

Harriers look back on year of success

The Oregon cross country teams will lose only three seniors from two squads

Cross country

Mindi Rice

Freelance Sports Reporter

Coming home with five All-American runners from the NCAA Championships is a feat that no Duck squad in the past six years — and possibly longer — has accomplished.

Men's head coach Martin Smith and women's head coach Tom Heinonen had a year to be proud of.

"This season I felt like the guys did an outstanding job working together as a team," Smith said. "It's a tremendous accomplishment to have four All-Americans and finish fifth as a team at nationals. It's a positive indicator that we're getting better, and building toward a brighter future."

Smith's men's squad had an impressive fifth-place finish at the national meet, stunning everyone — including themselves. Smith had counted the Ducks out of the top-five before the national meet.

Senior Jason Hartmann earned his third All-American honor in cross country, finishing 20th in his last collegiate cross country meet.

"Coming in, I had a feeling that we would do well as a team," Hartmann said. "This was a nice way to finish it off."

Redshirt sophomore Ryan Andrus finished 34th in the national race, with redshirt sophomore Eric Logsdon and junior Brett Holts right behind him at 41st and 43rd, respectively. The three all earned All-American honors with Hartmann.

"It's been an intense year, and we've been so dedicated that it's been a special season," Andrus said.

Andrus earned a Pacific-10 Conference All-Academic First Team honor for the second consecutive year. Redshirt junior John Lucas was named to the second team, while Logsdon, Holts and junior Noel Paulson all earned honorable mentions.

All of the men who ran in the NCAA race this year finished higher than they had in any previous national appearances.

"We had a very good year and the guys have worked extremely hard,"

Smith said. "They've been very coachable and they have patiently built themselves into a nationally-competitive team."

On the women's side, the team missed an opportunity to run in the national meet in Heinonen's last cross country meet. Heinonen is not disappointed, though.

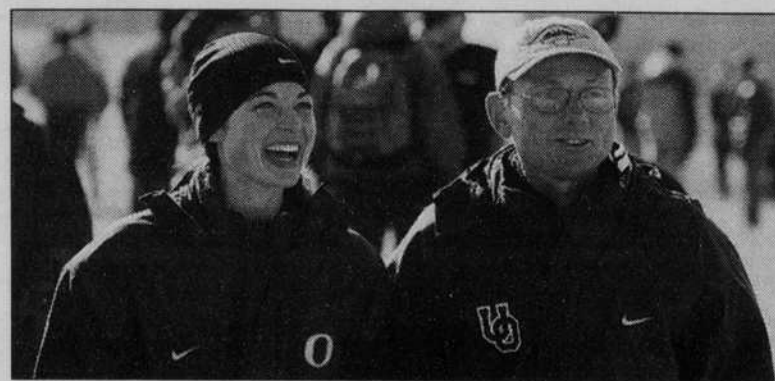
"I'm really pleased with how we finished the season," Heinonen said. "A lot of teams were on the way down at the end of the season, and we were stronger than ever."

Redshirt senior Carrie Zografos qualified as an individual to race at the NCAA meet. She earned her first All-American honor and gave Heinonen his 31st All-American runner in his 28 years at the helm.

"What more can you ask for — your last runner to be an All-American and have her best race ever," Heinonen said.

Senior Erinn Gulbrandsen ended her harrier career with a 47th-place finish at the Western Regional meet, her highest finish at regionals.

"Erinn had her best this season as a senior, which is what every coach hopes for," Heinonen said. "Her goal this year was to be counted on as a sen-



Geoff Thurner Oregon Media Services

Carrie Zografos (left) earned All-American honors in Tom Heinonen's last season.

ior and she accomplished that. Erinn had a fine finish to her collegiate cross country year."

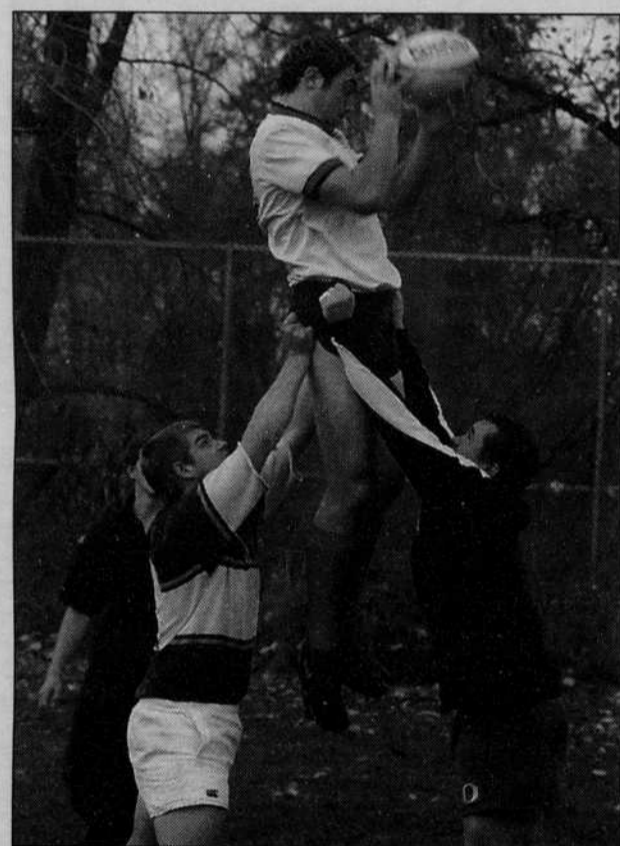
Gulbrandsen was named to the Pacific-10 Conference All-Academic First Team, which she also was named to last year. Redshirt junior Eri Macdonald earned her first top-team honor. Zografos, junior Laura Harmon, redshirt junior Alicia Snyder-Carlson and redshirt sophomore Taylor Bryant were all picked as honorable mentions.

While only losing three seniors between the two squads, Oregon's cross country future appears to be set for more

national appearances. Freshman Nicole Feest had an impressive first season, scoring in three of her five races for the women's squad. Andrus, Logsdon and Holts all have at least one more year to seek another All-American honor on the men's side. Many harriers from both squads will also participate in the upcoming track and field season, which is a benefit in off-season training.

Things should continue to run in the right direction for Oregon cross country.

Mindi Rice is a freelance writer for the Emerald.



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

The men's rugby squad will continue its season in January.

Rugby

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to improve upon their less-than-stellar record.

"We are a really young team. We have a few freshmen who stepped up and played well," Coordinator Bill Bleecker said. "The more we play together and understand each other, the better we will do."

Oregon will get a chance to prove that they are dominant, as the season is only half over. It starts with having to extract some revenge from teams that it faced on the road this season.

Only this time, those teams have to come to Eugene. The time to improve starts on Jan. 7, when the team will begin practicing Tuesdays and Thursdays on the Turf Field.

"I know and the team knows that we are going to grow together and get better from here," Bleecker said. "I've been on several teams before, and this team really gets along and really has something special. Rugby really makes you like

family, and we are all getting on the same page."

Getting things in order seems to make sense. With a few months of rest, relaxation and recuperation, Oregon should come out stronger with a better understanding of the offense, and will have the one thing all teams cherish — experience.

"It would have been nice to get a few more 'W's,' but our boys are really beginning to understand the attack we are using. Our last two games really started to bear fruit," Snyder said. "I sincerely expect Oregon rugby to finish the second half of the season and earn a playoff berth."

To borrow the words of former Indianapolis Colts head coach Jim Mora: "Playoffs? You're talking about playoffs?"

Yes, playoffs. Something Oregon rugby deserves and should be talking about, and something that other tackle sport will not know about until Sunday.

Scott Archer is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

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coverage, as it already has, the club has the right to decide to not allow women as members.

It's not as if women aren't allowed on the grounds — they just aren't allowed to be members. Several members of the Ladies Professional Golfers Association have played on the course; women are allowed on the course as guests of members, and women actually play about 1,000 rounds of golf per year at Augusta. The only thing they are not being allowed to do is run freely through the clubhouse or play a round by their own free will.

Augusta is not the only club to bar women from membership. Two well-known courses in Ireland — the Royal Dublin as well as the course that hosts the annual Irish Open — are men-only clubs also.

The question also lies with the messenger. Why is Burk, whose mother was an "avid golfer" but who admits to rarely playing herself, the messenger of this let-women-in-or-we'll-glare-at-you message?

Had it come from a person such as Annika Sorenstam, the 32-year-old Sweden native who won 11 tour tournaments this year, or Nancy Lopez, who has been called one of the most important goodwill ambassadors for women's golf, it might have made a bit more of an impact.

Mindi Rice is a freelance writer for the Emerald. Her views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

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