

SPORTS

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women's basketball game
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Ducks wait on postseason destination

The Ducks could be headed to the Seattle Bowl, but likely won't find out for sure until Dec. 8

Football notes

Adam Jude
Senior Sports Reporter

Jason Fife doesn't know what lies ahead for the Oregon football team. He just wants to get back on the field.

"I don't care who we play. I don't care when we play. I just want another shot at somebody," the junior quarter-

back said after Oregon's 45-24 Civil War loss in Corvallis.

He'll likely get his chance next month in a bowl game, but the Ducks won't find out where they'll end up until this weekend at the earliest. Oregon (7-5 overall, 3-5 Pacific-10 Conference), which finished eighth in the Pac-10, will probably have to wait until the final Bowl Championship Series poll is released on Dec. 8 before making its travel agenda for the bowl game.

"I haven't given it a lot of thought," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said of his preferred bowl game. "We want to go to the best bowl game possible and compete against the best team

available."

Because of an NCAA suspension, California (7-5, 4-4), which tied for fifth in the conference standings, cannot compete in a bowl game, leaving the Pac-10 with seven bowl-eligible teams, including Oregon at No. 7.

If they played in a bowl this week, the Ducks would likely be headed to Seahawks Stadium on Dec. 30 for the Seattle Bowl, which made a one-year agreement with the Pac-10 last week. A team from the Atlantic Coast Conference — right now, either Georgia Tech (7-4) or Clemson (7-5) — is also slated for a Seattle Bowl bid.

The Pac-10, however, could have

two teams eligible for one of four BCS bowls. Washington State (9-2, 6-1) and USC (9-2, 7-1) are both in the running for the Rose Bowl, but if USC beats Notre Dame this Saturday, the Trojans would likely be in the running for one of the three remaining BCS bowls — the Fiesta, Oregon and Sugar bowls.

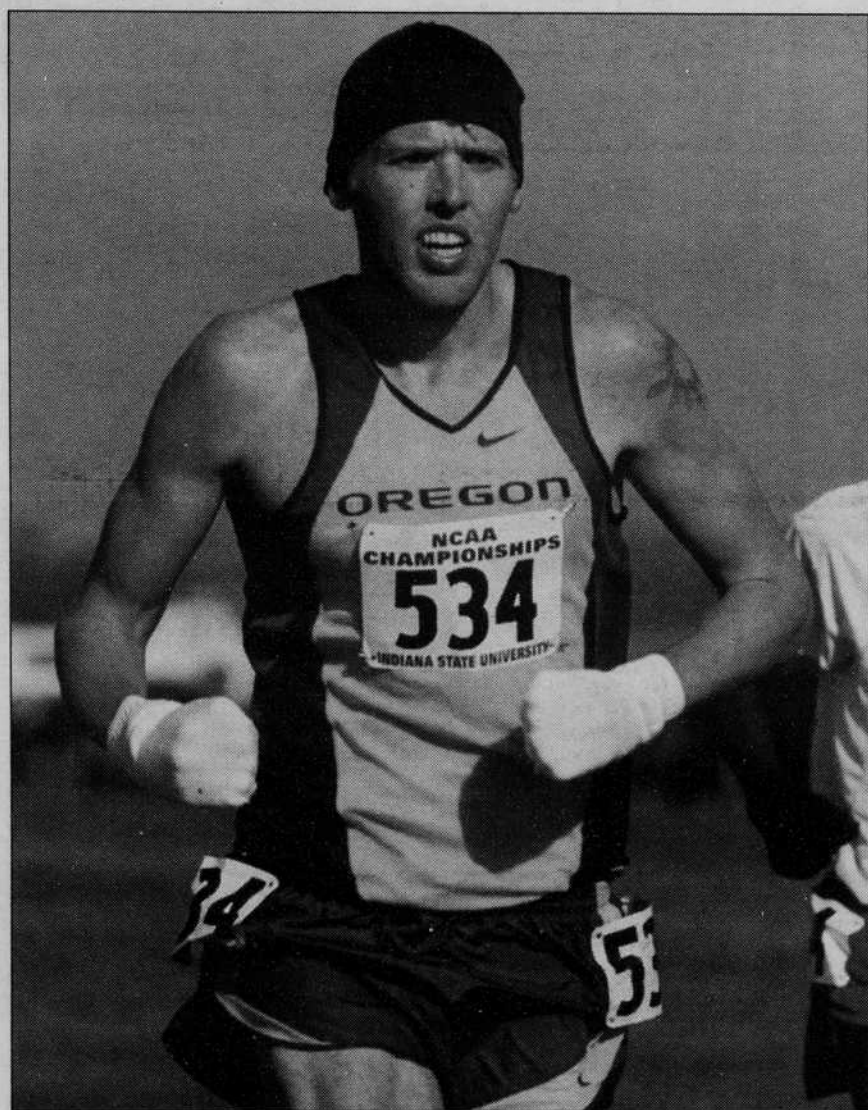
If USC does get a BCS bid, all the other Pac-10 teams would move up in the bowl standings. That would put the Ducks in the Silicon Valley Classic in San Jose, Calif., on Dec. 31. Fresno State, which lost to Oregon on Sept. 7, has already accepted an invitation to the Silicon Valley Classic, and bowl officials usually don't like to pair teams

that have already played each other.

The inaugural San Francisco Bowl, scheduled for Dec. 31 at Pac Bell Park, is also a possibility for the Ducks, but only if the Mountain West Conference doesn't have a third bowl-eligible team. Air Force and Colorado State are the only two Mountain West teams currently bowl-eligible.

While they wait to hear about their bowl fate, the Ducks will take this Thanksgiving week off and reflect on a disappointing season, which saw the Ducks climb to No. 6 in the country after a 6-0 start.

"It's been a tough year," senior tailback Turn to **Football**, page 6



Geoff Thurner Oregon Media Services

Jason Hartmann won his third All-American honor by placing 18th at the NCAAs in Indiana.

Five All-American harriers lead Oregon at nationals

The Oregon men's cross country squad finishes fifth at Monday's NCAA Championships

Cross country

Mindi Rice
Freelance Sports Reporter

One year after the Oregon cross country squads missed having any All-Americans, they are bringing home five following Monday's NCAA Championships.

Redshirt senior Carrie Zografos earned the honor, along with the top four Ducks on the men's side.

"To go from being a walk-on to an All-American is such an exciting feeling," Zografos said. "Especially for someone who just started running cross country barely three years ago. And to do it in (women's head coach) Tom (Heinonen)'s last year means that much more. It's a special way to end it, for both me and him, and something neither of us will forget."

Senior Jason Hartmann, in his last season of cross country eligibility, earned his third cross country All-American honor, becoming only the eighth Duck ever to earn the title three times. Hartmann finished 18th overall to lead the Ducks on the 10,000-meter course in 30 minutes and 17.9 seconds.

Hartmann finished in the top 20 for the first time in his career, after placing 37th, 35th and 50th over the past three years.

Redshirt sophomore Ryan Andrus finished 30th overall, running the course in 30:30. Andrus earned the Ducks' second All-American honor, while dramatically improving over his 236th-place finish in last year's national meet.

Eric Logsdon, a redshirt sophomore, earned 37th

overall, improving over his 2001 finish of 156th. Logsdon ran the course in 30:36.5, and earned his first All-American honor.

Right behind Logsdon, finishing the course in 30:37.8, junior Brett Holts improved over his 96th-place finish in 2001 to finish 39th, and fourth for the Ducks. Holts also earned his first All-American honor, as one of the last Americans to earn the honor out of the participants.

Redshirt junior John Lucas wrapped up Oregon's scoring with an 86th-place finish, taking the course in 31:13. Lucas finished 117th in last year's NCAA meet.

Also running for the Ducks were junior Noel Paulson, who finished 125th overall, and freshman Shane Ahlers, who placed 175th overall. Paulson finished 176th in last year's race.

"This season has been building into a crescendo, so to finish it like this is pretty emotional," Andrus said. "It's been an intense year and we've been so dedicated that it's been a special season. We also wanted to make this race a good one for Jason. He's worked so hard and been such a great leader."

The men's fifth-place team finish is its highest national finish under head coach Martin Smith. The men's squad also earned fifth place in 1998, when Smith was an assistant coach, as Steve Fein led the Ducks with an 18th-place finish.

The lone Oregon women's entrant, Zografos, finished 33rd individually in her final collegiate harrier meet. Zografos ran the 6,000-meter course in 20:31.4. In her other NCAA appearance as an Oregon harrier, Zografos finished 220th in 2000.

Zografos' All-American distinction marked the 31st All-American cross country honor that Heinonen has seen his harriers earn during his 28 years at the helm.

Mindi Rice is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

Men fend off late Northridge runs to win John Thompson Challenge

The Ducks pull out their first close win of the season, and say they will learn from the experience

Men's basketball

Peter Hockaday
Sports Editor

If Monday night's basketball game was a horror movie, then California-State Northridge would be the bad guy who keeps coming back at the end.

The Matadors just wouldn't die.

But despite the monumental efforts of the Northridge players, the No. 10 Oregon men's basketball team improved to 2-0 on the young season with an 86-77 victory in front of 8,560 fans at McArthur Court. The win gave the Ducks the title in the two-day, John

Thompson Challenge.

"As I've stated before, we're not going to blow out every team every night," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "But this was good for us. We didn't play our best game, and it forced us to fight through adversity."

The Ducks didn't put away the game until the final minutes. The Matadors tied the game with 3:17 remaining and got within two points with less than two minutes on the clock. But the Ducks hit five of six free throws down the stretch and came up with two key defensive stops over the final minutes to pull out the win.

Forward Luke Jackson led the Ducks with 23 points on the strength of 12-for-12 shooting from the free-throw line. Five Oregon players scored in double figures, including Brian Helquist, who notched a career-high 11 points and added nine rebounds.

"We won," Helquist said, when asked what

it felt like to score a career high.

That phrase applied to the feelings of most of the Ducks after Monday's close win, their first close game after averaging more than 121 points in two exhibition games and the season opener.

"This showed we can play another type of game other than an up-tempo game," said senior forward Robert Johnson, who had a double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds.

The Matadors made it close throughout the second half. Northridge started the second frame with a 14-7 run, but Oregon answered with a 21-8 run of its own to make the score 61-51 with 11:15 remaining. The Matadors slowly crawled back into the game as the Ducks turned the ball over on seven-straight possessions, and Northridge eventually knotted the score with an easy lay-in



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Brian Helquist scored a career-high 11 points in Monday's win.

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