



NBA Playoffs
Seattle at L.A. Lakers,
TNT (27), 7:30 p.m.

SPORTS

Oregon Daily
Emerald

Regular-season finales important for UO

Oregon travels south to face No. 21 Cal and No. 9 Stanford for its final doubleheaders of the regular season

By Joel Hood
Sports Reporter

It's possible the Oregon softball team could get an at-large bid for the postseason without winning a single game this weekend.

But it's not likely.

With that in mind, head coach Rick Gamez knows how important it is for the Ducks to remain confident and focused entering their regular-season finales at No. 21 California on Saturday and at No. 9 Stanford on Sunday.

Gamez knows those four games could be critical to the Ducks' postseason hopes.

"We're going to have to sweep on Saturday," Gamez said. "And we'll need to make

a good showing on Sunday."

Other than that, the pressure seems to be off — and for good reason.

Regardless of whether the Ducks make it to the postseason, Gamez has, in just his second year as head coach, directed Oregon to one of the best seasons in school history. One win this weekend would give Oregon (38-25 overall, 10-14 Pacific-10 Conference) its second-highest win total ever. Three victories would equal the Ducks' best-ever conference win total and give them their best Pac-10 finish since 1994.



SOFTBALL

But Oregon's players say that means little if they don't get a postseason berth.

"If we do everything we can do and take care of business, then I think we deserve to be there," catcher Kelly Planche said. "I feel like we should get more respect, but maybe we won't until after the season."

Either way, outfielder Lindsey Welch sees this season as a new beginning for Oregon softball.

"I have a good feeling we'll get [to the postseason]," Welch said. "We've had a pretty decent season, and we'll all look forward to going up from here."

"We're going to have to sweep on Saturday, and we'll need to make a good showing on Sunday."

Rick Gamez
UO head coach

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Women face UW in final dual meet

The No. 4 Ducks enter Saturday's meet with the Huskies in Seattle undefeated in dual-meet competition

By Rob Moseley
Sports Reporter

It may not get as much publicity as the same scenario in football or basketball, but two of the top 10 women's track and field teams in the nation will meet in Seattle this weekend.

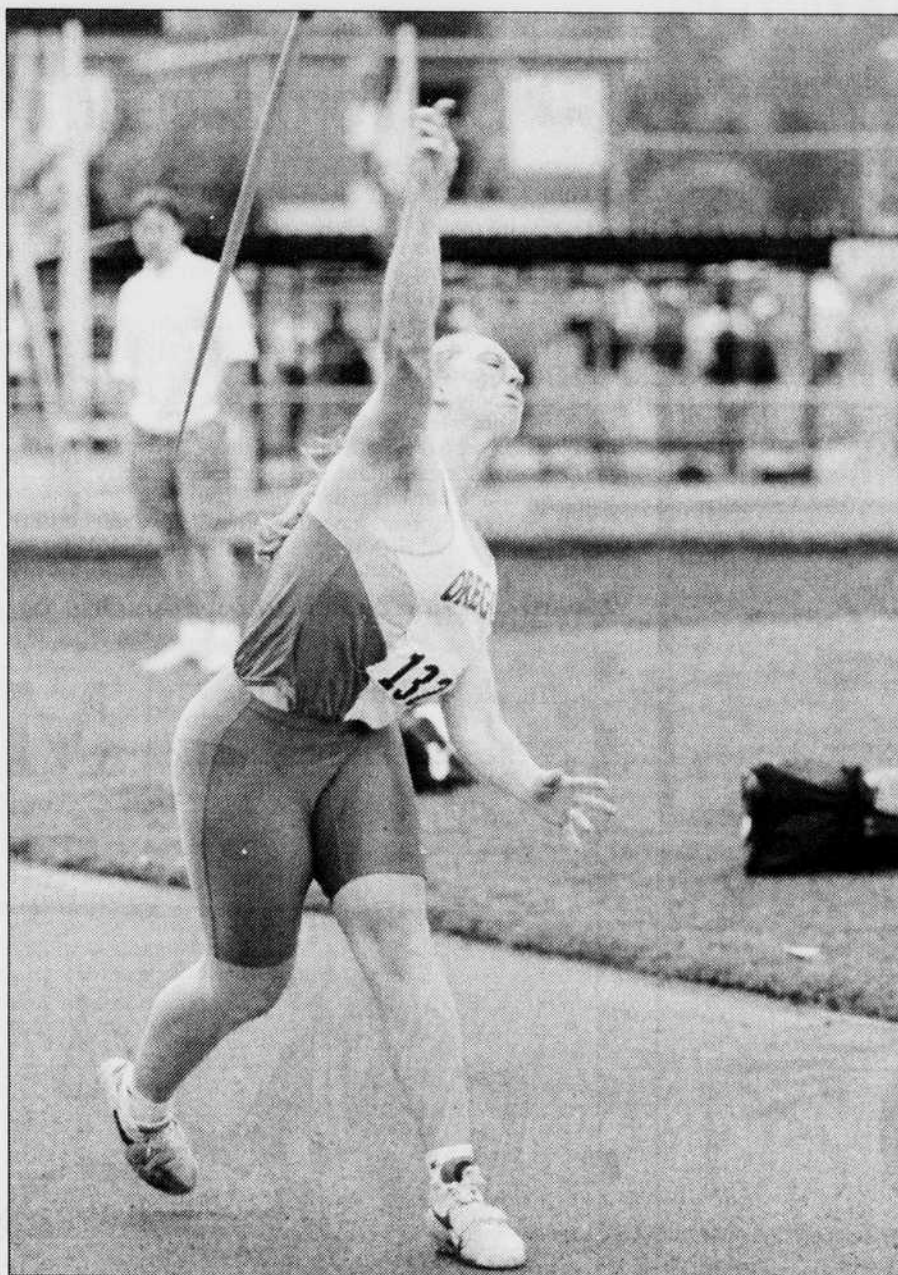
No. 4 Oregon and No. 6 Washington will get together at Husky Stadium on Saturday for the Ducks' last dual meet of the season as the team begins final preparations for the Pacific-10 Conference Championships in Palo Alto, Calif., May 23 and 24. The non-scoring Oregon Twilight will be held at Hayward Field next week and will be the last chance for individuals to post qualifying marks.

"I'm not even sure how that's computed or decided," Oregon head coach Tom Heinonen said of the rankings. "But based on the teams ahead of us [UCLA, BYU and Nebraska], that seems pretty reasonable. This is what college track is all about."

Oregon enters the meet undefeated in dual-meet competition, having won both the Washington State dual and the Pepsi Invitational at home earlier this season, as well as the Brutus Hamilton Memorial in Berkeley.

Although this is the next to last chance for the Oregon women to post individual

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Oregon senior Katie Pearmine has just two chances left to post a qualifying mark for the NCAA Championships, the first coming this weekend in Seattle.

Huskies offer Oregon a stiff challenge

The Ducks will have their work cut out for them Saturday as UW has the advantage in the sprints and throwing events

By Alex Pond
Sports Editor

Talk about a contrast in strengths and weaknesses.

When the Oregon and Washington men's track and field teams do battle Saturday at Husky Stadium in Seattle, fans will likely see a meet that goes down to the wire.

They will also likely see each team dominate a certain aspect of the meet.

With freshman Ja'Warren Hooker leading the way, the Huskies figure to control the majority of the points in the sprints. Hooker easily won the 100- and 200-meters and was instrumental in the Huskies' victory in the 4x100-meter relay at the Pepsi Team Invitational earlier in the season.

And sophomore Ben Lindsey, an automatic qualifier for the NCAA Championships in the shotput and discus, appears to give the Huskies the advantage in the throwing events.

Oregon, on the other hand, will look to gain points with strong showings in the distances and jumping events, two areas in which the Ducks seem to have the advantage over the Huskies.

"We know we're in for a real challenge with Washington," Oregon head coach Bill Dellinger said. "They go at us pretty

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Symposium gets underway

The Women's Sports Business Symposium began Thursday and will continue with panel discussions today

By Alex Pond
Sports Editor

Stressing the importance of the 1999 Women's World Cup and its expected role in continuing the recent explosion in the popularity and acceptance of women's athletics, Marla Messing delivered the keynote address Thursday evening to help kick off the third annual Women's Sports Business Symposium.

Messing, president of the 1999 Women's World Cup, told a crowd of about 200 inside the Alumni Lounge in Gerlinger Hall that

staging a successful World Cup, the world's most prestigious soccer tournament and one of the most widely recognized sporting events in the world, would have a tremendous impact on the future of women's soccer, women's athletics in general and the business of women's sports in the United States and worldwide for several reasons.

Those reasons include attracting corporate sponsors that could then make themselves available to future women's sporting events, increasing the awareness of the quality of women's soccer through worldwide television exposure and marketing female athletes as "role models."

"Women really are role models," Messing

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Leaders

■ OREGON:
T35. Patterson 75
T35. Bristow 75
T35. Sowden 75
■ INDIVIDUAL:
1. Park, ASU 68
■ TEAM:
1. Arizona 290
T2. ASU 293
T2. Tulsa 293
T11. Oregon 301

Ducks 'in position' for push in final two rounds

Oregon heads into today's second round at the NCAA West Regional tied for 11th place.

By Tim Pyle
Sports Reporter

Needing to finish in the top 11 in order to advance to the NCAA Championship, the Oregon women's golf team finished Thursday's first round of the NCAA West Regional in Palo Alto, Calif., tied for 11th place.

However, head coach Renee Baumgartner said the fourth-seeded Ducks are in good position for the final two rounds because they have yet to play their best golf and are only four strokes out of fourth place.

"I was really concerned about the first round and getting out and getting ourselves in posi-

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