today," Veney

said. "He was fresh all week; he was very confident. In fact, Ross told me (on Friday), 'Coach, I'm feelin' pretty good.' When he gets like that, it gets a little exciting for us."

The middle-distance runner opted not to join the Ducks in his first year at the University. He trained on his own, opening the outdoor season with his previous 800-meter, personal-time of 1:50.83. His season that had room for more improvement was suddenly turned upside down when Krempley sustained a hamstring injury.

Long after his hamstring healed, things didn't get better. Krempley never got a time lower than 1:51 in his freshman season with Oregon.

But now, last season probably seems like a long time ago.

"Last week gave me the confidence to just go," Krempley said. "I haven't felt it until last week, and then I was like, 'You can do it, even if it's going at a fast pace.'"

While Krempley wowed the Hayward crowd, the other Ducks were so-so at Drake. Jason Boness led Oregon finishers by finishing third in the high jump. However, he did so on a sup-Boness height of 6 feet, 11 inches.



UO men third at Pac-10 tourney

■ The Oregon men's tennis team is eager for NCAA's after an impressive showing at the Pac-10 Championships

By Robbie McCallum
for the Emerald

Like many runs of glory, this one ended in a loss.

The Oregon men's tennis team's incredible showing at the Pacific-10 Conference Championships in Ojai, Calif., was capped by senior Guillermo Carter and freshman Leslie Eisinga's appearance in the finals of doubles competition.

Unfortunately, the duo came up short, narrowly falling to UCLA's fifth-ranked Brandon Kramer and Jong-Min Lee. Carter and Eisinga won the first set, 6-3, then spotted UCLA the second set, 2-6. In the deciding third-set No. 39 Oregon team pushed Kramer and Lee to the brink but fell in overtime, 7-5.

The doubles team is almost assured an NCAA tournament berth, as are Carter and sopho-

more Thomas Schneider, for their impressive showing in singles. The NCAA Championships are May 15 in Malibu, Calif.

Oregon's second doubles team of sophomore Schneider and freshman Oded Teig's season ended by Kramer and Lee, who defeated the Duck pair 8-2 in the quarterfinals.

Schneider and Teig narrowly beat Cal's John-Paul Fruttero and David Tzou in the first round, 8-6.

After making history on Friday by qualifying two players into the singles quarterfinal round, Oregon fell short. Carter, ranked No. 36 in singles, dropped a 6-4, 6-2 decision to UCLA's Jean-Julien Rojer. Stanford's K.J. Hippensteel ended

Schneider's run with a 7-5, 6-4 win. The quarterfinalists included Carter, Schneider, and three players from both UCLA and Stanford.


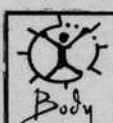

In the Thatcher Cup standings, a scoring system that ranks Pac-10 teams by total wins in the tournament, Oregon finished third behind only No. 1 Stanford and No. 2 UCLA.

"It was a great match, played in front of hundreds of people," head coach Chris Russell said. "It really gives great exposure for Oregon tennis."

The tournament was less enjoyable for the women's team. The Ducks lost every match.

After a disappointing opening day in which no Oregon player won a singles match, the pressure fell upon senior Alina Wygonowska and freshman Monika Geiczys to perform in doubles competition. But UCLA's Elizabeth Schmidt and Abigail Spears swept the Oregon team, 8-0.



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FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2000
6:00 PM

Where?	Grace Lutheran Church (Corner of 18th & Hilyard, Eugene)
Who's invited?	UofO International & US Students, Grace church members, and bring a friend!
What to bring?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An ethnic food to share at the potluck (so we can all taste foods from around the world!)* • Share a traditional costume or pictures/artifacts/souvenirs from your "home country" • Participate in our entertainment (a song, a dance, other ideas?)

Please call Paula Walker at 747-8151 to let us know if you are planning to attend AND if you wish to be a part of the entertainment!

See you May 5th!

* If you need the use of a kitchen, our church kitchen will be available after 3 PM the day of the potluck. You are welcome to come in and cook here!

