

Friday
May 7, 1999

Oregon Emerald SPORTS

Best Bet
Major League Baseball
Seattle vs. N.Y. Yankees
4:30 p.m., UPN



OREGON SOFTBALL

On tap

WHAT: Softball
doubleheader
WHO: No. 14
Stanford vs. No. 18
Oregon
WHEN: Saturday, 1
p.m.
WHERE: Howe
Field



Nick Medley/Emerald

*"We've been
getting good
pitching and
good defense
and some
timely hits."*

Rick Gamez
UO head coach

Oregon needs solid defense from third baseman Christi Shelton and company this weekend against No. 14 Stanford and No. 19 California.

Stanford, Cal visit for Oregon's last stand

Either Jill Robinson or Katie Mackey could break the Ducks' home run record this weekend

By Mirjam Swanson
Oregon Daily Emerald

After surviving the roughest road trip of the season last weekend, the Oregon softball team is happy to be home, playing in the familiar confines of Howe Field this weekend.

The No. 18 Ducks face No. 14 Stanford at 1 p.m. on Saturday and No. 19 California at 1 p.m. on Sunday in the final regular-season homestand for five Oregon seniors.

"We're really looking forward to finishing strong with them here at home," head

coach Rick Gamez said. "They're all excited and ready to play."

When play begins Saturday, the Ducks might be more complete than they have been recently. Senior Jennie Cook could take the mound for the first time since her thumb was broken when she was hit by a pitch — the last time Oregon faced the Cardinal.

"Jennie might see some pitching time this weekend," Gamez said. "She has been pitching a little bit this week, and her arm is starting to feel better. Her thumb, obviously, is feeling much better."

Triawn Custer, a second-team all-conference first baseman last season, also suffered a thumb injury and has been sidelined since mid-February. She also could

make an appearance in the lineup this weekend, Gamez said.

"Triawn got cleared to go full out [Wednesday]," he said. "She's swung the bat the past couple of days, and she saw some light hitting. She's ready to go."

Oregon's single-season home run record is also almost ready to go. Heading into Saturday's contest, both centerfielder Jill Robinson and infielder Katie Mackey are tied for the team lead and school record of 12 home runs.

The next homer by either player makes history.

But Gamez said the Ducks have other concerns besides breaking records, like rematches with Stanford, which swept Oregon a month ago, and Cal.

"They're both good clubs," Gamez said. "They've got good pitching, good defense, good offense — the whole package. There's not anything that they're really lacking. We're going to have to go out and make sure that we continue to play the game that we have been."

And that's been pretty well.

Last Saturday, Oregon upset No. 1 UCLA, gaining a split in Los Angeles, before traveling to No. 5 Washington the next day and splitting with the Huskies as well.

"[We've been] getting good pitching and good defense and some timely hits," Gamez said.

The Ducks rank in the top three among

Turn to **SOFTBALL**, Page 8A

Ducks try the triangular

The Oregon women's track and field team was dealt a 74-point loss in its other scored meet

By Scott Pesznecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

Seconds, anyone?

In the second triangular meet of the season, the Oregon women's track and field team will have a second chance to master the dual-meet format at the Pepsi Team Invitational at Hayward Field on Saturday.

Competition begins at 12 p.m. with the javelin and ends at 4:15 p.m. with the 4x400-meter relay, an event the Ducks have dominated this season.

The meet is the second in a three-week homestand for the Ducks, who are one meet away from closing the regular season. Oregon's previous triangular meet was against Washington State on April 3. The Ducks suffered one of their worst losses in program history to the Cougars.

Head coach Tom Heinonen likes the matchup going into

the weekend. He said Nebraska may be "one level above," but he believes the Ducks can make a run at the Cornhuskers.

"Team competition can often bring out the best in people," Heinonen said. "If we get a break in the weather this week that we didn't get last week, then this could be a good weekend. The competition will be there, and the motivation, too."

A key matchup between Oregon and Nebraska pits Tish Henes against the Huskers' Keisha Griffis in the 400 hurdles. At last season's Pepsi Invitational, Griffis won the battle with a time of 57.59 seconds.

However, Griffis' fast pace pushed Henes to a personal-best time of 58.40. Henes' current season-best time is 59.29.

Marie Davis returns to the 3,000 meters after scoring an

Turn to **WOMEN**, Page 9A

UO home for one last dual

The men's track and field team competes in their final scoring meet

By Allison Ross
Oregon Daily Emerald

After a string of non-scoring meets, the Oregon men's track and field team battles Washington and Nebraska on Saturday in its final dual meet of the season.

Hayward Field did not favor the home team last Saturday, as two of Oregon's top performers — All-American Micah Davis and Howard Moore — suffered minor injuries.

Moore suffered a muscle cramp while anchoring Oregon in the 4x100-meter relay and is expected to compete Saturday in the 200, 400 and both relay events, head coach Martin Smith said.

However, Micah and brother Matthew Davis are attending

the wedding of their brother and will miss the meet.

"Obviously we're going to miss Matthew and Micah," Smith said. "It's going to be important to see how these kids get after it."

The field events may overshadow some of the day's distance events. The javelin throw features Nebraska All-American Scott Warren, who ranks third nationally among collegians (243 feet, 4 inches) and teammate Cory Lehman, who ranks sixth nationally (234-5).

Oregon is led by Ryan Keith, who ranks fourth in the Pacific-10 Conference and provisionally qualified for the NCAA Championships (220-5) at the Washington State dual on April 3.

"The preparation isn't different," Keith said of Nebraska. "It's the mindset you get into."

Turn to **MEN**, Page 8A

On tap

WHAT: Pepsi Team
Invitational
WHO: Oregon
men's and
women's track and
field
WHEN: Saturday,
Noon
WHERE: Hayward
Field