

IN BRIEF

Ducks relay team takes fifth place in Des Moines

Athletes of the Oregon women's track and field team met a high level of competition at the Drake Relays this weekend. The Ducks were unable to capture a top finish in any event during the two-day spectacle in Des Moines, Iowa.

On Saturday, Oregon ran its first sprint medley relay of the season. In its running order, Sofie Abildtrup, Julie Schmidt-Scherer, Michelle Donovan and Sara Schaaf made up the quartet that took fifth place with a time of 3:59.31. Rice stopped the clock

at 3:52.77 to win the 1,600-meter race.

Oregon's hammer throwers engaged in a reality check competition as well on Saturday. Redshirt junior Britany Hinchcliffe threw 181-feet to finish eighth, well below her season-best. Redshirt senior Katie Kersh couldn't get her weight to soar beyond 160-4, which dropped her to 21st in the field.

The Ducks' highest finish in any event came from senior Bree Fuqua's second-place push of 51-9 3/4 in the shotput on Friday. South Florida's Chandras Brewer claimed the event with a 52-8 heave.

Also on Friday, Oregon's Sarah Malone finished third in the javelin with a 174-2 throw on her second attempt.

— Stephen Miller

Softball: Ducks' offensive struggles persist

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the rest of the Ducks, the team continued its offensive struggles from the day before against the Sun Devils and couldn't string anything together until late.

In the bottom of the sixth inning though, seniors Ashley Richards and Erin Goodell came through for the Ducks with clutch hits.

Lovena Chaput led off the inning with a sharp single up the middle. Next, Breanne Sabol reached when Arizona State first baseman Sharee Zaleskimade an error trying to throw out Chaput at second base after Sabol's sacrifice bunt. With

runners on first and second, Sun Devil pitcher Katie Burkhart hit Beth Boskovich in the left elbow with an 0-2 pitch to load the bases. Arizona State removed Burkhart and inserted its ace, Desiree Serrano.

Stepping up to the plate next was Richards. The senior catcher drilled a Serrano pitch into the left-center field gap for a double, scoring two runs to give the Ducks the advantage. It was the first time Oregon had scored in 16 innings.

After a pop out by Joanna Gail, Goodell collected her second hit of

the day with a single up the middle to score Boskovich and give the Ducks a 3-0 lead they wouldn't relinquish.

Harris shut down the Sun Devils in the seventh inning, striking out Zaleski, Rhiannon Baca and Michelle Smith in order to end the game.

"Amy was amazing," Goodell said. "It is the best performance I have ever seen."

Next up for the Ducks is their last home game of the season Tuesday against Portland State at 4 p.m.

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Football: Sophomore quarterback Leaf shows promise under center on team green

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doing jumping jacks," said Dixon, who completed 4 of 9 for 78 yards and a touchdown. "There was no way but to throw it, so I threw it."

"It comes back to composure with me. I've got to stay in the pocket more and have more pocket presence. There were certain times I could have stayed in there and took a hit, but knowing me, I'm using my god-given talent."

Clemens completed 8 of 13 passes for 118 yards and a score for the white team before leaving with a sprained left foot in the second half. While the

senior's numbers were respectable, he was sacked four times as the Ducks' inexperienced offensive line struggled with the green team's solid defense.

The Ducks also got plenty of production from their wide receivers in offensive coordinator Gary Crowton's new scheme. Junior Kyle Weatherspoon led all pass catchers with 10 receptions for 129 yards and a touchdown for the white, while Williams added 55 yards on a pair of receptions. Redshirt freshman Jaison Williams led the green team with five catches for 79 yards, while junior-college transfer James

Finley added five catches for 54 yards.

"I thought we produced well as a unit," Jaison Williams said. "The defense did an excellent job, but we had the upper hand on them."

Sophomore quarterback Brady Leaf also shined for the green team, completing 12 of 16 passes for 138 yards. The Great Falls, Mont., native also completed 5 of 9 passes for 75 yards, including a 17-yard touchdown to junior Drew Larson, after switching to the white squad late in the game.

"What (Leaf) lacks in athleticism, compared to the other two

(quarterbacks), he has great poise and decision-making and a sense of the pocket," head coach Mike Bellotti said. "I was very pleased with his performance today."

Redshirt freshman Terrell Jackson led all rushers with 56 yards in nine carries, including a 10-yard touchdown on the last play of the third quarter. Whitehead gained 47 yards on seven carries, but amassed 34 of those yards on one attempt.

Defensively, sophomore linebacker Ryan Phipps recorded nine tackles for the green, while redshirt freshman

defensive tackle Ra'shon Harris finished with a pair of sacks. Sophomore linebacker Josh Thomas-Dotson led the white with seven tackles. The white team was also credited with a safety on Dixon on a referee's holding call in the end zone during the second quarter.

Junior defensive tackle Haloti Ngata recorded half a sack for the green team in limited playing time. Bellotti said he reduced Ngata's time on the field, "to give the other team a chance."

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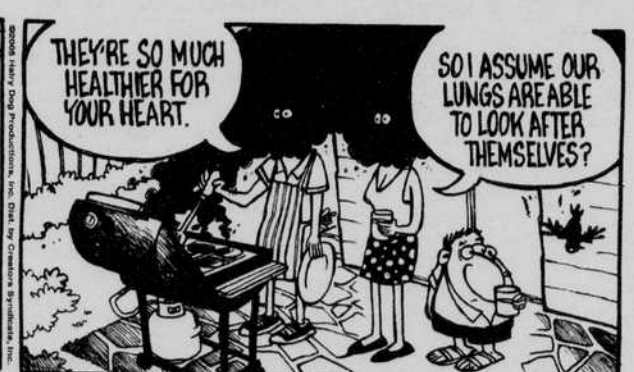
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