

Monday
April 19, 1999

Oregon Emerald SPORTS

Best Bet
NBA Basketball
Indiana vs. Boston
5 p.m., TBS



Washington's Rosie Leutzinger reaches for home plate as Oregon's Kelly Planche gathers the ball for the late tag in the Ducks' second loss to the Huskies.

Nick Modkey/Emerald

Ducks swept away both days

Oregon cannot find a way to beat No. 1 UCLA or No. 4 Washington at Howe Field

By Tim Pyle
Oregon Daily Emerald

It all started in the third inning of Sunday's first game against Washington. Or, perhaps more fitting for the Oregon softball team, it all ended. The No. 14 Ducks had been looking like a different team in building a 5-0 lead the day after No. 1 UCLA easily swept them, but then the No. 4 Huskies erupted

for a five-run rally and never looked back in sweeping a doubleheader at Howe Field.

"We just need to do a better job all the way around," Ducks head coach Rick Gamez said.

In game one, Oregon (32-17 overall, 5-9 Pacific-10 Conference) struck first with a run in the bottom of the first inning. Freshman Missy Coe's team-record tying 14th double was not wasted, as Andrea Gustafson singled her home.

Then, the Ducks chased Washington's Jaime Graves, who wielded a 0.42 earned-

run average entering the game, with a display of power in the second inning.

After C.C. Burns singled, Jill Robinson hit her team-high 11th home run to earn her 29th and 30th runs batted in of the season. Then, Coe singled and Katie Mackey lined a two-run shot, her ninth, over the left-center field fence to stake Oregon to a 5-0 lead.

But the Huskies (31-11, 7-6), who were playing their third doubleheader in three days, responded with a flurry of well-placed base hits and took advantage of

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Oregon's big guns smoke competition in California

The Ducks explode for 14 season bests and two lifetime bests at the Mt. SAC Relays

By Scott Pesznecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

A big meet. A big field. Big competition. And when all was said and done, Oregon's big guns showed why they belong on the national level.

The Ducks' three NCAA scorers — Kaarin Knudson, Marie Davis and Karina Elstrom — found success in their events at the Mt. San Antonio College Relays in Walnut, Calif.

Oregon athletes also competed at the nearby Pomona-Pitz Invitational and the Long Beach Invitational.

Head coach Tom Heinonen said the weekend's experience gave the Ducks a taste of the championship meets.

"People got multiple opportunities to compete, which simulates the two-day [Pacific-10 Conference] format and the multi-day NCAA format," he said. "The

key athletes got multiple competitions, which is going to be needed down the road."

Elstrom and Knudson notched season-best marks in each of their events, the pole vault and the 1,500 meters.

Oregon's best event of the meet was Sunday's 1,500. Knudson led the Ducks in the race, finishing in second place with a time of four minutes, 21.98 seconds. Davis followed in fifth place with a time of 4:23.08.

Both of those times earned NCAA provisional marks. And according to Heinonen, the times could have been even better.

"It went well, but we missed a golden opportunity when the pace slowed," Heinonen said. "There was a fast, early pace, but then it slowed, and nobody in the field was willing to take the pace. We

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Davis beats California heat, qualifies for NCAA meet

Senior Matthew Davis narrowly makes the NCAA-qualifying cut in the 5,000 meters Sunday

By Allison Ross
Oregon Daily Emerald

The heat of Los Angeles was enough to bring Oregon runners Matthew Davis and Oliver Wirz back to Eugene early Sunday morning, several hours before the rest of the Oregon men's track team.

But their work at the Mt. San Antonio College Relays in Walnut, Calif., was done, and when it was over, Davis had an NCAA qualifying time (13 minutes, 48 seconds) in the 5,000 meters. Not only did Davis, a four-time All-American, qualify, but he improved his personal record in the event by 29 seconds.

The race featured 40 entrants, just 15 of whom were collegians. Davis finished 16th overall and fifth among the college entrants, while Wirz finished 31st overall. Wirz qualified for the NCAA outdoor championships in the 5,000 four weeks

ago at the Stanford Invitational.

"I had higher expectations, but in hindsight the way the race came out doesn't surprise me," Davis said. "My workouts have been more intense and I've been tired, but I qualified by the skin of my teeth and that's the name of the game."



Some members of the team competed in Tucson, Ariz., in the Arizona Elite meet, including Colin McArthur, who gave Oregon its sole win in Arizona.

McArthur finished first in the long jump (23 feet, four inches), ahead of Dion Crabbe of Central Arizona (22-3 1/2).

Freshman Ross Krempel finished second in the 800 with a personal best time of 1:51.49. Krempel was just .05 seconds shy of a Pacific-10 Conference qualifying mark and the win, which went to Arizona State's Brandon Strong (1:51.44).

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