

Cross country jumps to fifth nationally

Strong early-season showings have vaulted the Ducks in the national polls

Cross country

Mindi Rice

Freelance Sports Reporter

After finishing first at the Roy Griak Invitational on Sept. 28, the men's cross country team is making a move in the national poll.

The men started the season ranked ninth, and in the first season poll were bumped to tenth.

At the Griak meet, the men won the team title for the first time. The Ducks' five scoring runners finished within 14 seconds of each other, led by sophomore Ryan Andrus, who finished eighth overall.

Oregon won the team title by nine points at the Griak, edging out Eastern Michigan and

Weber State. The race featured 12 teams ranked in the top 40 at the time.

The team's first-place finish at the Griak meet helped its ranking. In all three polls released since that meet, the men have been ranked fifth in the nation and second in the West region.

Stanford, with 10 of the 16 first-place votes, is the only West region team ranked ahead of Oregon. Arkansas, from the South Central region, is ranked second. Colorado and Northern Arizona, both from the Mountain region, are ranked third and fourth, respectively.

Skipping past Pre-Nationals

The men's team is taking more time to train together and be ready for the championship races that lie ahead.

The men are passing up on the Pre-National meet Saturday, which would give them the opportunity to preview the LaVern Gibson XC course. The course, in Terre Haute, Ind., is

the course where the NCAA Championships will be held in November.

Every year, several top-25 teams travel to the Pre-National meet to test out the course for that year. Stanford, the top-ranked men's team, will be there this year, along with other nationally ranked teams.

Healing happens

Redshirt senior Carrie Zografos and junior Magdalena Sandoval are both healthy enough to run in the Pre-National meet. They sat out the Willamette invitational on Oct. 5 with injuries.

"A little regular training and a lot of alternative training," is what Sandoval did during the past training period, according to head coach Tom Heinonen. Sandoval had an injured hamstring after the Griak meet.

Zografos had tight calves after the Griak meet. Heinonen said she did most of the regular training between Willamette and

this week.

Running while injured

Nori Gordon, an Oregon freshman from South Eugene High School, is already sitting out after just joining the team.

Gordon ran unattached in the Willamette Invitational and finished 36th. The Ducks picked her up after the meet. During her physical, an old stress fracture she was running on was discovered. She is sitting out while the injury heals.

Going back North on Interstate 5

On Oct. 26, both the men and women will send squads to Corvallis for the Beaver Classic. The meet will be one of the six meets each team must run in to qualify as a Division-I school.

Mindi Rice is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

Soccer

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Etter finds that soccer doesn't hinder her track workouts. Head coach Bill Steffen can see Etter's strong work ethic and likes what she brings to the team.

"Mary as a person has a good work rate, so she's able to do this without getting stressed or worn-out or frustrated," Steffen said. "She's brought a lot of energy, it's just a part of her nature. She has really developed in the short time she has been with us."

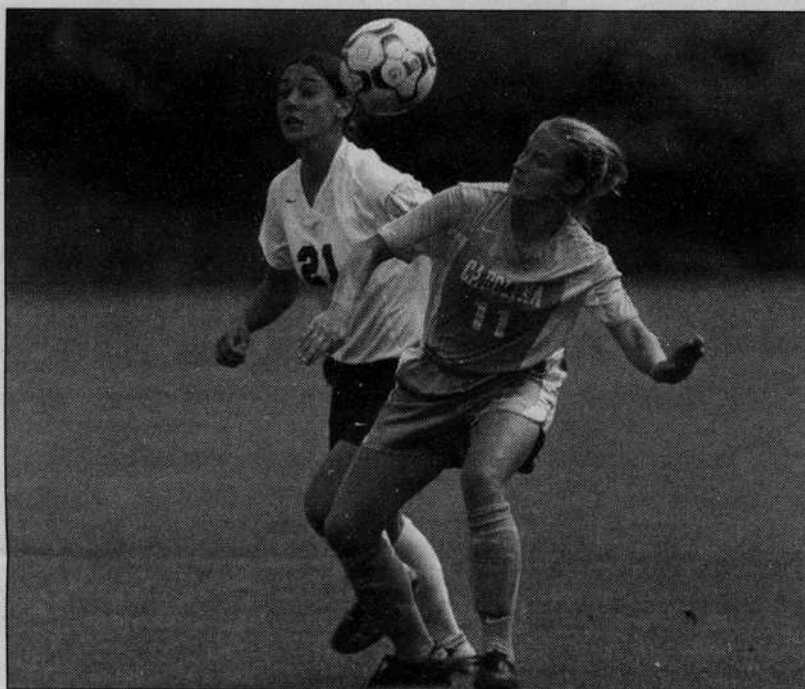
Etter saw her first action in Oregon's game against Wisconsin-Green Bay when she played 32 minutes and recorded one save.

That was the first time the senior from Everett, Wash. had seen action since she was MVP and a three-year letterwinner for Snohomish High School, which won a state title in 1997, Etter's sophomore year.

Etter didn't expect much when she walked onto the Oregon soccer team and even receiving a T-shirt was a surprise to her. But so far, she is loving her experience and having a great time.

Injury Update Sophomore goalkeeper Dominique Lainez is starting to practice again after suffering a serious right ankle sprain in early September.

Lainez normally backs up Peters



Adam Amato Emerald

Freshman Jessica Fetzer (21) and the Ducks have been plagued by injuries to star players like Nicole Garbin this season.

as second-string goalkeeper, and Steffen said she is about 60 percent.

"Dom is starting to be able to do things now and her mobility has gotten a lot better," Steffen said. "Her strength and ability to kick a ball is still limited by her injury. She is at that second stage right now where she has done all the rehab stuff, but

now you have to get back and do all the real world stuff."

Sophomore forward Nicole Garbin and freshman forward Andrea Valadez have anterior cruciate ligament injuries and will be out the rest of the season as redshirts.

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.

Basketball

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Crosswhite is one of the tallest players on the team at 6-foot-11, while Matt Short is the tallest at 7 feet.

Still, the big men are in awe of the speed that surrounds them.

"We're a fast running team," Crosswhite said with an unbelieving look on his face. "I'm positive we get off faster than last year."

James Davis

"Everybody's got something to prove on this team," Davis said. "I've got something to prove, the young guys are all out there to prove themselves. We never stop working."

If it's even possible, Davis said the Ducks' disappointing season from two years ago — his freshman year — still haunts and motivates them for this season.

"It gives you a hunger to win," Davis said. "We got an appetite. It's a lot better to be winning than losing, and now we know what it takes to win."

Davis said his first week has been all about leadership.

"When I see a young guy struggling, I think that's how I was two years ago," Davis said. "I just try to take them under my wing, just make sure they pay attention to

Men's basketball new faces

Ian Crosswhite, F, redshirt freshman

Andre Joseph, G, junior transfer

Jordan Kent, G, freshman

Brandon Lincoln, G, freshman

Matt Short, C, redshirt freshman

Tyler York, G, freshman

Adam Zahn, F, freshman

the little things. It's an adjustment coming in here."

Davis, at 21, is one of the oldest members of the team this year. Only Johnson, Ridnour and Helquist are older. But the junior is still working as hard as ever, just like the rest of the Ducks.

"We're working hard, man," Davis said. "It's competition, but it's good competition."

Contact the sports editor at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com.

Sports briefs

So many sports ...

The Oregon Athletic Department has been planning the addition of a new women's sport since Phil Knight announced his intent to re-donate to the Ducks last year. The only question is: Which sport?

A poll on the Athletic Department's Web site, www.goducks.com, offers several possibilities, of which the most popular possibilities are swimming and diving, gymnastics, lacrosse and ice hockey. Swimming and diving is the most popular choice, with 30.6 percent of the vote.

The new sport would most likely be a women's sport in an effort to

comply with Title IX.

The winning Wenslow

The Oregon women's golf team is headed to Palo Alto, Calif., this weekend for the Stanford Pepsi Intercollegiate.

The Ducks' new star, Therese Wenslow, will look to continue her torrid pace from the fall into the Stanford

tournament. Wenslow, a true freshman from Sweden, has been setting Oregon records like they were her VCR. So far this fall, Wenslow has set the Oregon freshman single-round and 54-hole records.

The Ducks will face the nation's top competition in California. Included in the field are top teams like Georgia, Vanderbilt and Texas A&M.

"We haven't played bad in our first two tournaments this season," Oregon head coach Shannon Rouillard said. "This is another midterm for us, though it will be another challenging one."

The Ducks begin play at the Pepsi Intercollegiate on Friday morning.

—Peter Hockaday

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