

# Cross Country runs over OSU Beaver Classic

Nicole Feest leads the cross country squads with a first place finish in Saturday's meet

## Cross country

Mindi Rice

Freelance Sports Reporter

Before the Oregon football team took the field Saturday, the Ducks already had two wins under their belt.

The Oregon men's and women's cross country teams both took first place Saturday morning as they entered "B" teams in Oregon State's Beaver Classic.

Freshman Nicole Feest won the overall race for the women, finishing the 4,000-meter course in 14 minutes, 11 seconds.

Eleanor Gordon, a recent addition to the Oregon squad, took second in the meet. The freshman ran the course in 14:16. Redshirt sophomore Taylor Bryant came in shortly behind her teammates, completing the race in 14:34 and earning a third-place finish overall.

The Oregon women won the small meet, earning 23 points. The Portland squad finished second with 42 points.

Freshman Krissy Sonniksen (14:44) finished fourth for the Ducks and seventh overall, while redshirt freshman Haripurkh Khalsa (15:02) took 15th overall and fifth for Oregon. Also running were

freshman Chelsea Manesh (15:35), who finished 21st overall and sophomore Beth Jackson (16:34) who took 33rd overall.

The men's race featured eight Oregon freshmen running the 5,000-meter race.

Shane Ahlers led the Oregon men with a seventh-place finish and a time of 18:39. Collin Stark-Benz (18:47) finished ninth overall and second for the Ducks, while Jan Olszowy (18:53) was third for Oregon and 13th overall.

"They did a real nice job," men's head coach Martin Smith said.

Ryan Flaherty (19:16) finished 19th overall and fourth for the Ducks. Ricky Scott (20:34) came in fourth for Oregon and 36th overall, and Kyle Sutherland (22:01) finished 44th overall and fifth for the Ducks. Tomas Finol (22:02) finished 45th overall and Adam Bailey (22:53) closed out the Oregon squad, finishing the race in 49th place.

"It was an opportunity for some of our young freshmen to compete," Smith said.

Oregon won the meet with 32 points. Willamette came in second with 44.

Saturday, both Duck squads travel to Pasadena, Calif. to take on the rest of the Pacific-10 Conference in its championship meet.

Mindi Rice is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

# Palmer picks apart UO secondary in 'easy' win

The USC quarterback throws for 448 yards as Oregon's secondary gets beaten again

Adam Jude

Senior Sports Reporter

For the second straight week, Oregon's defensive secondary was burned for big yards, big plays and big scores.

Accordingly, the Ducks lost consecutive games at Autzen Stadium for the first time since 1997.

This week, Carson Palmer and the Trojans' talented receiving corps burned the Ducks in a 44-33 victory.

In his fourth trip to Autzen, Palmer picked up his first win over the Ducks by passing for a school-record 448 yards and five touchdowns.

"Offensively, everything was easy," Palmer said. "We knew they couldn't stop us offensively, and they couldn't stop us offensively."

It's a trend lately. Last week, Oregon gave up a Pacific-10 Conference record 536 passing yards to Arizona State's Andrew Walter in a 45-42 loss.

Despite the shortcomings, Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said he will

not change his defensive scheme.

"That's not an option," he said. "We'll continue to tinker with what we do. But we are playing some people that need to mature and get better. They're young, and they will get better."

"But there's not much we can do."

Oregon true freshman Marques Binns started at one cornerback position in place of freshman Aaron Gipson, who had started the seven previous games this season. Binns, listed at 5-foot-10, lined up against USC true freshman Mike Williams, listed at 6-foot-5.

Williams finished the game with 13 catches for 226 yards — both USC freshman records — and two touchdowns.

USC senior receiver Kareem Kelly — who set the Pac-10 record Saturday with Oregon's Keenan Howry for catching a pass in 43 straight games — made it clear that the Trojans' "Triple Threat" receivers were better than Oregon's three receivers who were depicted on a billboard in USC territory.

"We wanted to win this game

since the first day of camp and the first day we saw the billboard," Kelly said. "We took the billboard as an insult. So we wanted to come out here and put on a good show."

And they did, particularly in the third quarter.

The Ducks took a 19-14 lead into halftime, but the Trojans came out of the locker room on fire, as they scored on a 31-yard Kelly reception in their first possession of the third quarter. USC added two more touchdowns before the end of the quarter, and another on the second play of the fourth to put the game out of reach at 41-19.

"We didn't play a very good third quarter, which is obviously an understatement because that was a turning point in the game," Bellotti said.

Like Oregon's Los Angeles-based billboard, the Trojans left the sign of a big insult in Eugene.

"If we don't get better, (losing) is something we're going to have to get used to," Oregon linebacker David Moretti said.

Contact the senior sports reporter at adamjude@dailyemerald.com.

## Jude

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Bowl? Don't even think about it.

The fourth-place Ducks are a long shot to get to El Paso, Texas, for the Sun Bowl, given to the conference's third-place team. The best bet is that the Ducks will spend Christmas in Las Vegas for the aptly named Las Vegas Bowl, bestowed upon the Pac-

10's fifth-place team, or maybe even the Insight Bowl in Phoenix for finishing fourth.

The bowl season, however, is far from the forefront for the Ducks.

"We work very hard ... and I believe my kids deserve to win, and we'll make sure that happens," Bellotti said.

It starts with a winning attitude, which is hard to grasp when you're losing. The Ducks are missing their

once-resounding swagger, and must find it if they hope to find another win.

"This is definitely the lowest point in my career, and for many other guys on this team," Oregon defensive tackle Igor Olshansky said. "It's going to sink in in the next couple of days."

If Oregon doesn't get its Ducks in order, it's going to sink in for a lot longer than that.

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## Football

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jans went on a 30-0 run in the second half to put the game away.

"There's nothing better than coming in here and beating these guys," Palmer said. "Their fans are out of control, and to shut them up and watch them walk up the stands — just the lack of class those guys have every time they beat us, the fans and the players. For us to be classy about our win and walk out and shake their hands and tell them 'good game' and 'good luck' — it just felt good."

Oregon's secondary, which gave up a Pacific-10 Conference-record 536 passing yards in the Ducks' loss to Arizona State last week, gave up another 448 to Palmer and the Trojans, a USC record for passing yards.

"It was close in the first half, but we'll have to look at what happened in that third quarter," Oregon head

coach Mike Bellotti said.

At the half, the game had all the earmarks of the thrilling USC-Oregon contests of recent years. Oregon kicker Jared Siegel knocked in four field goals, including a 48-yarder, as the Ducks overcame Palmer touchdowns of eight and 35 yards. Oregon's only touchdown came on a bomb from Jason Fife to Keenan Howry, a 54-yard pass that put Oregon ahead 10-7.

The Ducks were also making big defensive plays, blocking a field goal attempt, notching two sacks and coming up with a momentum-shifting interception in the endzone.

But after halftime, the tables turned. Drastically.

"In the third quarter, they made all the plays, and we didn't make any," linebacker David Moretti said.

Palmer opened up the second-half scoring with a 31-yard touchdown pass to Kareem Kelly, but the extra point was blocked to make the score

20-19 with 11:36 remaining in the period. Less than five minutes later, Fargas ran in from 15 yards, and Palmer hit Mike Williams on a 15-yard slant with 3:01 left to make the score 34-19.

By the time Palmer hit Malaefou MacKenzie for an eight-yard score early in the fourth quarter, many fans were already heading for the exits.

Oregon's offense sputtered in the second half, which didn't help the defensive effort. Smith was held to 79 yards rushing, his lowest total of the year and the first time in eight games that he was held under 100 yards. Fife also struggled, completing only 20 of his 45 pass attempts.

"We didn't find our rhythm right off, and that's what killed us," Fife said of the offense.

Smith went over the 1,000-yard mark for the season midway through the third quarter. He now has 1,031 rushing yards this season. Howry set a Pac-10 record with his 43rd-



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Oregon cornerback Marques Binns (13) started in place of Aaron Gipson on Saturday.

straight game with a catch, and USC's Kelly tied that record.

The Ducks will be at home again next week to take on the Stanford

Cardinal, the only team to beat Oregon last year.

Contact the sports editor at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com.

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