

Oregon Ultimate falls in semis at nationals

■ The club ultimate team puts up a courageous fight while Andy Wallace competes at the Tae Kwon Do nationals

By Jesse Thomas
for the Emerald

After a season that included more accomplishments than expected, the Oregon Club Sports men's ultimate team was defeated in the semifinals of the nationals in Boston last weekend.



The Ducks departed last Wednesday to compete in the Ultimate Players Association Nationals Tournament. Pool play began Friday, where Oregon faced Duke, Ohio State and Cornell. The Ducks had a little trouble early, but they ended up winning their pool as ex-

pected.

In its best game of the tournament, Oregon's big plays carried the team through Saturday to beat fifth-ranked Wisconsin, 15-8.

The Ducks ran into trouble against Colorado, though, as they found themselves down 8-3 at the half. Oregon charged back to cut the deficit to 11-10, but after a few mistakes, the Ducks were eliminated, 15-11.

"When you get to that level, everyone is a great team," Oregon coordinator Joshua Greenough said. "They were the better team that day."

At the end of the tournament, Carleton College was crowned the national champion. Ironically, the

Ducks had beat Carleton, 17-14, in the Eastern tournament just recently.

It was an emotional weekend for the Oregon seniors as they knew they would not play ultimate again as a Duck.

"It was just amazing how close I got to the guys," graduating senior Ryan DeAustin said. "It was not enough time with the Ducks and I wish I could play again but they will do really well next year."

Freshman Tae Kwon Do member competes at nationals

Oregon freshman Andy Wallace learned a lot this weekend at the Tae Kwon Do national championships in Cleveland, but things didn't go his way when he felt he was judged unfairly and eliminated from competition early.

After achieving his high green belt last Wednesday, Wallace traveled to the national championships with the state club team, which entered the competition ranked 10th in the country.

Wallace only had one match, which he lost, 7-6. But he and others found the loss debatable because he earned points that were not scored on his side. Overall, Wallace placed seventh out of 23 competitors.

"I learned a lot more in losing one match than I have from all that I have won," Wallace said.

Although Wallace's competitor was victorious, he wasn't able to advance because Wallace kicked him in the head, which caused an injury that didn't allow him to go on.

Wallace was disappointed as he watched his teammates place

higher than himself while believing he should have done better. One teammate, whom Wallace beat 17-2 at the state meet earlier this year, placed third above Wallace at nationals.

"My only regret was watching other competitors," Wallace said. "I saw people I could have done well against go farther."

Since he is only 176 pounds, the Portland native is used to being the lightest competitor in the heavyweight class. At nationals, though, the weight classes were changed and only four people outweighed him.

"It was wild to go against people my own size," Wallace said.

After a great learning experience, Wallace believes he will be that much faster and stronger next season.

Men's track lands one of nation's top prep runners

■ The Oregon coaching staff opens up the recruiting season with a blue-chip distance runner from Utah

By Robbie McCallum
Oregon Daily Emerald

As members of the nation's top-ranked teams prepare for the NCAA Championships, Oregon head coach Martin Smith is beginning next year's recruiting class.

The Oregon men's track and field team signed its first athlete,

Seth Pilkington, to a letter of intent. Pilkington, a senior at Roy High School in Ogden, Utah, is ranked 12th nationally in the mile with a personal best time of 4 minutes, 12 seconds.



"There are several different things that attracted me to Oregon," Pilkington said. "I felt like coach Smith was the right coach for me. The team is a young team but with a lot of po-

tential."

Pilkington won Utah 4A state titles in the 1,600 meters (4:13) and 3,200 meters (9:20) to go along with his cross country title last fall. Those races were all contested at 4,700-foot elevation. Pilkington owns sea level bests of 4:11 and 9:06 at those distances and hopes to better those marks this June at the Golden West Invitational, a national meet for prep track and field.

"Obviously [Eugene] is the track center of the United States," Pilkington said. "I really liked Hay-

ward Field. The area seemed like a great place to train."

Pilkington is the son of 1994 Los Angeles Marathon champion and 1995 World Championships participant Paul Pilkington.

In the classroom

Two Oregon athletes have been named to the District VII Verizon Academic All-American team. Santiago Lorenzo and John Stiegeler were selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America to the regional team, which includes the entire West Coast.

Stiegeler is the nation's top javelin thrower with a personal best of 245 feet, nine inches and owns a GPA of 3.83. He is majoring in mathematics.

Lorenzo is an All-American in the decathlon and is ranked fourth nationally in that event. The exercise and movement science major holds a GPA of 3.72.

To be eligible for the academic team, a student-athlete must carry a GPA of 3.2 or higher, be in at least the second year of participation and be an important squad member.

Men's

continued from page 9A

ior Jason Boness, who placed fifth at last year's NCAA Championships but has yet to breakthrough this season.

"I'm looking for a top-five finish this year and a PR," Boness said.

"I'm more prepared than last year. We wanted to hit my peak at nationals. Last year I peaked early."

Boness is seeded 14th, well out of scoring, but his personal best of seven feet, five inches would place him third.

Another dark horse is junior Micah Harris, the school record holder in the 110 hurdles. The junior-col-

lege transfer is ranked 16th but feels confident coming into nationals.

"I just have to come out and rely on everything that I've learned so far," Harris said. "If you get to finals, you're All-American. That's where I want to be."

Harris owns a personal best time of 13.79 seconds, only a tenth of a second out of the top-eight.

True freshman Trevor Woods made the NCAA cut in the pole vault. Woods is tied-for-17th coming into the competition. In an event that sees many no-heights, Woods could shine if he is able to clear the opening height.

Distance runner Michael Kasahun rounds out the Oregon contingent in the 5,000 meters.

Kasahun had a breakthrough race at the Oregon Invitational last month, running a personal best 13:56, ranking him 17th nationally.

The majority of Oregon's athletes will compete today and tomorrow. The meet begins today with the first half of the decathlon and concludes with the 10,000 meters at 7:50 p.m.

Women's

continued from page 9A

Oregon throws coach Sally Harmon thinks that all four athletes could end up as All-Americans.

"You have to have the kids go in with a game plan," Harmon said. "Mary is a fighter; she'll do well this year. Charyl is only five feet behind the 13th ranked thrower, and the chances are real good she can get an All-American throw."

To be an All-American, the athletes must finish in the top eight among Americans in their event. The top eight overall score points for their team.

Reed and Etter have both been All-Americans before. In two appearances at the national meet, Reed jumped 12-9 1/2 both times, which was good enough for fifth in 1999 and 13th last season. Etter finished eighth in the discus last season with a throw of 166-11.

Malone may have the best chance to win of all four athletes. She has thrown well at home this year, and her best throw is less than half a meter short of the national leader, Inge Jorgensen of Virginia.

"A lot of it has to do with the conditions," Malone said. "If I'm feeling good and there's a nice headwind, I know I have the ability to win it."

Reed will need to regain her form from earlier this year if she wants to challenge for a national title. After she tied her own school record of 13-5 1/4 at the Washington Dual meet April 14, Reed sloped off.

Most recently, Reed jumped 12-11 at the Pacific-10 Conference Championships.

Etter has been training hard all year, according to Harmon, and could be even better than last year. Harmon said Etter "got a taste of the sweet stuff," and now wants some more. The sophomore raised her personal best twice in April to her

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Sarah Malone
Oregon javelin thrower

current personal record of 175-9, but hasn't been able to achieve that mark since then. She finished fourth at Pac-10s with a throw of 168-8.

Weingarten may be the hottest Duck heading into the championships. After a decent season, Weingarten uncorked a throw of 155-6, a personal best by three inches, at the Pac-10s. The last-chance toss got her onto the NCAA provisional list for the first time, and now into the competition itself.

Weingarten and Malone will compete Friday at 6 p.m., Reed takes on the pole vault field at 5 p.m. Friday, and Etter is in action this afternoon at 3 p.m.



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