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When: Homecoming weekend - October 25, 2003, 8:30am

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Finish: University of Oregon School of Law

Prizes: Awards for the first male, female and masters winners; ribbons to 3-deep age division winners. Random prize drawings!

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Ducks focused on Pullman after Iowa disappointment

The Ducks finished seventh in Iowa, and senior Magdalena Sandoval is setting a winning trend

Scott Archer
Freelance Reporter

It was an eventful weekend for the men's cross country team. Oregon returned to the trails after a three-week lay-off. But there won't be much lamenting over how Oregon ran this past weekend.

The Ducks, ranked seventh in the nation, finished seventh in the "purple race" at the Pre-NCAA Invitational in Iowa. The Ducks could look back on the race and feel disappointed about finishing behind No. 11 Ohio State, No. 14 Georgetown, No. 19 Arizona and No. 21 North Carolina State, all of which were teams ranked below Oregon heading into last weekend's race.

Now, the team's focus moves onto running at the Pacific-10 Conference Championship race, scheduled for Nov. 1 and hosted by Washington State in Pullman.

DUCK CROSS COUNTRY

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Even though Madison hasn't made the impact she wants to on the court, she has made a huge impact on her teammates off the court.

"Maddie has been an inspiration to me," freshman middle blocker Kristen Bitter said. "She's one of the hardest working girls I've ever met. And if it's not help in the gym, it's help off the

It's not the Wheaties

There must be something Magdalena Sandoval is doing differently this year, right?

The senior won her first-ever collegiate race on Saturday in the Pre-NCAA Invitational against some of the top runners in the nation.

"I was thrilled to finish first," Sandoval said. "I haven't finished first since I was in high school."

However, this trend isn't that new. Over the past three weeks, Sandoval has finished second, second and first, respectively. However, the senior finished first among collegiate runners in each race she has entered.

So, what is it exactly that has Sandoval's competition breathing dust?

"It's been a lot of hard training and good focus," Sandoval said. "We've had some really positive workouts. They have benefited us mentally in our confidence levels and physically for our preparation for racing."

Welcome to the big show

It wasn't his first race donning an Oregon jersey, but it certainly was the biggest stage he has ever seen.

Oregon freshman Patrick Werhane made his Oregon "A" team debut last weekend in the Ducks' most prominent race of the season, the Pre-

NCAA Invitational.

And while he had a finish he hasn't experienced before — 91st overall — it was promising nonetheless.

Werhane is among six true freshmen on the Oregon men's roster, which is an intriguing situation. That situation could lead to good things in the future.

However, while expectations are still kept low and the time to shine is yet to come, the freshmen sextet will continue to watch and observe Oregon's present All-American trio of Eric Logsdon, Brett Holts and Ryan Andrus compete.

Butterflies?

What is it exactly that goes through a runner's mind when racing at break-neck speed for several miles?

"I think about everything from race strategy, certain aspects of the course you can use to your advantage," Sandoval said.

If it seems more complicated than expected, it's because it is.

It is about "constantly evaluating how you are doing, thinking about who is with you and who they are," Sandoval said. "You want to keep your mind active, aggressive and moving forward, and you want to be in a rhythm that won't hurt performance."

Scott Archer is a freelance sports reporter for the Emerald.

VOLLEYBALL

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Even though Madison hasn't made the impact she wants to on the court, she has made a huge impact on her teammates off the court.

"Maddie has been an inspiration to me," freshman middle blocker Kristen Bitter said. "She's one of the hardest working girls I've ever met. And if it's not help in the gym, it's help off the

court. She's been my support system, and she's definitely the one that will come pick you up if it looks like you're having a bad day."

Entering tonight's match against UCLA, Madison is second behind Bell with 96 assists. She's played in 46 of the team's 61 games and has contributed when possible. Even though it's not what she expected coming out of high school, Madison continues to work hard in practice and understands that

her time will come.

"You can't put a yardstick on a kid's heart," Ferreira said. "Heather Madison has an enormous heart. She was very deserving of the high school accolades she received, and what we'd like to do is get her recognized as a collegiate athlete."

Maybe then she'll be back on top of the world.

Contact the sports reporter at jonroetman@dailyemerald.com.

SOCCER

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which would serve as a bad mark on the referee's record.

"I think he kind of knew he made a mistake," Werdell said.

Where did the offense go?

Oregon's offense was effective in the game against Weber State on Oct. 10. The Ducks put three goals in the back of the net for the first time in five games.

A week later, the Ducks won a 4-3 overtime game against Oregon State in Corvallis. The five-game scoreless drought from early in the season seemed like ancient history.

In the Ducks' contests with Washing-

ton State and Washington this weekend, Oregon came home empty-handed, losing in a combined score of 4-0. That upped Oregon's opponents' shutout number to eight on the season.

Where did the offense go?

"It's there, we just don't execute on the chances we get," forward Nicole Garbin said. "Our chances were there. We totally dominated the UW game."

"It's probably just lack of concentration. We just need to get that one goal. Bill (Steffen, head coach) has said once you get that first goal you have confidence that the second one's going to come easier."

Home sweet home

Papé Field is a special place to the women's soccer team.

"I feel like we've never lost at home," Garbin said.

In fact, Oregon has lost once this season. The Ducks are 4-1 at Papé Field, with the only loss a 1-0 setback to Portland on Oct. 3. But to Garbin, that one doesn't even count.

"The Portland game, we did lose 1-0, but we played so well I don't even feel like we lost that game," Garbin said. "I don't even consider that a loss under our belt."

With the feeling that Papé Field ensures confidence in the Ducks, Oregon will try and fuel that fire when it plays its first conference home game against Stanford on Friday.

Contact the sports reporter at jessestomas@dailyemerald.com.

BASKETBALL

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Not everyone was in training in Eugene over the summer, though. Five players had surgeries during the offseason.

Senior Kayla Steen had surgery on her knee after the 2002-03 season and went home to Hillsboro for the summer.

"I went (to Hillsboro) to get away and be able to recoup on my own," Steen said. "I did a bunch of rehab. I was constantly in contact with the trainers here and constantly getting feedback via e-mail or telephone finding out what rehab I needed to."

Steen, forward Yadi Okwumabua, guard Kedzie Gunderson, forward

Carolyn Ganes and guard Kaela Chapdelaine all had some sort of surgery between March and October. Chapdelaine's ankle surgery took place on Friday. She plans to use a medical redshirt this year.

Ganes also found time to represent her nation as a member of the Canadian women's team in the Pan-American Games.

"I had a busy summer," Ganes said. "It was a lot of fun, a good learning experience. I saw Luke Jackson there so there were some other Ducks around. It was a good learning experience ... not only on the court but off the court, too. You get to learn about other cultures."

Ganes is the first female Duck to play in the Pan-Am games since 1979 when

Alison Lang and current Oregon women's head coach Bev Smith played.

Madness

The women took the floor first in Saturday's Midday Madness, putting on a show of drills and playing about 15 minutes of a scrimmage.

"I thought it was an awesome event," Smith said. "I thought it was great to be in front of the crowd. I know our team was really excited to be able to get out in front of the crowd."

The women started the day with a three-hour practice before taking the court in front of their fans.

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



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