



ON THE TUBE
National Hockey League
Playoffs Game 1,
ESPN (34), 4:30

SPORTS

Oregon Daily
Emerald

WOMEN'S TRACK

Making an Impact

Middle-distance runner Kaarin Knudson has won all but one race this season

By Ben Kwasney
Sports Reporter

When Kaarin Knudson made the trek from Alaska to Oregon three years ago as a walk-on, she was just one of the players hoping for a chance to make an impact.

Now as a junior on scholarship, Knudson has become Oregon's premier middle-distance runner.

"I don't just want to be a player; I want to be a major person in every race I run in," Knudson said.

So far this season she has been a factor in every race, be it the 4x400-meter relay, 800- or 1500-meter runs.

Only once has she failed to win a race this season, with the lone loss being a second-place finish in the 800-meter to post-collegian Gina DeWitt at the Oregon Preview. But Knudson made up for the loss last Saturday when she beat DeWitt at the Oregon Invitational.

Knudson is hoping to build on last year's impressive sophomore campaign when she qualified for the NCAA Championships in the 800- and 1500-meters.

In last year's NCAA meet at Hayward Field, Knudson did not advance past the semifinals in the 1500-meter after a competitor in front of her fell going into the final kick, slowing Knudson too much to advance.

"Her goal this year is to be one of the best collegiate middle-distance runners in the country, and she's on her way to doing that," head coach Tom Heinonen said.

This year she has recorded marks of 2:6.58 seconds in the 800-meter and 4:22.96 in the 1500-meter. Her times are currently 13th and 14th, respectively, on the NCAA list this spring.

Knudson is also a member of the 4x400 relay, and her anchor leg in last Saturday's Oregon Invitational was crucial to the Ducks' victory.

Both her middle-distance times are NCAA provisional marks and are considered good enough to make the NCAA

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Oregon middle-distance runner Kaarin Knudson won the 800-meter run at the Oregon Invitational and has lost one race in the 1997 season.

MARK MCTYRE/Emerald

Blazers, QBs and Tiger — Oh my!

Well, things have finally seemed to calm down a bit in the sporting world, if only for a moment.

And with no one subject in particular on my mind, I will take advantage of the opportunity to share with you a few random thoughts that are on my mind this week.

Western Conference playoff race:

With Los Angeles, Houston and Seattle battling it out for the second, third and fourth positions in the NBA's Western Conference, many Portland fans have been discussing which team they would like to see in the No. 4 spot against the No. 5 Blazers.

The Lakers, some say, because the Blazers have beaten them twice this season and really should have beaten them a third time, losing in overtime at L.A.

Others want Seattle, which has struggled lately as rumors of dissent among the players (and Shawn Kemp's reported problem with alcohol) run rampant.

Yet other Blazermaniacs would like Houston, a team Portland has had some success against this season with two victories. The feeling is at least one of the Rockets' three aging superstars will break down due to injury, making them a vulnerable opponent.

To me, this is like asking a person whether they would like to swim across a river full of sharks, alligators or piranhas. There might be a slightly better chance against one of the three, but it's still a pretty difficult task.

The best bet for the Blazers is to worry about themselves. If they stay focused, play unselfish and within the team concept, they have enough talent to do some damage against whomever they play. If not, though, their fragile egos and attitudes could take over, leading to disaster and a quick exit from the playoffs.

Oregon's quarterback situation:

Word is that Akili Smith, Jason Maas and A.J. Feeley are still evenly battling it out for the starting quarterback job for next year. The coaches have said nobody has stood out above the others through the first two weeks of spring practice.

OPINION



Alex Pond

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scoreboard

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

NBA

Denver 63	Charlotte 108
Portland 107	Boston 102
Atlanta 92	Philadelphia . . . 113
New York 96	New Jersey 105
Indiana 90	Orlando 63
Washington 103	Cleveland 78
Milwaukee 85	Chicago 92
Detroit 92	Miami 102
Dallas 92	
Minnesota 77	

Club crew, footbag teams compete at home

■ **CLUB SPORTS:** Baseball and women's lacrosse teams also play in tournaments this weekend

Footbag Tournament returns to UO

The second annual University of Oregon Footbag Tournament will take place this weekend on the Education Field, behind the Knight Library.

The competition will feature two events. Footbag Net is a volleyball-type game played over a five-foot net, and in Footbag Golf, players kick the bag from a hand toss into a hole 18 inches in diameter.

Many of the world's top players will compete in the tournament, including UO alumnus Kenny Shults and Tricia George. Shults holds over 40 World Footbag titles, and George was the overall champion in 1996.

The competition, sponsored by Club Sports, is open to the public. Those interested should contact Becca English-Ross at 344-4731.

Crew to host sole home meet

The Covered Bridge Regatta, Club crew's only home meet of the season, will be held this weekend in Eugene. Teams expected to participate include Washington State,



Willamette, and most other programs in the Northwest.

Oregon will look to continue its success from the past two weekends, each of which has featured a first-place finish from an Oregon boat.

Baseball to play in Boardman Tourney

Oregon Club baseball travels to Boardman this weekend to participate in the Boardman Tournament against teams from around the Northwest. Staff ace Mike Ross, whose record stands at 4-2, will start Saturday's game against Central Oregon, which is 22-0. Central leads the season series 6-0, including both of Ross' losses.

On Sunday Chris Corda, who has thrown

complete games in each of his last two outings, will pitch against Eastern Washington and Matt Palaferri or Casey Fox will start against Boise State, against which the Ducks are 3-1 this season.

Women's lacrosse to compete in Washington

After a fifth place finish in the Western States tournament over the weekend, the Oregon women's lacrosse team has its sights set on a three-game sweep Saturday in Walla Walla, Wash.

"We are a much stronger team this season than we have been in years past," midfielder Katie Mehas said. "We need to learn how to win the close games. Our goal this weekend is to put teams away in the second half."

Oregon will battle Pacific Lutheran and Whitman in afternoon games, then finish up against rival Linfield later in the day.

— compiled by Jesse Sowa, Rob Moseley and Joel Hood