

IN BRIEF

Cross country teams ready for championships

The men's and women's cross country teams head south to San Francisco Saturday to compete in the Pacific-10 Conference Championships.

The No. 28 men's squad, led by All-American seniors Ryan Andrus and Eric Logsdon, look to upset No. 2 Stanford and No. 9 Arizona State in hopes of their 14th Pac-10/Pac-8 title.

The Duck men have finished second to Stanford the past two years in what is arguably the country's toughest conference.

Senior Laura Harmon leads the Duck women, a team that has placed fifth the past two seasons against favorites No. 1 Stanford, No. 8 Arizona State and No. 26 UCLA.

Harmon, who finished 18th in the country last spring in the 5,000 meter, will vie for All-Conference honors after redshirting last year's cross country season after a bout with pneumonia.

"We're hoping for a strong showing," junior Haripurkh Khalsa said. "We'll fight for every position."

The meet, hosted by California, will be held at the famed Golden Gate Park. This is the Ducks' last meet before the West Regional in Fresno, Calif., on Nov. 13.

— Beau Eastes

Volleyball: Russell posts match-high 25 kills

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the beginning and we wouldn't get runs of points when we were serving," Russell said. "It only takes that little gap, and it gets bigger and bigger as you progress through the game until you lose."

The fifth game started with Oregon down 8-1 and it finished on a block by Washington State.

Russell recorded a match-high and career-best 25 kills on 80 swing

attempts, the most of any Oregon player this season. She also collected 24 digs.

Senior libero Stacey Holbrook led the Cougars with 27 digs.

The Ducks witnessed their hitting percentage decrease continuously in each game. Overall, they averaged a .153 hitting percentage, while landing 78 kills on 242 attempts. Washington State took fewer attempts (230) and tallied fewer kills (68), but finished with a higher hitting percentage (.183).

"Hopefully everybody's cleared this game out of their minds and ready to move on," Russell said.

O'Neil said her team was upset but they lost no momentum in this game.

"We weren't winning before this and it's disappointing," O'Neil said.

"We really have nothing to lose, we never have and as long as I'm playing we're going to take it hard and play as best we can."

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Golf: Ducks trailed after two, despite superb play

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11th and 13th place, respectively.

Nealy trailed first-round leader Charlotte Mayorkas of the No. 3 Bruins by seven strokes. Freshman Victoria Wenslow added a stroke to her first-round score and ended Tuesday with a 76, placing her in a tie for 27th. Wenslow's total score after two rounds was 151. Michelle Timpani showed improvement from her

first-round score and penciled a second-round 76, moving her into a tie for 36th with a score of 153.

The Ducks played sensationally through two rounds but found themselves trailing fellow Pac-10 foes Arizona State and UCLA. The Bruins topped the field going into the third round with an impressive team score of 568. The second-place Sun Devils trailed UCLA by 16 strokes

and held an eight-stroke lead over Oregon. After Tuesday, the Ducks were clinging to a one-stroke lead over Oklahoma.

The Kent Youel Invitational was Oregon's final competition of the fall.

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Soccer: Stanford's defense, Cal's offense pose threats

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and make them impatient and try to attack the outsiders."

A stifling defense has elevated Stanford to 14th in the country and helped make up for below-average offensive production. Stanford ranks last in the conference in shots (156) and is tied for seventh in goals (23).

California seeks conference title

As a team, California makes the most of the shots they get.

The Golden Bears are in the middle of the conference in shots taken, but rank first in assists per game (2.07),

second in assists (31), third in points (91), and fourth in goals (30) and goals per game (2.00).

California freshman forward Stephanie Wiegner has moved into a tie for first on the team with 19 points after she netted the game-winning goal in a 1-0 double-overtime victory against No. 6 UCLA. The freshman also posted the game-winning goal against No. 24 Arizona, giving her the Pac-10 lead in game-winning goals.

"They are a learning team," Steffen said. "But they are also a potent team and they are more consistent."

With their victory over the Bruins last weekend, the Golden Bears

assured themselves of at least a .500 season, and are still in contention for their first conference title since 1998.

Regardless of the untimely injuries and challenges ahead, Oregon players remain optimistic.

"I'm just looking forward to us playing well," Mintz said. "I think we had a good weekend (last weekend), even though we didn't get a win."

Today's match will be held at 5 p.m. at Maloney Field in Stanford, Calif. Sunday's match is at noon at Edwards Stadium in Berkeley, Calif.

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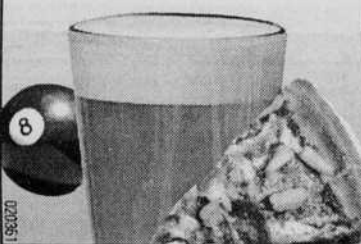
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