

Ducks should make a run for Pac-10 titles

With any luck, Oregon is headed to post-season play. No, I'm not talking about the football team. What I am talking about is the basketball team — actually both basketball teams.

Sure the women have only played one game, and it was against a bunch of 30-year-old Slovakian women who ended up forfeiting the game. And sure the men haven't even played a single minute yet. But there is more than one reason to be optimistic.

The women have gone to the NCAA Tournament for the last three years.



Andrea DeYoung

There's no coincidence that the span began when Jody Runge became head coach. And she seems to be building the program stronger every year.

It began with players such as Jennifer Schutt, Sally Crowe, Sara Wilson and Debbie Sporcich, and now has Ari-

anne Boyer, Betty Ann Boeving, Jenny Mowe and a quartet of Australians, including Renae Fegent.

These strong players not only provide success for the present, but also ensure that the program will continue to thrive. After all, Oregon just signed Brianne Meharry of Oregon City High School, a team that has been ranked No. 1 in the country for two seasons and a team that hasn't seen any of its players choose to come to Oregon in recent years because out-of-state schools' programs have more to offer.

And then there's the men's team.

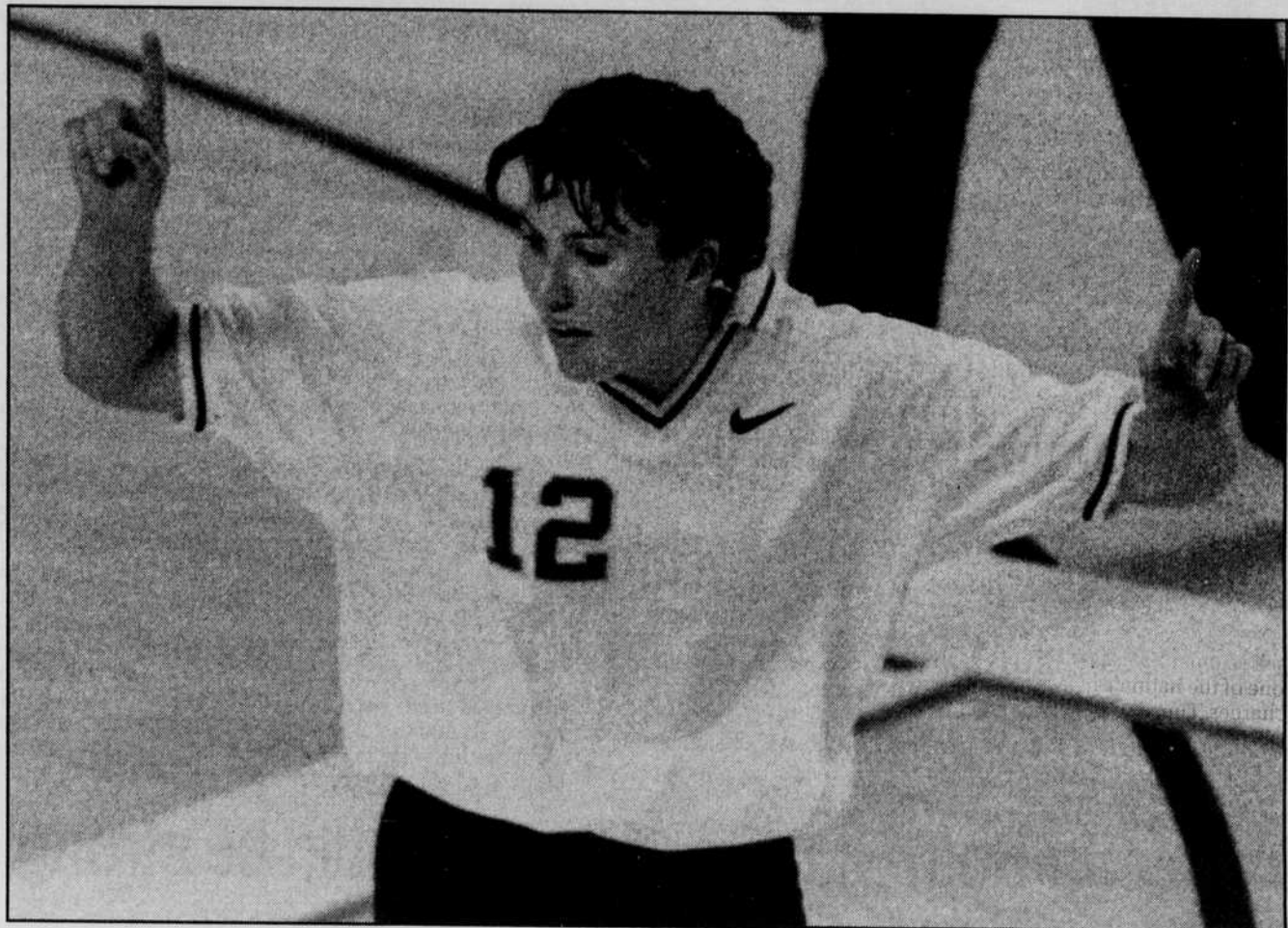
Not only are the Ducks returning all of their starters from last year, but they get back the services of Henry Madden, who had been sidelined with a knee injury and academic problems. The Ducks also signed two of Oregon's top prep players in Mike McShane and Tyrone Manlove.

So what's going to stop these two potentially explosive teams? Perhaps the rest of the Pacific-10 Conference. There are some strong teams, but there are no unbeatable teams.

On the women's side, Stanford was picked by the coaches to finish first in the

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Volleyball



MARK McTYRE/Emerald

Oregon middle blocker Alli White has become one of the volleyball team's true emotional leaders this season.

Grabbing the Spotlight

Since her arrival at Oregon a year ago, Alli White has produced above all expectations

By **Ryan Halvorsen**
Sports Reporter

The Ducks' volleyball team 1995 rookie of the year has already made her mark on the team and the league in only her second year of collegiate competition.

Sophomore Allison White (who turns 20-years-old today) has proven herself to be one of the Ducks' most consistent performers and has already elevated her level of play to the top of the Pacific-10 Conference.

Last season as a true freshman, White

was thrust into the spotlight early in her collegiate career as she earned a starting role three weeks into the conference season. In that game, she proved to everyone that she came to Oregon to make an impact. In her first start, against then 23rd-ranked Washington, White came away with seven kills, 10 digs, three blocks and a pair of service aces to help secure a victory. Following that start, White's improvement continued the rest of the season, securing her spot as a starter and a team leader.

"I didn't know really what to expect," White said. "There are six juniors ahead of me on this team and they're all really good, really experienced players, so it was a definite fight to compete for positions. In every position you have to fight for your spot."

White handled her sudden jump from high school to Division I college volleyball with surprising ease. It was her success at Los Gatos High School that helped

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Oregon Club crew has strong showing

MEET: Despite a coaching change, the men's and women's teams were happy with performances

By **Rob Moseley**
Freelance Sports Reporter

Racing against varsity-level crews from around the Northwest, the Oregon Club crew teams showed promise for the spring season at this weekend's Head of the Lake meet in Seattle.

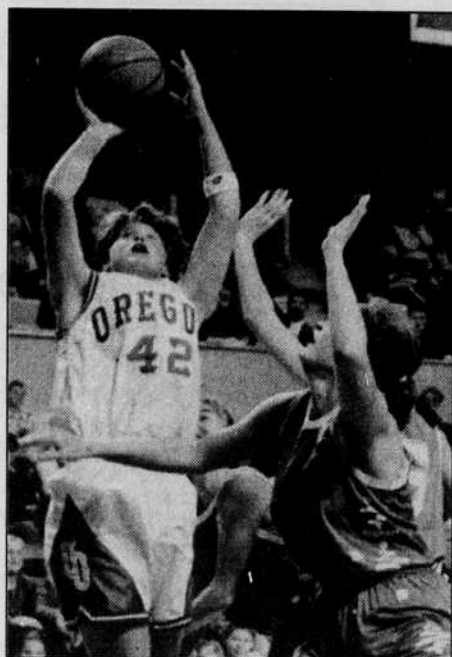
"The rowers are very pleased with themselves, and I am, too," head coach Phil Holmes said. "They started from scratch after being abandoned last year."

Because of an abrupt coaching change, the team was forced to scramble to assemble boats for this season.

"I figured we'd be lucky to get four good rowers [in each division]," Holmes said.

For a smaller program such as the one at Oregon, it's easier to form boats of four ex-

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ANDREW BRACKENSICK/Emerald

Oregon's Arianne Boyer scored 27 points in the Ducks' first exhibition game.

Oregon women seek second exhibition win

PREVIEW: The women's basketball team competes for the last time before hosting the Pepsi Shootout

By **Ryan Frank**
Sports Reporter

The Oregon women's basketball team will play its final exhibition game tonight against the Portland Saints at McArthur Court at 7 p.m.

The Ducks are coming off a forfeit win against Slovan Slovakia last Saturday night. The Slovan Slovakia team walked off the court late in the second half with the Ducks ahead 73-59.

Before the game was called, forward Arianne Boyer scored a game-high 27 points, including 23 free-throw attempts, and center Renae Fegent poured in 15.

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NCAA

Women's Basketball

■ **OPPONENT:** Portland Saints

■ **TIP-OFF:** 7 o'clock

■ **WHERE:** McArthur Court

■ **RADIO:** None

■ **TV:** None

CLUB SPORTS