

Camps

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This week's volleyball contingent, ranging in ages from 10 to 18, is 130 strong. The increase is a reflection in the rising popularity of the sport, Nelson said.

"We have the most campers we've had since I've been here," she said. "Volleyball is really growing."

For the last 25 years, Oregon's annual track and field camp has been a popular draw, and it is again this summer. Approximately 165 athletes are at this week's camp which runs through Friday, and more than 200 are expected at next week's activities, starting Sunday.

Heinonen and men's head coach Martin Smith are directing the camp for the first time, taking over for legendary coach Bill Dellinger and his former assistant John Gillespie. Campers, aged 12 to 19, receive coaching in whatever their specialty is.

"It's a huge mix of experience and athletic talent," Heinonen said. "So it's a real challenge for us to provide the right setting for everybody in

every event and at every age."

The Oregon soccer camp is also under way. Like the majority of athletic campers this summer, players are living on campus while they gain experience from Oregon head coach Bill Steffen and current and former Oregon players and coaches. The camp consists of 28 girls and runs from Sunday to Thursday.

Soccer players have paid \$350 to attend this week's camp and live in the dorms. Girls participating in the volleyball camp paid \$335 for the same accommodations, and track and field athletes shelled out \$325. Those playing in the tennis camp this week paid \$595.

The experience and the challenge is well worth the price, campers said.

"This is an awesome camp," said Dale Fox, a 17-year-old distance runner from Shelton, Wash. "It's pretty amazing to see, because where I come from there's like one or two good runners, but here everybody's high-quality."

Campers also appreciate who's coaching them.

"There's a good coaching staff and plus there's college athletes, so that's cool," Fox said. "They're at a different level, and that's where I want to be."

Heinonen agrees that having current and former athletes supervise and coach makes the proceedings more special.

Among the Oregon athletes helping out are runners Marie Davis and Steve Fein, volleyball player Shellie Nisle, soccer player Sierra Marsh and Martin, who has become the subject of her tennis pupils' teasing.

Regardless, Martin said she's enjoying herself.

"I'm having a good time," she said. "But I have to stay in the dorms, so I feel like I'm a freshman again."

At the current camps, as in past camps, some participants are athletes who will one day become Ducks.

"We've recruited athletes out of these camps," Heinonen said. "Some kids come in here with the ulterior motive of 'I want to be an Oregon track athlete, and here's my chance to show it.'"

International Basketball

Men continue streak, women fall short

By Howard Fendrich
The Associated Press

PALMA DE MALLORCA, Balearic Islands — The streak continues for United States men's basketball team, but the U.S. women head home without gold.

After a close call in the semifinals, the U.S. men wrapped up their sixth straight World University Games gold medal and 40th straight win — both records — by routing Yugoslavia 79-65 Monday night in the final.

Cincinnati's Kenyon Martin led the U.S. with 21 points, several off thunderous dunks against the outsized and outclassed Yugoslavs.

Forward Mladen Sekularac, the only member of the Yugoslavian team who plays in the country's first division, had a game-high 31 points in the men's final.

"They kept running plays for him, isolating him. That hurt their team. When we locked them down defensively, the game was pretty much over," said U.S. head coach Oliver Purnell, an assistant

on the 1995 University Games squad that featured recent NBA Finals MVP Tim Duncan and league scoring leader Allen Iverson.

The current crop of college stars — five of the 12 team members have NCAA Final Four experience — struggled. The opener against South Korea was tight early in the second half, Canada led at halftime in their quarterfinal matchup, and Saturday's semifinal against host Spain was a two-point game with 20 seconds to go.

"We invented the game, so our guys certainly expected to get the gold," said Purnell, who coaches at University of Dayton. "But it wasn't easy."

"Everybody tried to play their 'A' game against us, and the international game is more physical than what we're used to," said Kevin Freeman, a member of Connecticut's NCAA championship team in April. "But we stayed focused, because we didn't want to be the U.S. team that didn't bring home the gold."

Women's World Cup

U.S. team revels in championship

By Hal Bock
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — They hoisted their trophy like an Oscar at the Academy Awards, stopped pedestrian traffic in midtown Manhattan and even burst into song on the sidewalks of New York.

The champion U.S. women's soccer team took to the streets Monday, soaking up more acclaim for their World Cup victory over China.

A lunchtime crowd gawked at the women in matching lavender shirts. Then the realization hit the onlookers: These were those soccer players.

If there were any doubt, the players locked arms and began singing "We are the Champions!"

They were in New York for a rapid-fire tour of network shows from "Good Morning America" and "Today" to CNN and Fox News Channel. A midtown rally is on Tuesday's agenda.

Some players will participate in the LPGA JAL Big Apple Classic Pro-Am in suburban New Rochelle on Wednesday and others will attend the WNBA All-Star Game at Madison Square Garden that night.

"We're sharing it with New York City because big things happen here," said Brandi Chastain, standing amid midtown skyscrapers and sharing the sidewalk with the bustling suit-and-tie crowd.

It was her penalty kick Saturday at the Rose Bowl that set off a whirlwind of activity. The players were welcomed at Disneyland on Sunday, then flew overnight, landing at Newark Airport at 4:30 a.m. and piling on a bus to Manhattan.

"It's all worth it," said Chastain, who had not slept since early Sunday. "We're promoting women's soccer."

Perhaps the most touching episode came at the end of their overnight trip from California.

"There were 10 little girls

waiting in the airport," Chastain said. "They were wearing World Cup and USA soccer stuff. They were all so excited. They had slept there. They were jumping around and asking for autographs. We all obliged. They deserved them."

The players learned Monday how much winning the Cup was worth.

Originally scheduled to share \$250,000 from the U.S. Soccer Federation, the team instead was awarded a \$1 million bonus. That breaks down to \$50,000 per player instead of the \$12,500 they originally expected.

The United States Olympic Committee said it was awarding \$120,000 to the team — \$6,000 for each of the 20 players.

The USOC bonus comes from that organization's Operation Gold Fund which rewards American athletes or teams that win gold medals in the year's most important competitions.

The media push was on full blast. Full-page ads from major companies like Nike, Chevrolet and Budweiser saluted the victory in newspapers. HarperCollins trumpeted a new book by star player Mia Hamm.

Chastain was on the 1991 U.S. World Cup championship team and remembered one solitary media representative greeting the team when it returned to the United States that year.

"There were 2,000 media credentialed this year," she said. "More people are paying attention to women's soccer and we feel very proud of that."

Chastain thinks she and her teammates proved a crucial point.

"Ninety thousand in the Rose Bowl and record television ratings gives validity to what we've been saying all along," she said. "There is a place for this team in pro sports."

After goalkeeper Briana Scurry stopped the third penalty kick by the Chinese, the edge belonged to the Americans. It was up to Chas-

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Brandi Chastain
U.S. World Cup team

tain to make the final kick and seal the victory.

Over and over, she has been asked to describe those final moments.

"Before I stepped up, four others nailed them," he said. "It's a mental thing — you against the goalie. As I grabbed the ball and put it down, it was very quiet in the stadium. It was surreal. There was no movement. It was like there was nobody there except me and this little ball."

Chastain said she had prepared for the moment hundreds, maybe thousands of times, practicing penalty kicks with her teammates. This would be just one more kick — with a championship riding on it.

"I hit it as hard as I could," she said. "I aimed for the left side of the net. If you hit the side, that's pretty unstoppable. It was the best one I hit of all the ones I practiced. When it hit the net, then I heard noise and movement. Then I heard the reaction."

The emotion poured out of Chastain, who ripped off her shirt as the celebration began. That was not planned, she said. Rather it was a release of emotion over a journey that began with training camp in January and ended against China in July.

In training, the players loaded up on pasta and other carbohydrates. Now, with the Cup in their hands, and in a city where dining choices are unlimited, the choice of cuisine was clear.

"I think," Chastain said, "we're having Chinese food tonight."

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