

DUCKS TAKE NORTHERN DIVISION TITLE

The Oregon cross-country team, defending NCAA champions, outclassed a four-team field at the Northern Division Championships in Pullman, Washington, Saturday.

The Ducks finished with 22 points, followed by Washington State with 45, Oregon State 73, and Washington 93.

The Duck harriers will travel to Palo Alto, California, November 16 for the Pacific-8 Championships, followed on November 25 by the NCAA meet in Bloomington, Indiana.

Highlight of the Northern Division meet was an individual battle between first place winner Paul Geis of Oregon and runnerup John Ngeno of Washington State. Ngeno led by as much as 40 and 50 yards during the race but Geis gradually closed the gap and overtook the Cougar runner with about a mile to go. Geis's time was 29:47, while Ngeno was clocked in 30:00.

Five Oregon runners placed in the top ten with Dave Taylor third in 30:02; Terry Williams fourth in 30:22; Gary Barger fifth in 30:34 and Lars Kaupang ninth in 31:07.

"It was a very strong team effort for us," said UO coach Bill Dellinger. "Our depth paid off well."

Dellinger had praise for Geis and Dave Taylor, who finished the race just two seconds behind Ngeno. "He almost caught Ngeno at the end and just missed second place," Dellinger said of Taylor, "I was awfully proud of him."

NORTHERN DIVISION RESULTS: 1 - Paul Geis, UO, 29:47; 2 - John Ngeno, WSU, 30:00; 3 - Dave Taylor, UO, 30:02; 4 - Terry Williams, UO, 30:22; 5 - Gary Barger, UO, 30:34; 6 - Guy Arbogast, WSU, 30:40; 7 - Jose Amaya, OSU, 30:44; 8 - Steve Surface, Wash., 31:04; 9 - Lars Kaupang, UO, 31:07; 10 - Juan Garcia, WSU, 31:11.

NON-SCORING OREGON COMPETITORS: 11 - Peter Spir, 31:14; 17 - Tom McChesney, 31:41.

SCORE: Oregon 22, Washington State 45, Oregon State 73, Washington 93.

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From Mike Wilson
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PULLMAN, Wash.--Washington State and defending champion Oregon, both considered strong contenders for an NCAA title, are co-favorites in the 10th annual Northern Division Cross Country Championships Saturday, Nov. 2, at Pullman.

Rounding out the four-team field are Washington and Oregon State.

Oregon and WSU have dominated this event since its inception in 1965, with the Ducks winning five times and the Cougars four.

The 1974 race will take place on a newly-designed six-mile course on the WSU golf course, which WSU Head Coach John Chaplin feels negates any possibility for a Cougar "home court" advantage.

"We haven't run competitively on the new course as yet," Chaplin said. "And in cross country the 'home course' advantage isn't really that much of a factor."

Chaplin added that WSU's hopes of defeating Oregon primarily will depend on 1973 NCAA six-mile champion John Ngeno. The collegiate 10,000 meter record-holder, Ngeno placed second in the Northern Division meet a year ago.

Other Cougar standouts include senior Dan Murphy and freshman Joshua Kimeto.

Murphy, a three-time cross country All-American from Ireland, won the 1972 Northern Division meet. Kimeto has been running well since his arrival to WSU and upset fellow Kenyan Ngeno in the Cougars' dual meet victory over Montana Oct. 19.

"On paper we may appear stronger than the other teams," Chaplin said, "but Oregon is the defending Pac-8 and NCAA champion. We

add cross country

certainly shouldn't be considered favorites over a team with a record like that."

Oregon will be without defending individual Northern Division champion Steve Prefontaine, a 1974 graduate and four-time winner of this event. But the Ducks have four of the top six runners back from their highly successful 1973 team.

Leading the Oregon returnees is Paul Geis, last year's NCAA three-mile champion. Dave Taylor, who placed seventh in the 1973 Northern Division meet, and Terry Williams, the ninth place finisher, are other Oregon threats.

Oregon State's chances for an upset will depend on freshman Rich Kimball, last year's International Junior cross country champion. But Kimball has been bothered by ankle sprains, so the Beavers may have to rely on veteran Hailu Ebba for possible individual honors.

The Washington Huskies are led by their first-ever sub four-minute miler, Greg Gibson, and veteran NCAA competitor Mike Tolleson.

Each team is allowed 10 entrants in the meet, with the top five finishers determining the team score. Starting time is set for 11 a.m.

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