

Wynia looks for more national marks

By Doug Vaughan
Of The Print

This season will be the last time the women's track team will be able to compete at the national meet. Coach Marilyn Wynia wants to make their last time memorable.

"We are just trying to qualify as many for nationals as possible. That is our biggest goal for this year," Wynia said.

The last trip to the national meet came with the Cougars' decision to join a league comprised of Washington junior colleges next season.

Last year, Wynia's team only qualified three women for the national meet. Surprisingly, the trio brought home a

ninth-place finish.

"Last year we only qualified three, but fortunately all three were All-Americans," Wynia said. "This year we have a much more complete team, so we are hoping to qualify a lot more."

Of the three that qualified for the national meet last season, two have transferred to four-year schools. The remaining All-American, Shari Hilton, is back for the Cougars, and has impressed Wynia.

Hilton placed second at nationals last year in the javelin and also finished fourth in the heptathlon. She is also an academic All-American, and earlier this year was awarded the Dale Murphy Scholarship at the 36th annual



ON STRIDE—Sophomore Vicki Anderson back in form after year long slump.

Photo by Joel Miller

Bill Hayward Banquet of Champions.

Also strengthening the Cougars will be the duo of runners who represented the women's cross country team at nationals this past year, Julie Siler and Maria Gonzalez.

Siler, a Gold Beach product, placed seventh in the regional cross country meet and will run the 800 and 1,500-meters for Wynia. Gonzalez, from local Milwaukie High, placed sixth at the regional meet and will run the 3,000-meters for the Cougars.

"Maria is a constant runner. She doesn't have the speed of other runners, but she runs a steady race, and that is how she wins," Wynia said.

Wynia is also optimistic about Suzy Thompson, a sophomore from Silverton. Thompson switched events half way through last season and ended up placing fifth at regionals in the 800. Wynia thinks that Thompson has national possibilities both in the 800-meter and two-mile relays.

Vicki Anderson and Debbie Koffel, from Tigard and Glencoe respectively, are also looked on to add depth to the Cougars. Anderson recently qualified for nationals in the 400-meter hurdles, and Koffel qualified in the javelin.

A sleeper amidst the pack is Rex Putnam graduate Bobbi Haley in the throws. Haley has been out of competition for two years, but Wynia has been impressed with her progress.

"Even though academically she is a sophomore, she has freshman eligibility," Wynia said. "She has been out of training so I don't know how far she can go. Possibly, she can help us out at nationals."

Last year, the women Cougars went into the regional meet with several vacancies in events. This year, Wynia is pleased with her team's ability to fill every spot.

"Last season we had a lot of holes so we were limited to the amount of points we could score," Wynia explained. "With a full team this year, I am expecting us to do very good."

There'll be no surprises at regionals. North and South Idaho will be the teams putting pressure on Clackamas. But the team to beat, as usual, is Ricks College, from Rexburg, Idaho.

Wynia doesn't have any predictions, just goals. "We are really concerned with trying to qualify as many as we can for the national meet. It is the last year we can attend, so we want to make a memory that will last," Wynia concluded.

All-time greats tarnish reputations criticizing others

By Rob Conner
Sports Editor

Let's face it, records are made to be broken.

Even the most seemingly insurpassable marks, i.e. Bob Beamon's record long jump and O.J. Simpson's single-season rushing record will someday undoubtedly be surpassed.

Last week Kareem Abdul-Jabbar eclipsed Wilt Chamberlain's all-time scoring mark. Abdul-Jabbar dropped in the 31,420th and 31,421st points of his career with what else, but his patented sky hook.

Was the 7-foot-2-inch Chamberlain in attendance to offer his congratulations? No. Instead the "Stilt" opted to remain in the shadows and play down the milestone by taking cheap shots at Abdul-Jabbar through the press.

Next season Franco Harris will almost surely break Jim Brown's National Football League career rushing record. And we all know how Brown feels about that.

The former Cleveland Brown fullback, at 47, has threatened to return to professional football if his record is

surpassed. He has even challenged Harris to a foot race, boasting that even at the age of 47, he is still faster than the Pittsburg star.

I wonder if Stan Musial would have made a comeback if Pete Rose had broken his 56-game hitting streak? Probably not. Stan Musial is a class individual.

Maybe, it's just something that baseball players possess. I know Lou Brock was one of the first to congratulate Ricky Henderson after the Oakland A's star passed Brock's single-season stolen base mark.

Wilt Chamberlain and Jim Brown are generally considered to be the greatest players of all time in their respective sports. I think someone needs to tell these guys this, again.

The biggest complaint that the likes of Brown and Chamberlain have is that guys are hanging around for the sole purpose of breaking their records. If Jim Brown is so worried about his career rushing record, why didn't he play longer? He could have

easily played three more years and put his record far out of reach.

Being called the greatest goes beyond just statistics in some record book. "The greatest" is a title which has to be taken off the field or court and into the real world. The world is not only 90 feet or 100 yards long.

People like Franco Harris and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar may well be remembered as the greatest of all time even though they played longer than Wilt Chamberlain or Jim Brown. Harris and Jabbar are involved with helping the underprivileged and don't try to capture the headlines by discrediting others.

I'm surprised that Brown and Chamberlain haven't gotten together to challenge Jabbar and Harris to a tag-team wrestling match to decide over-all superiority.

These days the good guys and bad guys aren't just confined to professional wrestling.

I hope Muhammed Ali doesn't get any ideas after he reads this article.



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