



Oregon senior Michael Kasahun (221) and freshman Jason Hartmann (213) represented the Ducks in the distance races. Both are NCAA qualifiers and will run at the May 30-June 2 national meet.

Ducks edge Cal for fifth

■ Javelin thrower John Stiegeler captures the Pac-10 title to spark Oregon to a solid finish

By Robbie McCallum
Oregon Daily Emerald

Some pleasant surprises, along with some disappointments left the Ducks just about even at the Pacific-10 Conference Track and Field Championships in Berkeley, Calif., this past weekend.

The Oregon men's track and field team finished in fifth place with 86.5 points after some up-and-down performances.



"I thought every kid on the team gave a scrappy performance," Oregon head coach Martin Smith said. "The goal coming in was to try and move up into the top half of the conference, and we knew we would have to have an excellent meet to do that, especially after losing a guy like Simon (Kimata) in Texas a few weeks ago to a hamstring injury."

The difference between fifth and sixth-place proved to come down to the final event — the 4 x 400-meter relay. With the Ducks leading California by only two points after 19 events, Oregon needed to stay within two places of the Golden Bears to maintain its lead. The Ducks improved upon their No. 8 seeding by placing seventh in a

time of three minutes, 14.8 seconds while Cal placed fifth in 3:10.5.

Redshirt sophomore John Stiegeler turned in Oregon's only championship performance of the weekend by winning the javelin. The nation's top javelin thrower's winning toss of 240 feet, 10 inches was 14 feet further than the second-place mark. Stiegeler's final throw actually made it to the 267-foot mark, but drifted into foul territory and was counted as a scratch.

"On that last one, I was hoping the cross-wind would pick it up a little and push it in, but what can you do?" Stiegeler said.

Two other Ducks turned in
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Nine PRs help UO to eighth

■ Women's stars falter, but many of the supporting cast members help the Ducks avoid the cellar

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

Well, it's better than last.

A year after finishing ninth out of nine teams at the Pacific-10 Conference Championships in Eugene, the Oregon women's track and field team scored less points but finished eighth in Berkeley, Calif., Saturday and Sunday.

"We competed hard and competed well," Oregon head coach Tom Heinonen said. "But we're just so overmatched talent-wise

in this conference."

UCLA won the team competition, edging out Southern California by three points. Stanford, after leading on Saturday, dropped to third.

Oregon stood in fifth-place overall after Saturday's competition, but UCLA, Arizona and California stormed past the Ducks Sunday to finish first, sixth and seventh, respectively. The Ducks scored a total of 35 points, two less than last year's last-place performance.

Many of Oregon's points came from unexpected places. Nine Duck athletes — an almost unprecedented number for such a big meet — scored lifetime bests at the Pac-10s. When some of Oregon's stars stumbled over the weekend, the rest of the team picked up most of the slack.

"We're just having fun,"

Ducks javelin standout Sarah Malone said. "We did really well, although the points don't show it."

The most surprising event for Oregon was the pole vault. Former all-American Niki Reed finished eighth, even though she was ranked fourth in the conference heading into the meet. Senior Holly Speight finished ninth with a personal best jump of 12 feet, 7 1/4 inches, while freshmen Georgette Moyle and Kirsten Riley also scored personal bests to land on the NCAA provisional list.

"Those were huge PR's for [Speight, Moyle and Riley] that made major statements," Heinonen said.

Senior Maureen Morrison ended her Oregon career with some style as she placed seventh in the hammer and discus throws. Her discus throw was a

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Golfers 'disappointed' after ending year at regionals

■ Despite a second day of improvements, the Ducks struggle again in their final round to finish in 18th-place

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

Cross another Oregon sports team off the active list.

The men's golf team's season is over after it failed to make the top-10 at last weekend's NCAA West Regional in Corvallis.

Oregon entered the third and final day in 14th-place, an improvement from its 21st-place standing after day one, but then shot an 18-over 306 Saturday to fall back down to 18th-place and close out its year.

"We played much better yesterday under worse conditions to put ourselves in position, but today we could not take advan-

tage of that," Oregon head coach Steve Nosler said. "I'm very disappointed in our effort."

The Ducks could never master the Trysting Tree Golf Course, especially the back nine holes. For example, in Saturday's final round, Oregon shot a solid 1-over on the front-nine to give itself reason for hope, but then shot 17 strokes worse over the back-nine.

"You just never know with the way this golf course is playing," Nosler said. "You can have a five or six stroke swing on one hole."

The Ducks' three-round total of 902 was 19 strokes shy of what they would have needed to shoot to capture 10th-place and earn a trip to the NCAA Championships May 30-June 2 in Durham, N.C.

"We needed to be physically and mentally prepared to play at the top of our game, and I'm not sure that we were," Nosler said. "We just didn't get the job done."

Sophomore transfer John Ellis led the way for the Ducks with a score of 224 to finish tied-for-49th-place among individuals. Albany natives Aaron Byers (tied-for-67th, 226) and Chris Carnahan (tied-for-77th, 227) played respectably on their home course, while junior Brandon Harnden finished tied-for-85th-place with a score of 228.

Senior Matt Genovese ended his Oregon career with a tied-for-92nd-place showing of 229.

Arizona State (1st, 852) captured the NCAA West title for the third time in four years, but it did so without 2000 U.S. Amateur champion Jeff Quinney leading the charge. The Eugene

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Senior Matt Genovese (left) and junior Brandon Harnden were a part of Oregon's top-five.

Tom Patterson Emerald