

Men drop to No. 18, women still faltering

The men's cross country team is still behind Stanford and Arizona State in the polls

By Chris Cabot
Oregon Daily Emerald

The latest men's cross country poll is out, and other than the top three spots, there was quite a shake-up in the rankings. After an 11th place finish Saturday at the Roy Griak Invitational, the Ducks dropped from No. 16 in the nation to No. 18.

The Mondo men's poll features two other Pacific-10 Conference teams, No. 2 Stanford and No. 15 Arizona State, who jumped up seven spots, above Oregon. Regional foe Portland, who was ranked No. 13 before Saturday, now holds the No. 6 position.

Arizona, who last week was ranked No. 12, fell drastically out of the top-25 because of a poor showing Saturday where they beat only one ranked team, the host school No. 20 Minnesota.

The Oregon women harriers, who finished in last place at the Griak, remain out of the FinishLynx women's poll. The Stanford women maintained the No. 2 spot, while Arizona State leapt up the polls from No. 11 to No. 4 after winning the Griak.

No. 9 Arizona (down from No. 8), No. 16 Washington (up from No. 17) and No. 18 UCLA (previously unranked) also hold spots on the top-25 poll.

Not quick enough off the line
"We victimized ourselves with our conservative race strategy and never really gave ourselves the chance to succeed," women's head coach Tom Heinonen said of his squad's performance Saturday.

During the meet in Minnesota on Saturday, the Ducks' plan, according to sophomore Magdalena Sandoval, was to "start the race conservatively, then stay strong through the middle, then finish re-

ally strong trying to pass people." The blueprint for the race would have worked well in a smaller race, but the course in Minnesota was just too tight with the number of runners in attendance.

Heinonen said that the course would have been fine for 150 runners, but was far too narrow for 300. "Going out slow and trying to work your way past those who have gone out too fast just didn't work," he said.

Preppin' for the Willamette
The men and most of the women will not run until the Furman Invite on Oct. 13, but before then some female harriers will travel to Salem for the Willamette Invitational. Runners going include Laura Harmon, Alicia Snyder-Carlson, Annette Mosey, Sara Schaaf, Annie Davis and Taylor Bryant.

The race is mostly designed for small college runners, but Heinonen said that it could be good for the Oregon runners to get some more experience running in a race with 300 other participants.

Rice transfer fitting in well
Sandoval, who finished third on the Oregon squad at Saturday's meet, has been a welcomed addition to the team. Though her summer training was limited by a bout with mononucleosis, Sandoval should be a scorer for the Ducks in all their races. With Rice, Sandoval ran well for the team, but the college just wasn't the right fit.

"I was just not having a satisfying running experience and running is so important to me," she said. Heinonen said that Sandoval's enthusiasm for the sport and excellent attitude is a good influence on the team.

"She is a delight to have on the team," he said. Sandoval's father, Tony, won the 1980 U.S. Olympic Trials marathon and was an Olympic alternate in 1976.

Hooray for return of hockey

Hit me, baby, one more time. The National Hockey League starts play today, and I'm as giddy as a guy sucking helium from a balloon. I'm happier than a hammerhead in a kiddie pool. Somebody bring me down from this icy cloud.

Put me in the penalty box — I'm high-sticking myself with glee. The NHL has the shortest offseason after the longest post-season in all of sports. This is because the NHL is tougher than you and your football.

It's tougher than your pansy-faced basketball. Sixteen-game schedules are for wussies.

So, while the Las Vegas bookies churn out odds of winning the cup, I ask you one question. What are the odds of getting you to tune into ESPN once this season for a Flyers-Penguins matchup? Or Avalanche-Stars? Give me two games, and I will give you addiction. Give me one playoff contest, like the five-overtime game between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh I sat through two years ago, and I will give you addiction.

One playoff hockey game, and you'll be hooked like a Vegas gambler. Time to double down.

Eastern Conference: Atlantic Division
1: New Jersey Devils — Poor Mario Lemieux. The most beloved hockey player comes out of retirement, and he has those damn Devils to deal with. New Jersey will continue its recent dominance with Scott Stevens' ouch-that-hurt hits, Scott Gomez's fleet skating and the most dominating offensive line in hockey (Jason Arnott, Petr Sykora and Patrick Elias). Oh yeah, the

Devils also have one of the best goalies in hockey, Martin Brodeur.
2: Pittsburgh Penguins 3: Philadelphia Flyers 4: New York Rangers 5: New York Islanders

Northeast Division
1: Toronto Maple Leafs — Canada's best team could have a tough time staying off Canada's other good team — the Ottawa Senators — for the division title. The Leafs stole Alexander Mogilny from the Devils, and he could revive a lifeless offense. An aging Curtis Joseph remains the mainstay in Toronto's net after a strong postseason last year.
2: Ottawa Senators 3: Buffalo Sabres 4: Montreal Canadiens 5: Boston Bruins

Southeast Division
1: Washington Capitals — Jagr. Jaromir Jagr. Those double J's should spell victory for the Capitals, as Washington picked up the greatest offensive player of the '90s from the Penguins this offseason. The Caps had the best record in the Eastern Conference last regular season, but Jagr will put Washington over the playoff hump. Jagr's Pens knocked off the No. 1 seed Capitals in the first round last year. It won't happen again.
2: Carolina Hurricanes 3: Florida Panthers 4: Tampa Bay Lightning 5: Atlanta Thrashers

Western Conference: Pacific Division
1: Dallas Stars — The Stars, cup champions three seasons ago, went shopping this offseason. They sold Brett Hull but bought depth with Pierre Turgeon, Donald Audette, Valeri Kamensky, Jyrki Lumme and Pat Verbeek. Now Dallas has those players to add to a star-studded roster that includes Mike Modano, Derian Hatcher, Joe Nieuwendyk, Sergei Zubov and goalkeeper Ed Belfour. The result of that equation? Playoffs. Deep.
2: San Jose Sharks 3: Phoenix Coyotes 4: Los Angeles Kings 5: Anaheim Mighty Ducks

Central Division
1: Detroit Red Wings — Hockey-town's darlings are aging fast, so the Wings went out and added more age with 37-year-old Brett Hull and 36-year-old Dominik "The Dominator" Hasek. But those two players, coupled with offensive stars Steve Yzerman, Sergei Federov and Brendan Shanahan, have one more run at Lord Stanley left in them.
2: St. Louis Blues 3: Nashville Predators 4: Columbus Blue Jackets 5: Chicago Blackhawks

Northwest Division
1: Colorado Avalanche. The Avs won the cup last year and promptly signed their best three players — Joe Sakic, Rob Blake and Patrick Roy — to long-term contracts after the season. But a defensive spark left with Ray Bourque, and a key offensive spark may be dim in Peter Forsberg, who will start the season on the bench. Colorado still has depth and talent, and should contend deep into the playoffs.
2: Edmonton Oilers 3: Calgary Flames 4: Vancouver Canucks 5: Minnesota Wild

Playoffs
Eastern Conference quarterfinals: Devils def. Rangers 4-3, Capitals def. Hurricanes 4-0, Penguins def. Senators 4-2, Flyers def. Maple Leafs 4-2.
Semifinals: Devils def. Capitals 4-3, Flyers def. Penguins 4-3.
Finals: Devils def. Flyers 4-2.
Western Conference quarterfinals: Stars def. Kings 4-2, Red Wings def. Coyotes 4-0, Avalanche def. Sharks 4-1, Oilers def. Blues 4-3.
Semifinals: Red Wings def. Stars 4-2, Avalanche def. Oilers 4-1.
Finals: Red Wings def. Avalanche 4-3.
Stanley Cup Finals: Red Wings def. Devils 4-3.
Split the aces and drop the puck, because tonight is hockey night in America once more. Finally.

Peter Hockaday is a sports reporter for the Emerald. He can be reached at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com.



Peter Hockaday
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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 3). You're in for all sorts of activity this year. Is it time for a better job? Is relocation required? No problem. You'll stay loyal to your exciting mate or partner, but the two of you could get into all sorts of adventures. Don't have an exciting mate or partner yet? Get started on the adventures, and you'll have one soon.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) - Today is a 6 - You're right, of course, but others don't agree. Don't bother trying to convince them with words. Behave admirably, and they'll be persuaded by your actions. Be like John Wayne.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 6 - The people in positions of authority don't seem to know what they're doing. Communications between them are garbled. You can use this situation to your advantage. Quietly do what's most effective, as only you know how. You're a master at this.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 7 - Friends are a dime a dozen, but true love is more elusive, and your own true love may be in a bit of a snit. You're very busy, but that's no excuse. Make time for the one who didn't ask you to not verbally, at least.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 5 - An offer that seems too good to be true, is. Don't say "yes" until you've done the homework. That means interrogating loved ones who've been there and done that. Put their experience to work for you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is an 8 - A friend who's having domestic troubles may turn to you for advice. You'd be wise not to say much. Instead, help your overintellectual buddy get some physical exercise. A workout at the gym will help put things in perspective.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 6 - You have a wish list, but don't race out and get that stuff quite yet. If you can save up the money and pay cash, you'll save a bundle in interest charges.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is a 7 - You're usually a very good communicator, but one very attractive person could have you tongue-tied. Be a good listener instead. You'll appear very intelligent - which, of course, you are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 6 - Still having trouble taking action? Feel like you're driving with the emergency brake on? That can be dangerous to your vehicle, and/or your mental health, especially since you want to go fast. Can you figure out a way to release whatever's slowing you down?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 7 - There's excitement in the air. Is it because of all the balls you're juggling? You're so popular, you're in danger of being run ragged. It's hard to turn down a friend, but you may have to do it for the sake of a loved one.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 5 - The others are spending so much time and energy bickering, they may not even notice you as you quietly advance your own agenda. Don't be distracted. Stay on course.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 7 - Everything looks fine, but it's not that easy. Complications lurk just beneath the surface. Delays in travel and communications are likely. Just pay attention.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 5 - Be careful if you go shopping now. You're in an impulsive mood, and you know how you get when that happens. Don't give your whole paycheck to a friend in need, either. Save enough for the rent.

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