

OREGON **OUTDOORS**

All UO sports deserve a look by sports fans

Try it. You just might like it. A phrase that everyone has probably heard before. Probably as you stared at the green vegetables on your plate when you were 5-years-old, grimacing at the thought of having to eat those gross peas.

I'm not going to lecture on the common goodness of eating your vegetables, but I am going to apply the phrase to the lesser-recognized sports programs here at Oregon. Watch them. You might just enjoy them.

I'm talking about the athletic programs that the University supports with scholarships that might not get much more attention than about eight inches on the back page of the *Emerald*. In other words: golf, cross country, soccer, and to a lesser extent volleyball and women's basketball.

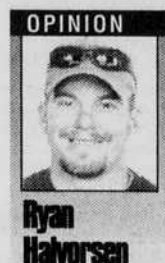
Now, not to be hypocritical, I fell into the category of Duck fans that I'm about to figuratively rake across the coals: The football and men's basketball-only Duck student-fans.

Before becoming a sportswriter, I never had paid any attention to the aforementioned sports programs, nor was I any big fan of any of those sports. But that was before I gave them a try.

When I received the assistant volleyball, golf, and more recently, cross country beats, I was thinking to myself, "Great, I got stuck with all of the crappy stuff; I'll just snooze my way through the year." But what a pleasant surprise it has been.

I think the biggest shock for me came last weekend when I attended my first cross country meet. I arrived at Alton Baker Park for the Oregon Invitational, noticed how many people were actually there, and found that there was nowhere to park.

What in the heck was this? I thought there must have been a lot of people out to walk their dogs that morning or something along those lines. I was almost positive that there weren't this many cross country fans around here. It never dawned on me that these people were here to watch a couple hundred athletes run



Ryan Halvorsen

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COURTESY PHOTO

The University's Outdoor Program offers many mountain biking trips throughout the year. Suzanne Pepin enjoys a breathtaking view of the Rocky Mountains in Colorado.

Riding High in the Hills

The Eugene area offers many trails to the mountain biking enthusiast

By Brian Vanneman
Freelance Sports Reporter

Scott Taylor dons his sleek Oakley sun glasses, swings onto his bike, and puts his foot to the pedal. Taylor falls in line with the rest of the gang, and the Disciples of Dirt hit the road.

Unlike other bike gangs, Taylor and his friends are riding Schwinn's, not Harleys. No leather jackets or thundering mufflers here. The Disciples of Dirt are ready for a day of tough uphill, jolting downhill and beautiful scenery as they mountain bike through the hills of the Willamette Valley.

Even when the weather gets bad, DOD keeps going. Mountain biking is an excellent opportunity for outdoor adventure at this time of year because fall is too wet for a road trip to the beach, and snow is at least a month away. As University Outdoor Program director Bruce Mason said, on a wet, muddy day, "you come back, and you look like you've done something."

Although the weather shouldn't scare anyone away from the hills, Taylor does caution that there may be some real dangers of riding during the fall season because cyclists share the woods with hunters.

"The Coburg hills are a good place to avoid this time of year," he said. "Weekend warriors just jump in the pickup with a cache of ammunition and start shooting at anything they see."

To avoid shots from trigger-happy hunters, Taylor suggests wearing bright colors in the winter.

Eugene's monsoon-like weather also presents some challenges for off-roaders. "Mountain biking is great this time of year as it is throughout the winter," said Dan Geiger of the Outdoor Program, "but it changes from trail riding to... logging road style riding."

This is because narrow single track trails often become "muddy messes", and bikers accelerate erosion and cause damage to them. Geiger recommends sticking to the system of wide logging and mining roads that wind through Oregon's back country.

Riders who are new to biking in the area can learn more about it

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Braves continue winning ways

BASEBALL:
Yankee mistakes led to their demise as the Braves jump ahead, 2-0

By Tom Withers
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It figured to be another long night for the Yankees when Don Larsen bounced the ceremonial first pitch.

Larsen, the only man to pitch a perfect game in World Series history, was anything but perfect on his pregame toss, leaving it a few feet short. It brought a collective groan from the crowd at Yankee Stadium.

So did almost everything else that happened in a 4-0 shutout to Atlanta Monday night. By the end, more rowdy fans had slid into second base than Yankees.

It wasn't quite a repeat performance of their Game 1 rout at the hands of the Braves. But the Yankees are now facing both the world champions and history. Only two

teams — the 1985 Kansas City Royals and 1986 New York Mets — have ever recovered from a 2-0 deficit to win a World Series.

"Last night they blew us away," said losing pitcher Jimmy Key. "And tonight I struggled and Greg [Maddux] pitched a great game. We haven't given them a game yet."

The Yankees' problems actually started before the game. New York had planned to send Game 3 starter David Cone down to Atlanta early for a full night's rest in anticipation of his Tuesday night assignment.

But Cone's plane had mechanical difficulties and the right-hander remained grounded in New York just like the rest of the Yankees.

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Kemp to return to Sonics

NBA: Seattle's Shawn Kemp says he sat out because he was going through "renewal"

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Shawn Kemp, a no-show at training camp, is expected to be at practice Tuesday for the Seattle SuperSonics after the team's return from Europe.

"We expect him back when the team is back, participating," said general manager Wally Walker.

The Sonics returned Monday from Seville, Spain, where they played a Sunday exhibition game against Indiana, but did not practice.

Kemp, a four-time All-Star who led the Sonics to the NBA Finals against the Chicago Bulls, missed the Sonics' first five exhibition games.

Kemp, 26, said he didn't report to

training camp three weeks ago because he was going through "renewal."

Kemp reportedly is unhappy because his \$3 million salary means he will be only the sixth-highest-paid player on the Sonics this season.

If Kemp returns to practice Tuesday, he'd be available when the Sonics play an exhibition game against Portland in Spokane Thursday night.

The Sonics close their eight-game exhibition schedule against the Los Angeles Lakers in Boise, Idaho, Friday night and against Portland in Corvallis, Sunday night.

The 6-foot-10 Kemp averaged a career-best 19.6 points and 11.4 rebounds in his seventh NBA season, helping the Sonics win a club-record 64 regular-season games. The Sonics took Chicago to six games in the NBA Finals.