



**ON THE TUBE**  
Major League Baseball  
Montreal vs. Atlanta,  
TBS (3), 10:05 a.m.

# SPORTS

Oregon Daily  
**Emerald**

## UO women looking for top-five finish at nationals

Paula Patterson and the Ducks will be looking to improve on their 13th-place finish in last year's NCAA Women's Golf Championships when they begin the 72-hole tournament today in Columbus, Ohio.



EMERALD

**■ GOLF:** Despite their youth, the Ducks are confident heading into the NCAA Championships

By Ryan Halvorsen  
Sports Reporter

Last year, the Oregon women's golf team earned the highest finish in team history, 13th, at the NCAA Women's Golf Championships.

This year, 13th would be a disappointment.

The Ducks are looking to bring home a trophy with a top-five finish in the 1997 national championships, which begin today at the Ohio State University Scarlet Course in Columbus, Ohio.

A top-five performance is not out of the question for the No. 11 Ducks, who were ranked as high as sixth in the nation after winning four of their first five tournaments.

"I knew that we were good, but I didn't know we were great," Oregon head coach Renee Baumgartner said. "Our goal all year has been to improve and peak at nationals."

Oregon is coming off its worst showings of the year in the last two tournaments, placing fifth at the Pacific-10 Championships and sixth at the West Regional. But it was also the toughest competition the Ducks have faced.

Five teams in the Pac-10 are ranked in the top 11, three others are ranked in the top 35, and 10 teams in the western region are ranked in the top 30.

Baumgartner said she thinks the experience of the Ducks' six foreign players, coupled with Paula Patterson's experience in big tournaments, is helping take the pres-

### WOMEN'S GOLF

**■ WHAT:** The 1997 NCAA Women's Golf Championships

**■ WHERE:** The Ohio State University Scarlet Course, Columbus, Ohio

**■ WHEN:** Play begins today with the first 18 holes of the 72-hole tournament



GOLF

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## scoreboard

### YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

#### NBA PLAYOFFS

Miami ..... 77  
Chicago ..... 84

#### NHL PLAYOFFS

Philadelphia ..... 6  
New York ..... 3

#### American League

Kansas City ..... 3	Minnesota ..... 4
Cleveland ..... 4	Milwaukee ..... 3
Toronto ..... 2	Boston ..... 1
NY Yankees ..... 0	Chi. White Sox ..... 10
Detroit ..... 3	Oakland ..... 3
Baltimore ..... 4	Texas ..... 8
Seattle ..... 6	
Anaheim ..... 7	

#### National League

NY Mets ..... 5	Montreal ..... 2
Florida ..... 6	Atlanta ..... 4
Philadelphia ..... 3	Pittsburgh ..... 1
Chi. Cubs ..... 2	St. Louis ..... 3
Cincinnati ..... 7	Los Angeles ..... 3
Houston ..... 4	San Diego ..... 7
Colorado ..... 3	
San Francisco ..... 6	



MARK McTYRE/ Emerald

Oregon's Chris Nelson looks to defend his high jump title at the Pacific-10 Championships this weekend in Seattle. Nelson, who currently ranks second in the Pac-10 with a jump of 7-3 1/4, won the event last season when he cleared 7-2 1/2.

## UO men prepare for Pac-10s

**■ MEN:** Gregg Bleakney and Daniel Das Neves lead their events going into the Pac-10 Championships this weekend

By Alex Pond  
Sports Reporter

After concluding the regular season with a successful showing in the Oregon Twilight last Saturday, the Oregon men's track and field team has now set its sights on the Pacific-10 Conference Championships this weekend in Seattle.

UCLA, which has captured the past six Pac-10 titles and eight in the last 10 seasons, will again be the favorite. Southern California and Stanford together represent the most serious challenge to the Bruins.

While Oregon head coach Bill Dellinger said last week his team isn't likely to be a contender this weekend, several Oregon athletes should vie for individual titles.

Daniel Das Neves heads into this weekend ranked No. 1 in the conference in the steeplechase. Das Neves is Oregon's only NCAA automatic qualifier at this point, with a time of 8 minutes, 43.47 seconds, and is looking to defend his 1996 Pac-10 championship.

In the high jump, Chris Nelson will also look to defend his title. With a season best of 7-3 1/4, Nelson currently ranks second behind Greg Walker of California.

Gregg Bleakney will be going after his first Pac-10 title

in the triple jump after taking the Pac-10 lead in the event with his mark of 53-3 1/2 last weekend. Bleakney was the runner-up in the event last season.

Piotr Buciariski also expects to figure into the competition for the pole vault championship. He currently ranks fifth in the conference after last weekend's season best of 17-8 1/2. Scott Slover of UCLA leads the conference with a mark of 18-7 1/4.

Buciariski said he thinks it will take at least 18-6 to win this weekend, but he is confident he can go that high and be a contender.



MEN'S TRACK

### Other news and notes:

The Ducks have six athletes with NCAA provisional qualifying marks heading into this weekend. The qualifiers are: Buciariski in the pole vault, Nelson in the high jump, Micah Davis in the steeplechase, Jeremy Robinson in the hammer, Paul Pappas in the decathlon and Oliver Wirz in the 5,000-meter run.

However, Wirz will not compete because of a foot injury, and Pappas competed in the Pac-10 decathlon last weekend, where he placed fourth.

For his efforts last weekend, Bleakney was named the Pac-10 Field Athlete of the Week. He is Oregon's only winner of the award this season.

### MEN'S TRACK

**■ TOP COMPETITORS:** Daniel Das Neves and Micah Davis, steeplechase; Gregg Bleakney, triple jump; Chris Nelson, high jump; Piotr Buciariski, pole vault

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