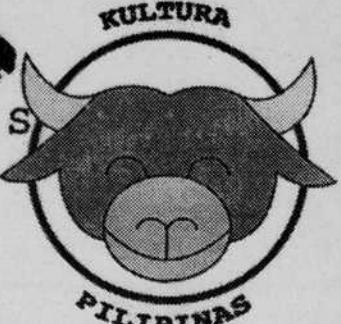


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Club triathletes finish sixth

■ The Club Sports triathlon team places sixth in the Wildflower, the world's second-largest triathlon

By Jesse Thomas
 for the Emerald

It has been deemed the "Woodstock of Triathlon."
 More 6,000 triathletes competed in the second-largest meet in the world, the Wildflower Triathlon, last weekend in California, which attracts more than 27,000 spectators every year.

After a 13th place finish last year, the Oregon Club Sports triathlon team placed sixth of out 43 teams with a time of 16 hours, 47 minutes, 40 seconds. Times are based on the top three men and three women of each team.

"This team's dedication and drive took them way farther than I had initially anticipated," coach Jay Williams said. "We were much more prepared physically and emotionally from last year."

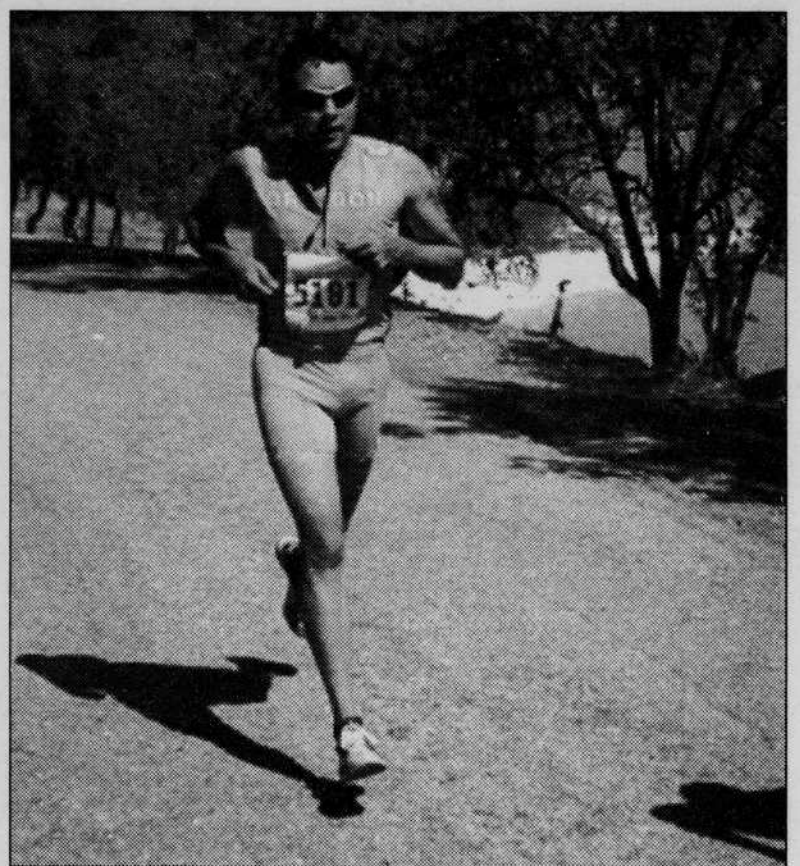
The Ducks competed in the world-class course Olympic Distance Triathlon, which consists of a 1.5 kilometer open water swim, 40K bike course and 10K run. Many of the Oregon athletes achieved personal records and the team had a 100 percent finish rate.

Sophomore Eric Gonzales finished first for the Oregon men with a time of 2:32:22, while second place went to freshman Dan Wright in 2:42:36.

For the women, senior Heidi Engstrom had a personal best with 2:42:19, and second place went to senior Stefanie Rimel in 2:56:21.

"Each person did the best they could on that day for that race," coordinator and three-time Wildflower competitor Alisha Siecinski said. "It all came together on that day."

"Everybody accomplished something huge that day even though they weren't expecting to," senior Brian Haggerty said.



Courtesy

Sophomore Eric Gonzales, who finished first for Oregon, pushes through the final leg of the 10K run at the Wildflower Triathlon. The Ducks finished sixth out of 43 teams.

Williams competed for Oregon, but competed in the long course triathlon, also known as a "half-ironman." The course consists of a 1.2-mile swim, 56-mile bike and 13.1 mile run and is one of the most challenging courses anywhere.

The Wildflower Triathlon had its 20th anniversary this year and plays host to the best pro athletes in the world, including Chris McCormack, who captured the long course title for the second straight year in 4:03:59.

All of Oregon's athletes put the one thing into their races which is mandatory, according to Williams.

"Heart," he said.

First-time Wildflower competitor Paul Anhart describes his experience as extremely difficult.

"I was on the bike and going so hard that I started to have tunnel vision and things got really blurry and I just powered through it and finished strong," Anhart said.

Anhart encountered what experienced triathletes refer to as "whitezone."

Jesse Thomas is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

"I knew what to expect and I knew it was going to hurt physically, but I couldn't have asked for a better race."

Jay Williams
 Club triathlon coach

"I knew what to expect and I knew it was going to hurt physically, but I couldn't have asked for a better race," Williams said after finishing the race in 5:27:35.

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 8). You can be trusted. You keep your word and do what you've promised. But don't promise too much this year, or you'll have trouble maintaining that excellent reputation. Get technical assistance. You can't do it any other way. It'll be a good investment.

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 7 - You're getting stronger and also more impatient. There's so much you still want to know! Being pushy just causes resistance. You can break through sometime tomorrow. Be patient.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 6 - You've been known to drive a hard bargain. Go ahead and do it again. There's a hefty bonus to be made. Don't let anyone push you around.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 6 - A kind word will do more for your well-being now than just about anything else. Let someone who has a problem know that you understand.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 6 - Time to go back undercover. Let someone else fight the battle. Send that person information and encouragement. You've got plenty of both.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is an 8 - Just about everything is easier now, so go! A good partner helps. Put on a great performance. Someone important is watching.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 5 - Discuss financial matters with your partner or mate. Consider his or her wants and needs. Reserve

the authority to make the final decision, and you'll both save.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is a 7 - There's a way around your dilemma, and it should be obvious by now. Work through an assertive partner and snatch the prize.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 6 - Slow down and be more careful. Over the next few days you'll have to work harder for every gain. Your natural stubbornness is your most valuable asset now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 7 - You're finally getting the support you need. Show your appreciation. The battle isn't won yet, but you have reinforcements now, so anything's possible.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 6 - The adrenaline rush is over, and you may find you're exhausted. You'll see more things to be done, at least through tomorrow. You can't sit still, so you might as well do them.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is an 8 - You know perfectly well that you can find the answer to just about any question, so when a new question arises, you're not dismayed. You're the perfect person for the job.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 6 - You'll be tempted to throw money at a problem. Don't do it, even if you can. Instead, let people pay you more for what you're doing.

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