

SPORTS

Friday
May 21, 1999Best Bet
NBA Playoffs
Indiana vs. Philadelphia
5 p.m., TNT 

Oregon unable to find offense in loss

A loss to first-seed Texas at 12:30 p.m. today would eliminate the Ducks from the postseason

By Tim Pyle
Oregon Daily Emerald

In her first collegiate postseason appearance, freshman pitcher Connie McMurren sparked.

The problem was, she did not receive any offensive support from the rest of the Oregon softball team in Thursday's 1-0 loss to No. 10 Illinois-Chicago at the NCAA Softball Regionals in Chicago.

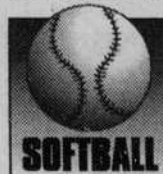
Now, the No. 19 Ducks, the regional's fourth seed, are one loss away from elimination with first-seed Texas their opponent at 12:30 p.m. today.

The Flames (66-15 overall) took advantage of playing on their campus — although second-seed DePaul is officially the regional's host — by riding the pitching of junior Samantha Iuli to victory.

Iuli, who finished the regular season 37-7 with a 1.09 earned-run average, threw her

17th shutout in limiting Oregon (39-28) to just two hits. She also added to her season total of 351 strikeouts in 289 innings pitched by striking out nine Ducks.

"Sam kept us off balance most of the afternoon," Oregon head coach Rick Gamez said in a released statement. "She started with the rise-ball and just kept getting it higher and higher."



SOFTBALL

"We were very undisciplined at the plate. We've got good aggressive hitters, but we kept chasing balls out of the zone."

At first, the Ducks, who have now scored just three runs in their last four games, looked like they would break out of their offensive slump.

Oregon outfielder Jill Robinson led off the game with a double. But Iuli sandwiched three outs, two of them strikeouts, around an

intentional walk issued to Triawn Custer to escape the first inning unscathed.

With McMurren, 15-12 with a 2.55 ERA entering the game, keeping Illinois-Chicago's bats in check, the game remained scoreless through three innings.

But in the bottom of the fourth, the Flames manufactured what would prove to be the only and winning run.

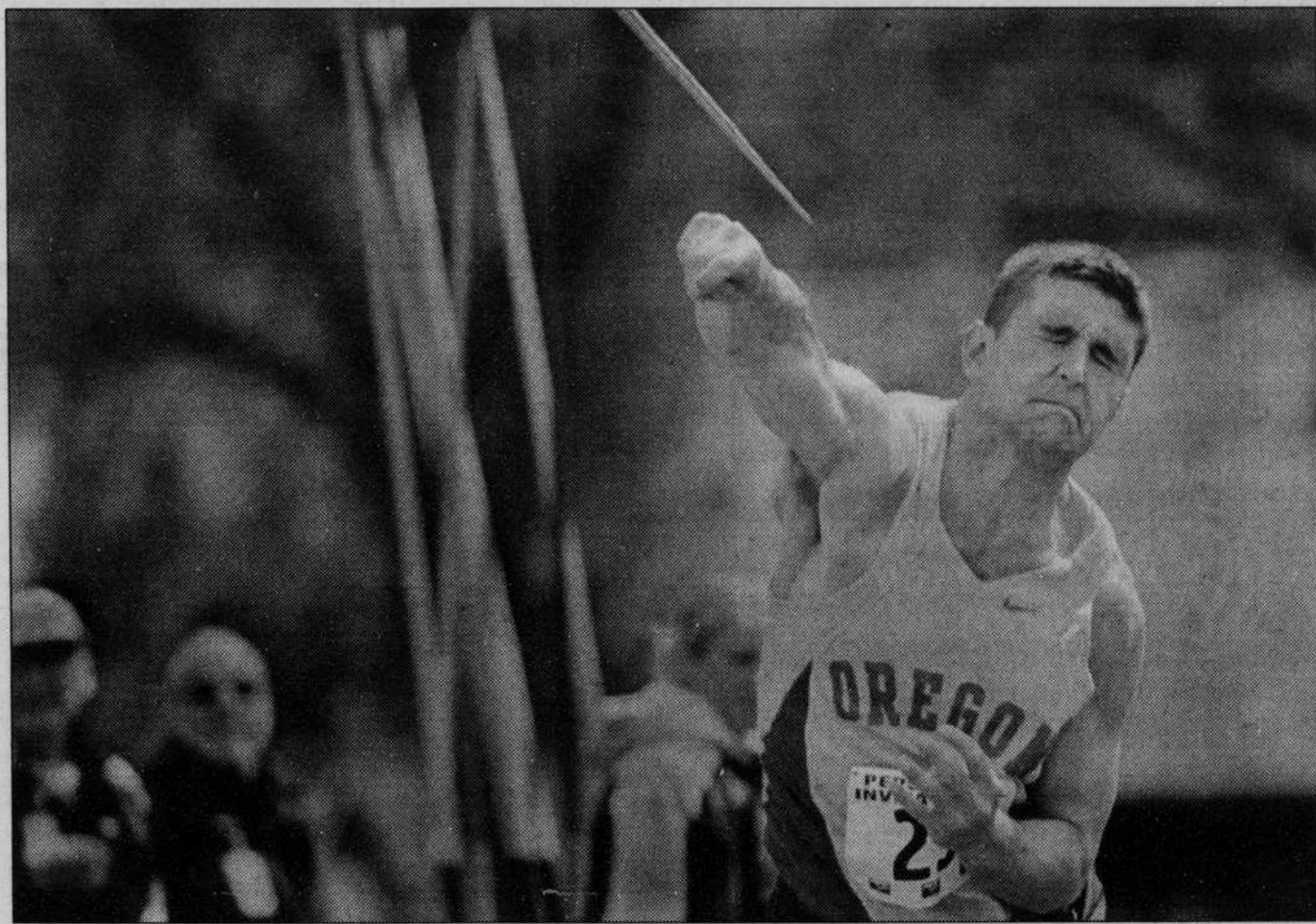
Shortstop Jennifer Tiffany reached base on Ducks third baseman Christi Shelton's error and advanced to second on Gina Arnold's single. A fielder's choice got Tiffany to third, before Iuli drove her home with a sacrifice fly to center field.

Oregon was unable to generate another base hit off Iuli until pinch-hitter Kelly Planche singled with one out in the Ducks' last at-bat. From there, Jennie Cook struck out looking and Andrea Gustafson flied out to end the game.

NCAA
Softball
Regionals

Thursday:
Illinois-Chicago 1,
Oregon 0
Today:
Oregon vs. Texas,
12:30 p.m.

PAC-10 CHAMPIONSHIPS



Nick Medley/Emerald

Sophomore Ryan Keith, making his second postseason appearance, leads a trio of Duck javelin throwers into the Pac-10 Championships in Tempe, Ariz.

Pac-10s next hurdle for qualified Ducks

After a trying regular season, members of the men's team are ready

By Allison Ross
Oregon Daily Emerald

The outdoor track and field season has been in full swing since March, but this weekend is the true beginning.

Before each meet, members of the Oregon men's track and field team were aiming for two goals: a Pacific-10 Conference Championships-qualifying mark and an automatic-NCAA bid.

Today, the 23 athletes who did qualify for the Pac-10s in

their respective events, begin competition at Sun Angel Stadium in Tempe, Ariz.

For some of the competitors, the road to the Pac-10s was simple — pole vaulter Piotr Buciarski qualified, not only for this weekend but also for the championships, with his season-best vault of 18 feet, 2 1/2 inches in mid April. Howard Moore clinched his spot in the 200 and 400 meters in April as did Ryan Keith in the javelin.

For some, including Micah Davis, the defending champion in the steeplechase, quali-

Many members of the women's team hope to secure NCAA marks

By Scott Pesznecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

Marie Davis has never won a Pacific-10 Conference title.

The five-time All-American won eight races last season before the Pac-10 Championships, but her chances of winning were diminished by a foot injury. Davis still finished the 3,000 meters at last season's Pac-10s in a record second-place time of 9 minutes, 33.25 seconds.

After the race, Davis was in

so much pain that she couldn't walk.

But when Davis toes the line for the 3,000 today at the Pac-10 meet, she won't feel the pain of an injury that hampered her earlier this season.

"I'm in just as good of shape, maybe better, than last year," Davis said. "I got injured a year ago, but this year I'm ready to go. It's my last time out there, so I want to go out and do absolutely as well as I can and know that I completely gave it my all."

Davis — who also competes in the 5,000 on Saturday — is

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UO struggles to 10th place in first round

The men's golf team is one shot out of NCAA-qualifying position heading into today's play

By Brett Williams
for the Emerald

The bad news for Oregon is it didn't play to its capabilities during the opening round of the NCAA West Regionals on Thursday in Tucson Ariz., finishing 10th. The good news is the majority of the rest of the field didn't play well either.

The Ducks managed a 297 during the first round, a high score for Oregon but only four shots off sixth place. And the Ducks are just one shot off cracking the top nine, which is necessary to advance to nationals.

Oregon's performance irked head coach Steve Nosler.

"We're not satisfied," Nosler said. "I actually thought it was going to be worse than it was because other teams were struggling. I am just glad today was only 18 holes."

Oregon started off slow and had to fight back into position. Ryan Lavoie was four over after four holes, and had trouble recovering the rest of the way, finishing with a 76. Derek Croskrey had woes on the green, where Nosler estimates he missed "four putts inside four feet." Even Oregon leader Ben Crane, who finished second individually at the tournament last season, finished the day tied for 14th.

Putting was a thorn in the Ducks' feathers throughout the first round.

"We putted very poorly," Nosler said. "I saw very few putts go in the hole, and we're usually a very good putting team."

Nosler believes his team will recover during today's second round.

"We have some work to do, but we knew we'd have to work when we came down here," Nosler said.

Arizona State, last season's regionals co-champion, led the pack with a score of 283, courtesy of Jeff Quinney and Matt Jones. Both players shot a 69 to tie Fresno State's Todd Rose for second place individually. Brigham Young's Jose Garrido is in first place with a 68. The Cougars are tied with Nevada-Las Vegas for second place in the team standings with a score of 288.



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