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Men's ultimate heads to Boston

■ The Club Sports ultimate frisbee team is a third seed in the national tournament

By Jesse Thomas

It has begun. The final step of their long journey is upon them as the athletes of the Oregon Club Sports men's ultimate team begin pool play today.

The Ducks traveled to Boston Wednesday to prepare for the Ultimate Players Association College Nationals Tournament. The Ducks enter as the third seed among 16 teams, their highest ranking in recent memory.

Santa Barbara and Colorado are the only two teams seeded above the Ducks entering today's competition. To start off, the Ducks face Cornell, Duke and Ohio today.

"We are going to have to play with a lot of fire," coordinator Joshua Greenough said. "The core of our game is our big plays."

Previously, the Oregon men split the two games against Cornell and lost once to Duke when shorthanded. The Ducks have yet to compete against Ohio.

The team has been preparing for the tournament all week by eating healthy, sleeping more, having early practices and waking up earlier because of the three-hour time difference. Senior Christian Martin said if the team can start out intense — something the Ducks have struggled with in the past — and have fewer turnovers, it will be hard to beat.

"We definitely want to win, and it is a very good possibility," Martin said.

After knocking off Stanford, last year's No. 3 seed, in the regional tournament, the Ducks have earned their place with the best of the best. After a hard-fought season, Oregon hopes things will end with a win and a trophy.

"It is about having fun and ending on a good note," Greenough

Cycling will go the distance

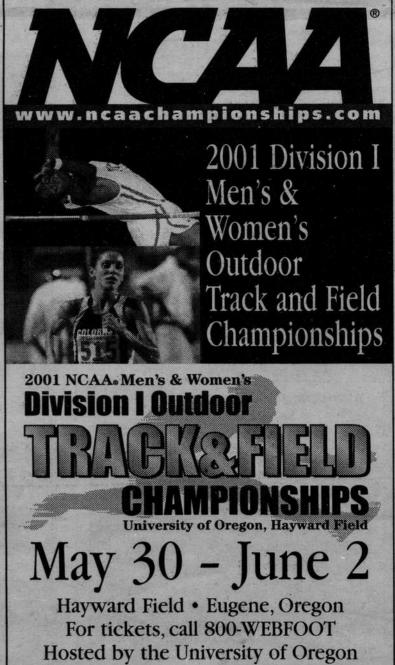
For a few members of the Oregon club cycling team, it's the Ecology Center Classic this weekend, and it sure is a long one.

Two competitors will compete in the street sprints Saturday evening, followed by a 10-mile time trial Sunday. On Monday, sophomore Zach Winter will race 80 miles on the road, and Dave Johnson faces a 105-mile road race.

"I am going to pound it," Winter said.

"I don't know what the competition is like," Johnson said. "But I would like top five or ten."

The races this weekend are a part of the Lance Armstrong Championship Series, and both racers will be pushing hard, being in the peak of the season.



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