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Best Bet
Friday Night Fights,
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Harriers set to begin regional championships

■ If the men's cross country team runs well this weekend, it could compete in the national championship meet

By Chris Cabot
Oregon Daily Emerald

This weekend holds enormous implications for the men's cross country squad.

The NCAA Western Regional Championships in Tucson, Ariz., on the Dell Urich Golf Course features five other top-25 teams besides No. 18 Oregon.

Stanford, the second ranked team in the nation, will be chased by No. 8 Portland, No. 13 Santa Barbara, No. 14 Arizona State and No. 20 Arizona.

The Western Regional is one of nine meets held nationally to determine the 31 teams who will travel to South Carolina for the national championship meet.

In the race in Tucson, the top two finishing teams and top four individuals from non-qualifying teams automatically receive invitations to the NCAA Championships on Nov. 19. Another 13 teams and two individuals from across the nation, who will be selected by a committee, will also attend the national meet.

All-American junior Jason Hartmann, who placed second in last year's race, will contend with Stanford's Grant Robison and Arizona State's Fasil Bizuneh for the regional title.

Following Hartmann for the Ducks will probably be senior Adam Bergquist, who finished 10th at the Pacific-10 Conference Championships. Other than the senior team captain and All-American junior, all the other runners for the Ducks are either freshmen or sophomores.

"Even though we're really young, I've been

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■ The women's cross country team limps into what is probably its last race of the season at regionals

By Chris Cabot
Oregon Daily Emerald

After finishing eighth at the Pacific-10 Conference Championships and struggling with injuries and disappointing times all year, the women's cross country team is not expecting to come home from Tucson, Ariz., with a win at the NCAA Western Regional Championships.

Oregon will face No. 1 Stanford, No. 8 Arizona, No. 11 Arizona State, No. 17 UCLA and No. 24 Washington, in addition to other regional schools. The top two schools and top four individual finishers from non-qualifying teams automatically receive an invitation to the NCAA Championships, so there still is an outside chance for the Oregon harriers.

Another 13 teams and two individuals will also be selected by a committee to go to Furman, S.C., for the nationals, but it is unlikely that head coach Tom Heinonen's squad will be granted an at-large bid.

Leading the way for Oregon, as she has done throughout the season, will likely be junior Carrie Zografos. Through last weekend, Zografos had been running well in practice, but Sunday night she became ill and missed Tuesday's workout, Heinonen said. It is unclear whether she will still be feeling the effects on Saturday.

Heinonen said that sophomore Magdalena Sandoval is feeling the effects of a quad strain, but Laura Harmon appears to have recovered fully from a kidney infection that has been affecting her for almost a month.

Freshman Sara Schaaf will not travel with

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Junior guard Shaquala Williams drives past Western Oregon's Trisha Schwenk (35) for two of her game-high 23 points Thursday. The Ducks won their last exhibition game 75-55.

Adam Amato Emerald

Ducks' defense steals win against Western Oregon

■ The Ducks needed a defensive stand and got one in a victory over Western Oregon

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

Good things happen to those who don't stand around.

After a lackluster performance in the first exhibition game last week, the Ducks' defense stole the show Thursday night. Western Oregon committed 34 turnovers and the

Oregon women's basketball team had 22 steals in a 75-55 victory in front of 3,706 fans at McArthur Court.

Offensively, the Ducks have now scored 75 and 83 points in their first two games, with junior guard Shaquala Williams leading the way with a combined 45 points. The real story of Thursday's game, though, was Oregon's pressure defense, which was virtually non-existent in the first exhibition game last Friday.

"In the big picture, as a coaching staff, we were much more pleased

by our effort tonight," head coach Bev Smith said. "It was not always pretty and we still had some mental lapses ... but the defensive pressure that we were looking to apply was there."

The backcourt tandem of Ednisha Curry and Williams combined for eight steals and 38 points Thursday, while holding the Wolves to 43 percent shooting.

Curry, a senior transfer from Cal State-Northridge, said she was a little nervous in the first exhibition game, where she scored only seven points and committed four turnovers.

"I was hesitating on everything," Curry said. "I was just standing around and watching."

But against Western Oregon, Curry let loose against point guard Becky Gregory — who committed a game-high six turnovers — and showed her tenacious defensive style.

"From a personal standpoint, it helps the team tremendously when I'm pressuring the ball," Curry said with a grin. "I love to play defense. I love to frustrate the point guard."

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Oregon volleyball not spooked by Beavers coming into The Pit

■ This season's second installment of the Civil War promises to be a good one

By Hank Hager
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon volleyball team received quite a surprise Thursday at practice in McArthur Court. A medium-sized bat decided to make Mac Court's rafters its home for the morning, and swirled above practice, surveying what was down below.

Is this an omen?

Oregon State (15-7 overall, 8-5 Pacific-10 Conference) comes to The Pit tonight in hopes of taking match two of this season's Civil War from the Ducks, with the first serve slated for 7 p.m. And if you

ask Oregon head coach Carl Ferreira about the significance of the team's little flying friend, it's eerie.

"Black and orange," he said. "OSU wears Halloween colored uniforms, we just had Halloween and have a bat here. The Beavers are coming."

Oregon is coming off its first win in two months, when it defeated Portland in the

Rose City on Tuesday, and looks to continue its success when the Beavers come to town. But Oregon State will be no pushover, as the Beavers showed when Oregon visited Gill Coliseum earlier this season.

In the match, the Ducks (9-16,

0-13) stayed with the Beavers until game three, only to see their conference rival speed ahead and eventually win the match in four games.

"Probably the best word you can use to describe Oregon State is efficiency," Ferreira said. "They take care of the ball well and don't make ball-handling errors. They don't give you cheap points, and you can't sit back and think they will award you with lack of concentration errors."

The Beavers are assured a winning season, but must roll through and win at least two of their five remaining Pac-10 matches to finish above .500 in the conference. Oregon State was considerably raw when the Ducks traveled to Corvallis in October, but have since come

on strong, although their record doesn't show it.

"Oregon is improving like every other team in this conference, so I'm sure we'll see a much better Oregon team this time around," Oregon State head coach Nancy Somera said. "But, Oregon will also see a much better Oregon State team this time around, too."

Of course, it's Civil War time, but if you ask Ferreira, that doesn't weigh too heavily on the team's preparation.

"In actuality, it's just another game on the schedule," he said. "It adds an extra element in preparation in that the coach doesn't need to add the stimulus of concentration or focus."

After defeating the Pilots on

Tuesday, the Ducks have been playing their best all season. They narrowly lost to California last week, and took a game from No. 4 Stanford. Although the team's true colors have taken this long to show through, Ferreira is encouraged by the team's play.

The Ducks are not in the position to challenge for the Pac-10 title and don't have a chance to gain a berth to the NCAA Tournament, but still know that every game and every match still counts.

"At this time of the year, you should be playing your best volleyball," he said. "There's a lot of people who will be back to this team in the future, so you make

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