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**SPORTS**

**Best Bet**  
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# Run

# Carrie Run

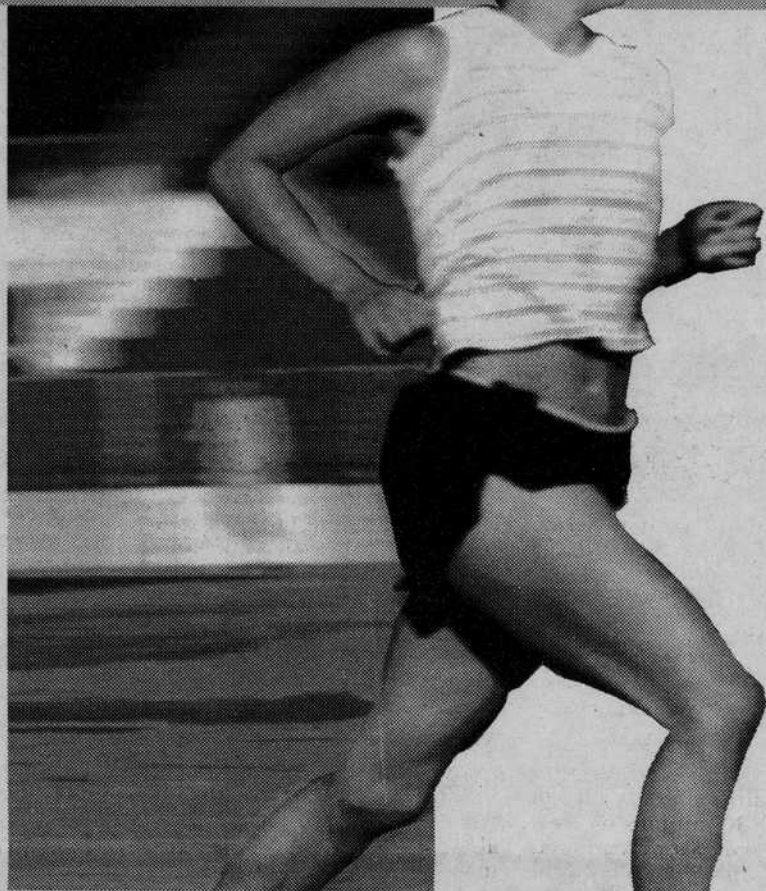


Photo Illustration  
Thomas Patterson Emerald  
Junior Carrie Zografos  
has led the Oregon  
cross country team in  
every race this season.

■ Junior Carrie Zografos has led the Oregon harrier squad not only with her running, but also with her personality

By Chris Cabot  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The women's cross country team fell short of expectations and had what red-shirt junior Carrie Zografos called a "frustrating" season. However, Zografos has maintained a positive outlook and an ever-present smile throughout the fall term.

Zografos, a psychology and Spanish double-major, hails from Portland, where she ran 300-meter hurdles at Central Catholic High. She spent the first two years of her collegiate career at Colorado, and it was there that she began the transition to longer distance running.

As a freshman, Zografos ran hurdles for the Buffaloes track and field team, but she began to see less improvement than she wanted compared to the other runners on the team. Her sophomore

year, Zografos made the move to middle distances on the track and tried out for the Colorado cross country team, a squad with a highly touted reputation. She made the team, but struggled to keep pace with the top runners on the squad.

"It was pretty easy that year actually because I did whatever my coach told me to do," Zografos said. "When he said to go run 10 miles at this pace, I'd just do it and not really think about it. But I was so far behind all those other girls."

Zografos kept working, though, and at the end of the season, when the top-seven runners had gone to nationals, she won an open race which included all the other Colorado runners ranking her as the eighth runner on a team that placed No. 8 nationally. Carrie credits her win and her improvement throughout her sophomore campaign to Colorado coach Mark Wetmore.

"My coach had a lot of faith in me and put a lot of confidence in me so I ran well," she said.

Despite her progress at Colorado, Zografos moved back to Oregon to be closer to home.

Last year for the Oregon cross country team, Zografos ran as the No. 8 harrier.

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## Shaq, Smith make debuts back at Mac

■ Guard Shaquala Williams, who sat out last year with an injury, and new coach Bev Smith, a former Oregon standout, open their season tonight at McArthur Court

By Adam Jude  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Finally. After five months of anticipation and excitement, the women's basketball team will hit the hardwood at 5 p.m. today in the season's first exhibition game against the Basketball Travelers at McArthur Court.

More importantly, though, Bev Smith will make her head coaching debut, looking to lead the Ducks to their ninth-straight NCAA Tournament appearance.

"The expectations are very high, and we're looking to fill those expectations," said Smith, the former Canadian national team coach. "I think that one thing that is really important is that we need to be the best team we can be. Every day we step on the practice floor and on the competitions floor we have to be a little better each time."

Tonight's game will also mark the return of Shaquala Williams, the 2000 Pacific-10 Conference Player of the Year who missed all of last season with a torn anterior cruciate ligament in her left knee. Williams, a junior shooting guard, has not played at Mac Court since March 17, 2000, when the Ducks lost to Alabama-Birmingham in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

In preparation for this season — which would have been her senior year if not for the injury — Williams played with the national team in the World University Games, where she helped the United States win a gold medal in China.

"It feels great to get back in the gym," Williams said. "I've worked hard all summer, and I feel like I'm in great shape."

Shaq will probably be the only non-senior in Oregon's starting lineup. In a guard-heavy formation, Edniesha Curry, a transfer from Cal State-Northridge, will take the point and three-point specialist Jamie Craighead will, fittingly, take the No. 3 spot. Forward Ndidi Unaka and center Alyssa Fredrick will likely round out the starting five in the team's first appearance of the year.

"We're going to play an up-tempo game, not necessarily be-

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## Oregon loses a heartbreaker to Cal, 3-1

■ Despite 45 kills by the 'big three,' Oregon falls to California in four, fails to win first Pac-10 game

By Hank Hager  
Oregon Daily Emerald

It can't get much worse for the Oregon volleyball team.

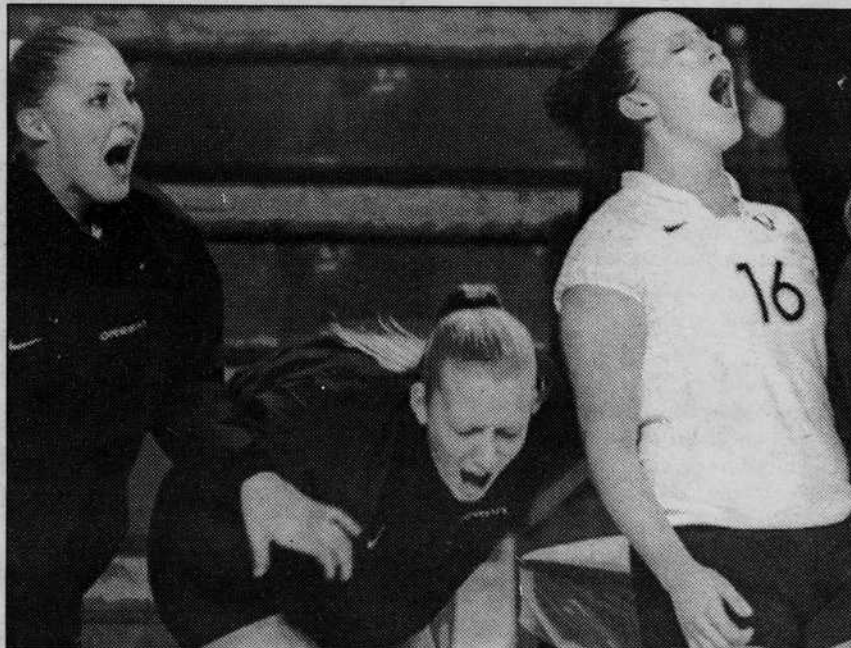
Despite a 10-point lead in game three, the Ducks lost a four-game (30-21, 27-30, 30-28, 30-22) heartbreaker to California on Thursday.

Tied 1-1 in the match and leading 21-14 late into the third game, the Ducks (8-15 overall, 0-12 Pacific-10 Conference) stood confident in their ability to gain a second-game win for the first time in Pac-10 play. But the Golden Bears (8-12, 3-9) had a different idea of what was going to happen.

Consecutive kills by California junior Reena Pardiwala gave the Bears what would be an immense boost of confidence, and the mentality that they could come back. The two points would be the first in what became a seven-point run, enough to put them one point behind the Ducks.

A kill by Oregon junior Stephanie Martin ended the run, and a California error gave the Ducks breathing room at 23-20, but it was short-lived. Nine points later, the Golden Bears caught up to the Oregon women, with the game tied at 26.

Tied at 27, junior Lindsay Closs emphatically put the Ducks back on top, but that would be the last point Oregon would win in the game. A service error by Closs and two service aces by Cal sophomore Gabrielle Abernathy put the Ducks away for good.



Adam Amato Emerald

Amy Reynolds (left), Alisa Nelson (center) and Diana Blank (16) react to a play during Oregon's loss to California. Despite their strong play, the Ducks fell to 0-12 in the Pac-10.

Oregon head coach Carl Ferreira said game three was not the best Oregon had played this season, but he was visually perturbed by the team's play.

"We almost played not to win," he said. "That was probably the biggest disappointment. We just didn't finish."

Closs led the Ducks' offensive output in the third game, leading the team with five kills. Senior Monique Tobbagi played strong in the game, backing up Closs' five kills with four of her own. However, it wasn't enough to get the Ducks ahead on the scoreboard.

The Golden Bears' uncanny knack to return the Ducks' attacks also helped keep Cal in the game. At least four times the Ducks seemed to have a point, only to have Cal's resiliency

stare them in the face and come through. The Ducks were the imposing team in the beginning, but not in the end.

"I thought the beginning of game three was going to be the determining factor for the match," Ferreira said. "The beginning of game three was exactly what we wanted in terms of increasing our play to the point of giving yourself a chance to succeed. (But) little things make big differences, and that one definitely got away from us."

Game two was the one the Ducks did win. But it wasn't in the grandest manner.

After matching points until the Bears

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