

NFL no place for domestic violence

The New England Patriots set a precedent for the entire National Football League last week when they released Christian Peter, their fifth-round pick in the April 20-21 NFL draft, after learning of his history of abuse towards women.



Chris Hansen

While it is curious and doubtful that Peter's criminal history slipped past the Patriots' front office and coaching staff before the draft,

owner Robert Kraft, personnel director Bobby Grier and head coach Bill Parcells did not hesitate to heed to public outrage and cut Peters three days after they drafted him.

Peter is currently awaiting a May 21 sentencing after pleading no-contest to charges that he grabbed a woman around the throat and harassed her in a bar following a Nebraska football banquet last month. He faces up to three months in jail and a \$500 fine.

In May 1994, he pleaded no-contest and received 18 months probation on a charge of third-degree sexual assault on Natalie Kuijvenhoven, a former Miss Nebraska who alleged that he grabbed her twice between the legs and verbally abused her in a bar.

Peter also has been named in a federal sex discrimination suit that alleges he twice raped a Nebraska coed in 1991 and has been accused of threatening the life of a parking lot attendant.

Not to mention his conviction for urinating in public.

Peter is now unemployed and with all the publicity his release from the Patriots has garnered, any NFL team that tries to sign him will face a public-relations disaster.

Ironically, Peter's Nebraska teammate Lawrence Phillips, who last fall was suspended from the team after dragging his former girlfriend down three flights of stairs by her hair and then beating the crap out of her, is settling in nicely with the St. Louis Rams and about to sign a million-dollar contract.

So what gives? Are the morals of the Patriots that much stronger than those of the Rams? Or do the Patriots buckle under the weight of public scrutiny easier than the Rams?

Whatever the reason, it was definitely not based upon football talent. While Lawrence was the premier player in the draft, Peter was projected to be an easy first-year starter at nose tackle.

Conventional wisdom would have us believe that Parcells and company were drooling at

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Braswell hired as head coach at Northridge

■ **COACH:** The Oregon assistant was officially hired as the Matadors' head coach

By Trevor Kearney
Sports Editor

The hunt is over for Bobby Braswell. Two weeks after being past over by Long Beach State and just over a week after interviewing for the job at Cal State-Northridge, the Oregon assistant men's basketball coach of four years was officially named head coach at Northridge, his alma mater.

Braswell was an assistant at Long Beach State before being hired by head coach Jerry Green in his first year at Oregon. But after Long Beach State named Wayne Morgan head coach, Braswell's best chance emerged at Northridge.



BRASWELL

renewed.

A Southern California native, Braswell said before his interview with Long Beach State that his decision on whether to take a job in that area would be highly dependent upon his family — some of which is located in California.

And it materialized. Braswell takes over for Cal State-Northridge's winningest coach, Pete Cassidy. In 25 years, Cassidy compiled over 70 percent of the school's all-time wins (334). But after last season's 8-20 record, and six losing years before it, Cassidy's contract was not

Braswell, who earned a degree in English and a minor in African-American Studies from Cal State-Northridge in 1984, will coach the Matadors in their first year in the Big Sky Conference and in only the team's seventh Division I season. With his ties to the area and the Matadors emerging into a new conference, Cal State-Northridge athletics director Paul Bubb said in a statement Braswell was a good fit for the team at this point.

"I am pleased that we were able to attract a coach of Bobby Braswell's qualifications to lead the Matadors into the Big Sky Conference," Bubb said. "Coach Braswell not only has Southern California ties for recruiting, but also a connection with the Valley and an interest in returning to his alma mater as head coach."



Jennifer Francis scored the winning run in the bottom of the seventh inning giving the Ducks a 1-0 victory over Portland State on Tuesday.

Oregon's solid play sinks Vikings' ship

■ **SOFTBALL:** The Ducks' pitching dominates in its sweep of Portland State

By Chris Hansen
Sports Reporter

The Oregon softball team rode the pitching arms of freshman Jennie Cook and sophomore Petrina Martinez, received clutch hitting from the offense and played error-free defense as it swept a doubleheader against the Portland State Vikings Tuesday afternoon at Howe Field.

Oregon won the first game 1-0 and the second game 5-3, improving its overall record to 20-22 and remaining 5-10 in the Pacific-10 Conference. Portland State dropped to 41-18 overall.

Cook came back strong after a tough weekend in the circle and pitched a complete game shutout in the first of yesterday's games.

Allowing just three hits in seven innings, Cook faced only three above the minimum 21 batters and improved her record to 10-8.

Cook was well matched, however, by Portland State's Beth Stidham, who held the Oregon hitters to three hits until the bottom of the seventh and final inning.

With the score tied at 0-0 and one out, freshman Jennifer Fran-

cis hit an infield single deep into the hole at shortstop. Sophomore Missy Koke laid down a sacrifice bunt, moving Francis to second. After senior Lisa Preston drew a walk to put runners at first and second base, senior Kathy Stahl laced a double over the centerfielder's head, bringing Francis around to score and giving the Ducks the 1-0 victory.

"When she starts off and is in control and mixing her pitches, she is going to be successful," said head coach Tami Brown about Cook's pitching performance.

The second game offered more offense, for the Ducks that is, as they used a five-run fourth inning to take a comfortable 5-1 lead that the Vikings would never challenge.

Oregon received consecutive two-out doubles from Francis and sophomore Maegan Christie, a single from Koke, an error from the centerfielder on junior Angie LeRoy's fly ball and a double from Stahl that brought in all five of the Oregon runs.

Martinez pitched five strong innings, giving up only one hit, striking out three and allowing only one unearned run in the first. A scary moment came in the top of the fifth inning, however, when Martinez took a line drive off what appeared to be her pitching arm. She completed the inning but was replaced by freshman Katie Mackey to start the sixth.



SOFTBALL

Ducks drop one place in Pac-10 tournament

■ **GOLF:** Oregon is in last place going into the final round of play

By Trevor Kearney
Sports Editor

The Oregon men's golf team dropped into last place during the second day of the Pacific-10 Conference Championships Tuesday, leaving the Ducks only one day to lift themselves out of the conference cellar.

The three-day, 10-team tournament concludes Wednesday with the fourth and final round. Arizona State holds a 25-stroke lead

over Southern Cal and California.

Oregon sophomore Jeff Barney led the Oregon contingent with a two-day total of 223 — well behind Stanford sophomore Tiger Woods, who led after three rounds.

Redshirt freshman Derek Croskrey ended the second day of the tournament with a combined total of 225, good for second place among the Ducks participating. Sopho-



GOLF

more Chris Cone (232), freshmen Ben Crane (232), Adrian Burtner (238) and junior Ryan Chackel (241) rounded out the Oregon contingent.

After the first day of play, the Ducks shot a 764 two-round total, good for ninth place. But UCLA came back with a third-round team total of 371 and jumped ahead of the Ducks, despite the fact that Oregon improved four strokes from the previous round.

Going into Wednesday's action, Barney was tied for 15th overall and Croskrey was tied for 25th.