

Briefly

The Pacific-10 Conference public relations office committed several errors when it announced the all-conference softball team last week. Of 14 first-team selections, 10 were incorrect.

The correct all-conference first team is as follows:

- **Pitchers** — Lisa Longaker, UCLA; Michele Granger, California.
- **Catcher** — Christy Serritella, Arizona St.
- **Infield** — Julie Cavanaugh, Oregon; Nicki Dennis, Arizona; Kerry Dienelt, UCLA; Kristy Howard, UCLA; Ann Rowan, Arizona St.
- **Outfield** — Shanna Flynn, UCLA; Kristin Gauthier, Arizona; Yvonne Gutierrez, UCLA; Vivian Holm, Arizona.
- **Utility** — Julie Jones, Arizona; Lisa Fernandez, UCLA.
- **Designated Player** — Catherine Stedman, Arizona.

The Ducks placed three players on the second team: Katie Wiese, pitcher; Jeanna King, outfielder; and Tracey Simmons, utility.

Team gets NCAA invitation

Oregon's in lineup for possible World Series berth

By Tracy Sumner
Emerald Sports Editor

The Oregon softball team made it two straight Sunday, receiving an invitation to the 20-team NCAA Softball Championships for the second year in a row, the softball selection committee announced.

Oregon made its first-ever trip to the NAAs last year and took fifth place in the Softball College World Series in Sunnyvale, Calif.

The Ducks, 35-21 for the season, will be the top seed in the Midwest Regional in Columbus, Ohio, this Friday and Saturday. The three-team regional will be a best two of three-game series.

Mid-American Conference champion Kent State (40-7) and co-Big Ten champion Ohio State (36-23) will meet in the first game of the regional this Friday, with Oregon waiting to play both to conclude Friday's schedule.

Game four will be played Saturday with a fifth game added, if necessary.

Oregon had been rumored to be heading for the West Regional in Berkeley, Calif., with California and San Jose State, but were instead sent east. That development suited Oregon coach Tami Brown just fine.

"We kind of expected to go to Cal-Berkeley," Brown said. "When I talked to (softball selection committee member) Irene Shea, she said the first choice was us going to Cal-Berkeley and playing San Jose State and Cal-Berkeley in a three-team series."

"She pushed really hard to get us out of that region and into the Midwest, where the best teams wouldn't be taking each other out," Brown said.

"This is exactly what we want," she said. "Playing Ohio State and Kent State is nice because we haven't played them four times. It's nice going into some place where we haven't played before. The kids' minds are more clear and they're not intimidated by anybody."

The Ducks had to endure some hard times this season to gain the NCAA bid,

the nadir of which was a less-than-impressive 21-19 record and a double-header loss to then third-ranked Arizona at home April 14.

But the Ducks rebounded to win 14 of their last 16, including their last eight, to earn the invitation.

"We've been through quite a bit this year," Brown said. It seemed like people had written us off. When we were 21-19, the neatest thing about our team is that we didn't give up. We knew we had more."

If the Ducks get through this weekend's regional play, they will advance to the World Series in Oklahoma City, Okla., May 23-27, to meet the winner of a game between Northern Iowa and UCLA.

"As far as I'm concerned our season is over and a new season has started," Brown said. "I think our chances are very good. I don't think there are any doubts in our kids' minds, either. They believe in themselves and that is important."

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