



## Crucial step awaits cross country teams at Regionals

■ The Oregon cross country teams head to Fresno for their last chances at NCAA meet berths

By Robbie McCallum  
Oregon Daily Emerald

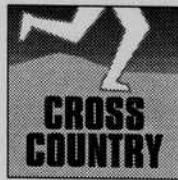
All teams come down to a do-or-die point in their seasons.

The Oregon cross country teams have met theirs.

Whether or not the Duck Harriers will advance to the NCAA Tournament will be determined by this weekend's performances at the NCAA Western Regional meet in Fresno, Calif.

The Oregon women's team will be facing an uphill battle in a quest

for its fourth straight championship meet berth. The lady Harriers dropped out of the polls completely after starting the season in the No. 12 spot.



"All we've got to do at Regionals is edge Washington State and UCLA to get a spot at nationals," women's head coach Tom Heinonen said. "If we don't beat

both of them and get fifth there, then we won't get selected."

At the Pacific-10 Conference Championships in Seattle Oct. 28, Oregon finished seventh overall, trailing both Washington State and UCLA.

In a prospective three-way meet with Oregon, Washington State and UCLA, based on 6,000 meter personal bests, Oregon ties with Washington State while edging UCLA by one point. The teams are well-matched and similar to each other.

However, in larger cross country meets, such as the Western Regional meet with close to 30 teams, some teams can get spread out. Oregon is

the deepest team of the three schools competing for the No. 5 spot, with All-American Hanna Smedstad leading the way and only a 52-second gap between the next seven runners.

Second-seeded Stanford is the meet favorite, followed by Arizona State and Arizona.

The meet will take place at Woodward Park near the Fresno State campus.

Should the Ducks fail to qualify for the NCAA meet, it would be the last cross country meet for seniors Smedstad, Katie Crabb and Rhianon Glenn.

The projected top-seven women

for the meet are Smedstad, Crabb, Glenn, junior transfer Carrie Zografos, sophomores Eri MacDonald and Erinn Gulbrandsen and freshman Laura Harmon.

The 10th-ranked Oregon men stand a good chance of advancing to their 29th-overall and sixth-consecutive NCAA appearance Saturday. The Ducks are ranked second among teams in the Western region, which comprises mostly West Coast schools.

At the Pac-10 Championships, Oregon impressed many people by placing second behind No. 2 Stanford and upsetting conference rival

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## UO gains much-needed win over Northwest foe

■ In front of 872 fans at Mac Court, the Ducks defeated the Huskies for the first time since 1995

By Adam Jude  
Oregon Daily Emerald

For the first time this season, McArthur Court was filled with jubilation after a Pacific-10 Conference volleyball contest.

The Oregon band proudly saluted a relieved team with the school's fight song as the Ducks stormed down the halls, screaming and slapping high-fives.

The excitement was clear: The Ducks (10-14 overall, 2-13 Pac-10) had just won their first conference match at home, in their final weekend in Eugene, and had beaten one of their most heated opponents for the first time since 1995.

"We've just been working so hard all week in practice, and we knew we could win," said junior hitter Monique Tobbagi after Oregon's 3-1 (11-15, 15-12, 16-14, 15-8) victory against Washington Thursday night. "I'm just really proud of our competitive attitude tonight."

Three Oregon players recorded double-digit kills, but the night belonged to Tobbagi, who finished the match with a career-high 28 kills.

"I felt really confident all night," said Tobbagi, who also tallied 11 digs and

three service aces. "They weren't able to stop me."

Senior Halie Mazza tied a career high with seven blocks, while adding 19 kills and a .421 attack percentage. Sophomore Sydney Chute just missed a triple-double with 10 kills, 45 assists and nine digs. As a team, the Ducks outblocked the Huskies 14-4.

"We deserved this," said freshman Lindsay Murphy after one of her best performances in a Duck uniform. "We've thought about this since we lost to them earlier this year. It was really hard to hug [the Washington players] after that."

But the hugs were much easier this time around.

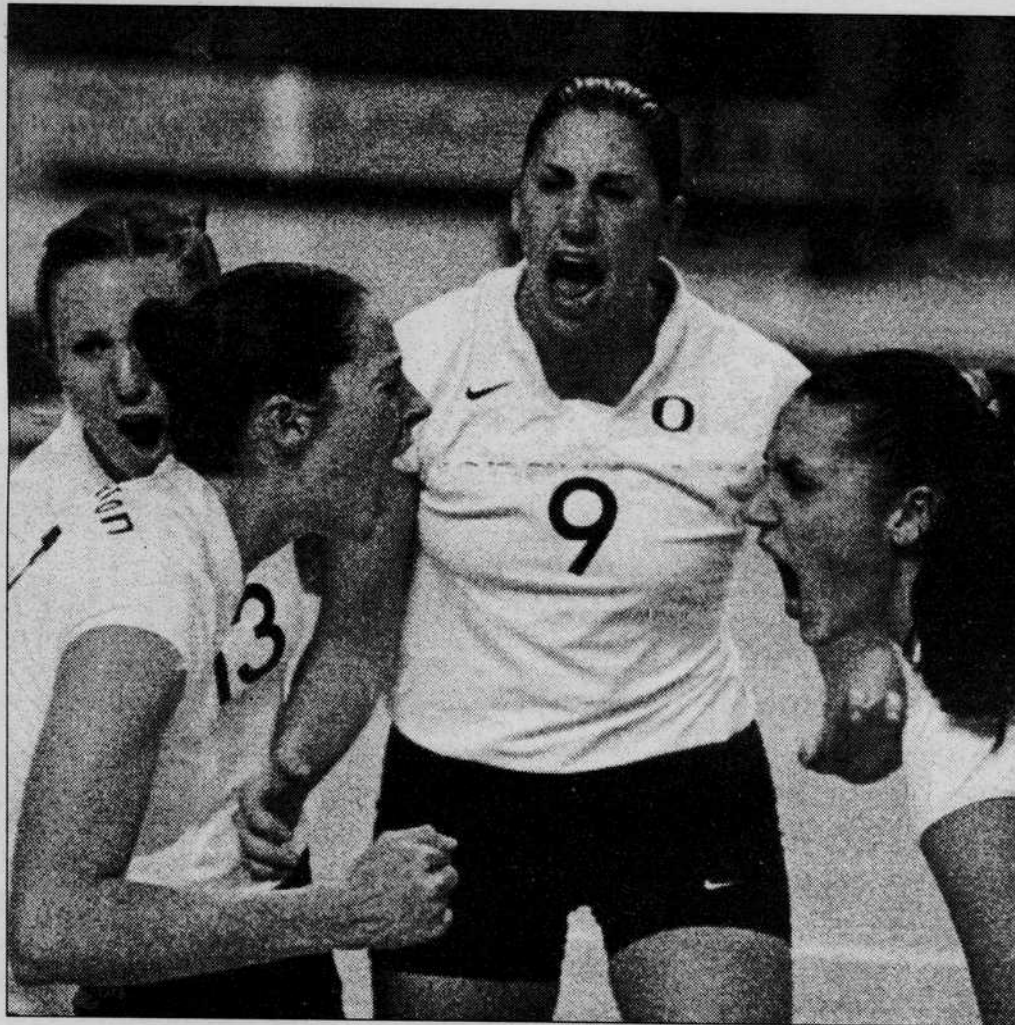
While the Ducks opened each game with quick leads, the Huskies found a way to slip back into the contest, especially in game three.

With the match tied 1-1, the Ducks trailed 12-14 with Washington ready to serve in the pivotal third game. Another Husky point would have meant that the Ducks would finish last in the Pac-10 for the second straight year.

But it was not to be, as head coach Carl Ferreira made one of the best, yet easiest, decisions during his first year at Oregon. He simply called a timeout to gather his young volleyball squad.

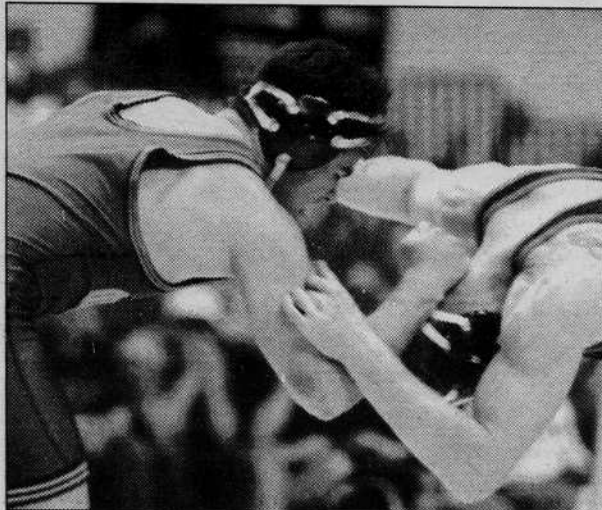
"We talked about staying relaxed and staying focused for the moment," Tobbagi said. "We always want to get the

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Freshman Lindsay Murphy, senior Halie Mazza, junior Monique Tobbagi and freshman Alisha Stevens celebrate after the Ducks defeated the Huskies for the first time since 1995. Tobbagi finished the match with a career-high 28 kills.  
Catharine Kendall Emerald

## Oregon wrestling opens season with high expectations



All-American senior Doug Lee is one of the Ducks' main returnees.  
Emerald

■ The Oregon wrestling team jumps into action today with a match against UC-Davis

By Peter Hockaday and Robbie McCallum  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Take a quick glance at the Oregon wrestling team, and the first word that comes to mind is "wow."

Then you think that the Ducks are probably going to overmatch California-Davis in the Pacific-10 Conference opener tonight.

UC Davis and Oregon square off at Crater High School in Central Point in a match that the Ducks have traditionally won. Oregon is 6-0 against the Aggies in six meetings. Last season, the Ducks won

handily, 24-11, at Davis, Calif.

Last year's result is important, because both squads have mostly the same lineups this year. Davis returns nine starters, while the Ducks also return nine letter winners.

The most important returning Oregon wrestler is All-American Doug Lee. The Central Point native is a two-time Pac-10 champion and finished fourth at the NCAA Championships last season. His 36 victories are third all-time at Oregon.

"Doug is better now than he was last year," Oregon head coach Chuck Kearney said.

Another important returner didn't play against UC Davis last season because he was redshirting. Senior Chael Sonnen was an All-American back in 1998, but took 1999 off to train for the Olympics.

Lee, in the 184-pound weight class,

and Sonnen, in the 197-pound weight class, should easily take their matches tonight against freshmen Burak Pekin and Brandon Arsenault, respectively.

Many will be watching the 157-pound match to see NCAA-qualifier Eugene Harris, a former transfer from Lassen Junior College in Nevada. The junior finished the season with a 24-11 overall record but also boasted an even more impressive 13-4 dual match record. Harris faces senior Burt Pierson today.

Two newcomers making their debuts in an Oregon singlet will be junior Sean Williams and freshman Luke Larwin.

Williams recently transferred from Northern Idaho College, where he was a two-time junior college champion. Williams competed on the 1996 South African national team and will wrestle at 125 pounds.

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