

SPORTS

Friday
April 23, 1999Best Bet
NBA Basketball
Portland vs. Utah
7:30 p.m., TNT

Ducks break losing streak, don't get the sweep

No. 17 Oregon
shuts Portland
State out in
Game 1, but
the Ducks
couldn't fend
off the Vikings
in Game 2,
losing in 10
innings.

By Allison Ross
Oregon Daily Emerald

The four losses that the No. 17 Oregon softball team suffered at Howe Field last weekend didn't seem to hinder their performance against Portland State on Thursday. Nor did the injuries to the Ducks' leading pitcher Jennie Cook and first baseman Triawn Custer.

At first,

Oregon (33-18 overall, 5-9 Pacific-10 Conference) shut the Vikings out, 4-1, in Game one of a doubleheader before falling in game two, 5-4, in extra innings. The win in Game 1 gave the Ducks their third win over the Vikings (8-31) this season as Oregon swept Portland State at Howe Field on April 14.

"That had a lot to do with it," Oregon head coach Rick Gamez said, referring to the Ducks confidence heading into Game 2. "We weren't focused and we weren't as intense. We told the girls that Portland State was going to come out scrapping."

And that's exactly what the Vikings did. With Oregon up 2-1 heading into the seventh inning, Oregon right fielder CC Burns misjudged a Jessica Guerrero hit. The error

put Guerrero on third base and Shevaun Sheibert followed with a single to center field, scoring Guerrero and sending the game into extra innings.



were not able to get hits when we needed them."

Oregon did come out strong in the top of the eighth inning, scoring two runs, but the Vikings responded with two runs of their own to tie the game, 4-4. Oregon had a chance to score again in the 10th inning with Lindsey Welch on third with just one out. But Oregon couldn't get a hit and Welch never made it home.

"We didn't get timely hits," Gamez said. "We didn't do a good job base running and we left a ton of runners on base."

Despite the disappointing loss in the second game, Oregon did some impressive things in Game 1. Freshman pitcher Con-

nie McMurren gave up just two hits and completed her third shut out of the season.

Another freshman, Missy Coe, who has had an impressive debut season, continued her success. Coe pounded her 15th double of the season and now holds the school record for doubles, breaking teammate Katie Mackey's record set last season.

"Missy has been getting the job done for us all season," Gamez said. "She's a kid that hates to lose and she's really carried us this year."

Four Ducks had at least two hits in Game one and Oregon scored single runs in the first, third, fourth and fifth innings. Welch recorded her third home run of the season, a single shot in the fourth inning.

McMurren gave up just two hits in seven innings pitched and increased her record to 11-7 before taking the Game 2 loss after relieving starter Katie Leneker.

"Connie did a great job in the first game," Gamez said. "She threw the ball the best she has in a while and we're really pleased with that."

On tap

What: Softball
Who: No. 3 Arizona
vs. No. 17 Oregon
Where: Howe Field
When: Saturday,
1 p.m.

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Ducks main target will be relays at Drake

Marie Davis and Kaarin
Knudson lead the attack
against a competitive field

By Scott Pesznecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

Earlier this month at the Hayward Relays, the Oregon women's track team showed fans its strength in the distances.

Now, Oregon will once again attempt to show its stuff — on the road.

A squad of six Ducks traveled to Des Moines, Iowa, to compete at the Drake Relays. Competition begins today and concludes Saturday.

Unlike last weekend's Mt. San Antonio College Relays in which several Ducks competed in multiple events, Oregon will only take part in three races at Drake: the distance medley relay, the 4x800-meter relay, and the 3,000.

Oregon head coach Tom Heinonen said most of the team needed the weekend to recover from Mt. SAC, which is one reason why the Ducks are not sending many athletes to Iowa.

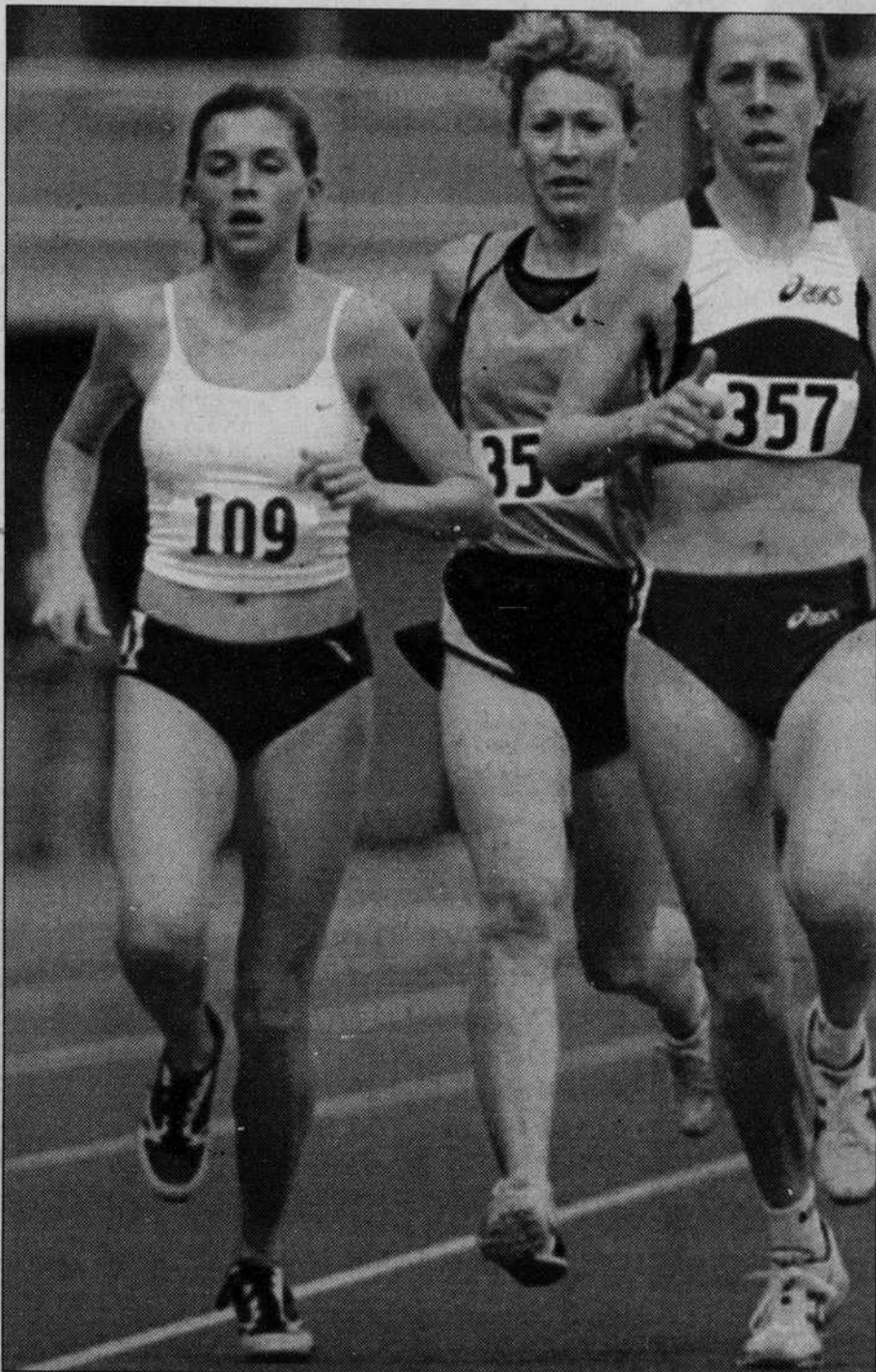
"Given the length of time in Los Angeles, the effort people put out and the conditions, we needed to rest a lot of people to get ready for the upcoming three-meet homestand," Heinonen said. "We have a lot of people who are pretty drained, and only the top and most mature athletes are ready to go again."

Heinonen added that anyone outside of a running event is considered a "second-class citizen" at Drake, which is another reason why no throwers or jumpers made the trip.

Marie Davis is expected to anchor the distance medley relay for Oregon. At the Hayward Relays on April 10, Davis anchored the race and finished a close second place to Stanford's Sally Glynn.

Last season, Davis led the Ducks to a come-from-behind victory in the distance medley relay, passing Michigan's All-American Katie McGregor with 200 meters remaining. Michigan's distance medley team went on to win the NCAA Indoor title.

Anchoring the 4x800 will probably be Kaarin Knudson, who also anchored the



All-American Marie Davis will anchor the Ducks in the distance medley relay at the Drake Relays.

Ducks can't find groove at Pac-10s

Miguel Arriaga is the only
Oregon player to make it to the
second day of competition

By Mirjam Swanson
Oregon Daily Emerald

If the Pacific-10 Conference is indeed the best tennis conference in the nation — as it arguably is — then the Pac-10 Championships is the toughest collegiate tournament around.

Each player from all 18 of the Pac-10 men's and women's squads, nine of which are ranked in the nation's top 20, played Thursday in Ojai, Calif.

The field of 128 included every member of the Ducks except redshirt freshman Sarah Colistro who recently suffered a season-ending injury.

Because both the Ducks' men's and women's teams finished winless in the Pac-10 this season, they had additional motivation for wanting to pull off some upsets this week at the individual tournament.

But only one of the Ducks remains in play after the first day of competition.

Senior Miguel Arriaga beat California's David Tzou without dropping a set, before going on to topple Arizona State's Matt Klinger, also in straight sets. Arriaga will face either UCLA's Chris Sands or Jeremy Berman of Washington today.

On the women's side, senior Jaime Martin advanced to the second round by beating Washington State's Marcie Malone, 6-3, 6-3.

But Martin wasn't able to keep it going in round two, faltering against Cal's Karoline Borgensen in straight sets.

Junior Joaquin Hamdan also reached round two by beating Stanford's David Hauser 6-4, 6-3. He was then defeated in the second round.

Oregon's other players weren't able to find their way into the second round.

Carlos Navarro, the men's team captain,

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