

Oregon women take sixth at Willamette Invite

Magdalena Sandoval paces Oregon as the team finishes sixth at the Willamette Invitational in Salem

Scott Archer
Freelance Reporter

It wasn't quite déjà-vu, but it doesn't get much closer.

Oregon cross country traveled north to Salem on Saturday, competing in the 19-team Willamette Invitational at Bush Park.

For the second time in as many weeks, the Ducks were led by Magdalena Sandoval. And for the second

time in two weeks, Sandoval finished second overall.

Oregon finished sixth in the race — one of the few differences between Saturday's race and the Sundodger Invitational held two weeks ago, where Oregon finished fourth.

However, similarities existed. Senior Eri Macdonald again finished second on the Ducks' team. Macdonald finished with a time of 17 minutes, 39 seconds, for 14th overall.

Sandoval was the first collegiate

finisher at the Willamette Invitational, finishing in 16:50. The senior was outpaced by Margaret Butler of Kajaks Track Club — a repeat of the Sundodger Invitational. Butler beat out Sandoval the previous weekend as well.

"Magdalena is continuing to improve every race she gets under her belt," head coach Marnie Mason said in a press release. "Each race she gets progressively stronger."

But what was different?

For starters, Sandoval was the only scoring Oregon runner to finish in the top 10. The next-best finisher after Sandoval and Macdonald was sophomore Haripurkh Khalsa, who

finished 60th overall.

The Ducks had two runners in the top 10. Laura Harmon finished sixth overall, but the senior ran unattached, nullifying her score.

"Eri didn't have as strong a race, while Haripurkh had the race of her collegiate experience being third on our team," Mason said. "Overall, it was a good team effort."

Marquette claimed the title on Saturday, finishing two points ahead of Nevada. Portland came in third, followed by UC Davis and Santa Clara. Oregon finished nine points behind Santa Clara.

Sandoval and Macdonald have a chance to catch their breath before

they head to the Pre-NCAA Invitational in Cedar Falls, Iowa, home of Northern Iowa. The Pre-NCAA meet will be held on Oct. 18. Northern Iowa also plays host to the 2003 NCAA Championships, slated for Nov. 24.

"We'll throw in a pre-nationals race for Eri and Mag so they can get experience against top-notch individuals," Mason said.

Oregon will return to action as a whole on Nov. 1 at the Pacific-10 Conference Championship in Pullman, Wash.

Scott Archer is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

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the Jack Taylor Classic in Boise, Idaho, on Friday.

On the men's side, Bieri won his first and second round matchups before falling in the third round on Saturday at the Icy Hot/ITA All American pre-qualifiers tournament in Chattanooga, Tenn. The Switzerland native easily defeated his first-round opponent, Arkansas' Talley Parker, 6-3 and 6-1. In the second round, Bieri had no trouble in taking down his opponent, Illinois State's Guillermo Gomez, 6-2 and 6-1.

Bieri sustained a shoulder injury during his third round matchup; however, which subsequently affected his play and ended his run in the tournament. Louisiana-Lafayette's freshman Evgehni Corduneau beat Bieri in straight sets, 6-4 and 6-0.

"It was a pretty close first set," Oregon assistant coach Ross Duncan said. "Unfortunately (the injury) seemed to affect his performance in the second set. Overall (Corduneau) was a good player."

Bieri will pair up with junior Manuel Kost on the doubles side in the main draw on Thursday in Chattanooga. Kost enters his third season for the Ducks and is ranked No. 31 in the nation — the highest ranking of his college career. The men's team will participate at the Bulldog Classic in Fresno, Calif., starting on Oct. 10.

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that houses underground parking, 23 levels of office space and a 10-screen movie theater.

Williams said a precise cost has not yet been set for the University's arena, but he did say it should cost between \$90 and \$130 million to finish the project. A small group of donors — led by Phil and Penny Knight and Pat Kilkenny — have provided the funding.

"What people need to remember is that this is a process," Williams said. "You don't start this with all the answers."

Frohnmayr outlined four advantages to using Howe Field as the site, including the field's proximity to campus; the ability to integrate the new arena with McArthur Court; the fact it is owned by the University and the possibility to resolve parking complications in the area.

"Actually, for the first time it will help us address some of the parking issues that affect the larger publics of the University for all kinds of purposes," Frohnmayr said.

While not saying how the University will address those concerns, Williams said he hopes the facility will combine with a parking structure of some kind, and a parking garage is a prime possibility.

In 1998, the University did a survey regarding the possibility of putting a garage on campus. It found six

possible sites, including one located at East 18th Avenue and Onyx Street next to Howe Field. According to those findings, the site could accommodate a two-level garage and add approximately 670 parking spaces.

Howe Field has been home to Oregon softball since 1987. It was built in 1936 as a baseball facility but was converted to a softball field more than 50 years later.

The softball facility will have to be moved from its current location, although a new site has yet to be announced. Moos said he hopes to start working on finding that site immediately, adding that the softball team will have to find a place to play during the arena's construction.

"The relocation of the softball facility has been addressed already," Moos said. "We would like to start on that project as soon as possible after the upcoming softball season so it will be ready for the following spring. We will probably utilize another facility at a high school or somewhere for the non-traditional season in fall."

In April 2003, the University selected seven sites as potential homes for the new arena. Those included Williams' Bakery, land near the proposed new federal courthouse and two sites in Glenwood near the Willamette River, among others.

Built in 1926, McArthur Court hosted its first game on Jan. 14, 1927. The court is still expected to host Oregon volleyball and wrestling once the



Dan Williams, University vice president for administration, looks at a potential plan for the new basketball arena on Saturday. Construction on the arena is planned to begin no later than July 2004 at Howe Field. Lauren Wimer Emerald

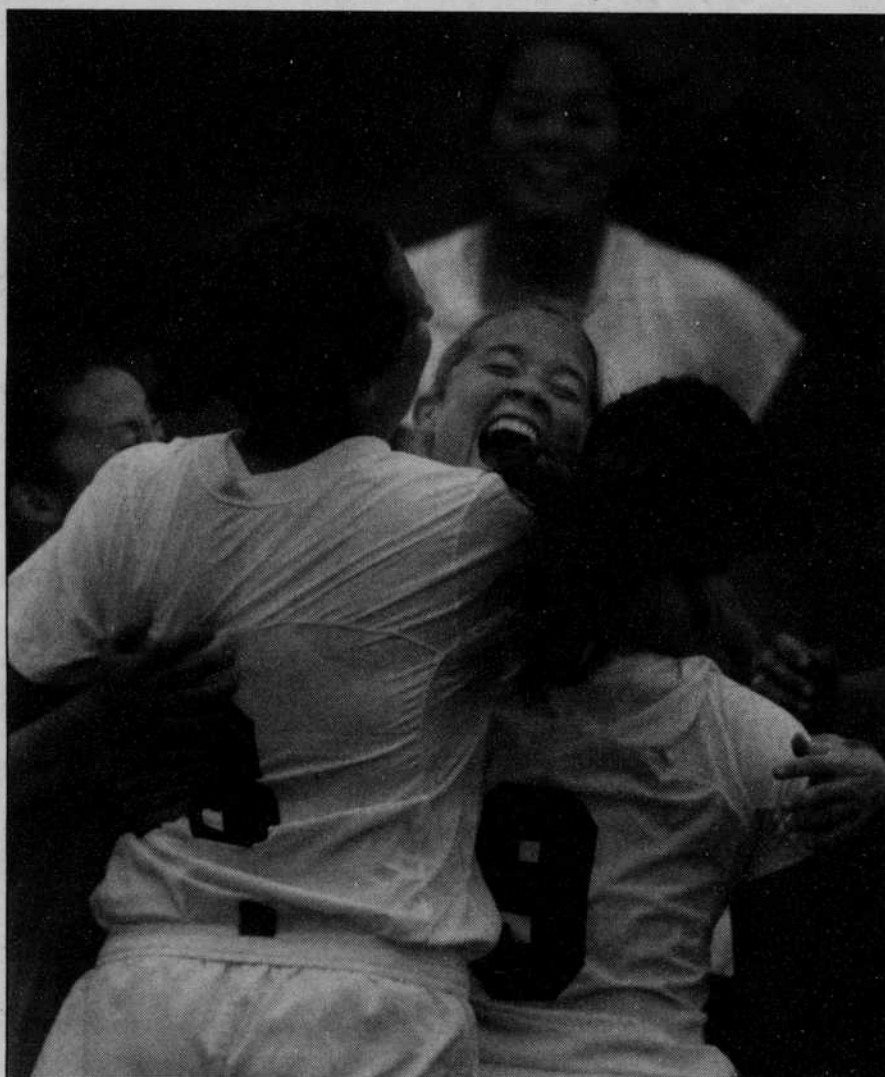
new arena is finished, and plans also call for student use.

"I only hope we embrace Mac Court," Kent said. "There is a part of me that is saddened because of what this (place) means to the community and the University. We have been able to use this building in a very positive way."

"We have an opportunity now to build a new arena, and I can tell you

that already just the thought of the opportunity to go on the road and talk about this to incoming recruits — to sell them on the possibilities of what's coming down the road — has already greatly enhanced not only our basketball program but our recruiting as well."

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Sophomore Carlie Ashcraft (center) celebrates with teammates after her go-ahead goal in Oregon's 3-2 victory over Weber State on Sunday. Mark McCambridge Senior Photographer

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shots and three shots on goal in the first 45 minutes, Oregon continued to struggle to find the back of the net.

Weber State (2-7-2) was able to capitalize in the 38th minute of the first half when midfielder Anna Neisen snuck one past Lainez amid a crowd of people around the goal.

In the second half, Oregon came alive. Redshirt sophomore Nicole Garbin sacrificed her body to jump-start the Oregon offense.

While going for the ball, Garbin was involved in a collision, causing a personal foul call on Weber State that gave Oregon a penalty kick in the 63rd minute of the second half.

Senior Lindsey Werdell took the kick for Oregon and drilled the ball into the right corner of the net to give the Ducks a 1-1 tie and their first goal since Sept. 14.

"We definitely needed to score those goals today to get the whole mindset of having confidence in order to compete next week," Garbin said. "We felt like we had to go out even harder in this game to get the results."

Just 85 seconds later, Mintz delivered a 15-yard pass to an open Carlie Ashcraft, who faked out her defender and gave Oregon a 2-1 lead from nine yards out.

After Valadez scored Oregon's final goal, Weber State made one final charge in the 83rd minute.

Mintz tried to clear the ball by passing it to freshman goalkeeper Emily Marrer.

When Marrer kicked the ball, she drilled Wildcat defender Ashley Wood in the chest, causing the ball to bounce toward the goal. This allowed Wood to bring Weber State within one.

With six minutes left, the Wildcats couldn't tie the game.

The Ducks outdid the Wildcats in two offensive categories. The Ducks recorded 21 shots in the game, compared to Weber State's four and recorded four more corner kicks.

Oregon also received 12 fouls to Weber State's 11.

Among the positives, Oregon can take solace in finally using opportunities it created after going five straight games without a goal.

"It was good to create chances and then finish them," Steffen said. "We got a little more spark, a little bit more life up front, and part of that was our fitness."

Oregon also played host to Portland over the weekend. The Pilots defeated the Ducks 1-0 on Friday night.

Oregon played more than 78 minutes of solid defense, keeping the contest scoreless before Portland midfielder Lindsey Huie delivered a blow from 19 yards center.

"She's a great player," Mintz said after Friday's game. "It was just basically all of us trying to get a handle on her and double team her. It was a matter of us playing team defense because one-on-one there's no chance against her."

Oregon begins conference play against rival Oregon State in Corvallis on Saturday at 3 p.m.

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