

Between a Rock and a hard place

John Rocker's discriminatory remarks in a Sports Illustrated article sparked a media frenzy — and that's great. **PAGE 9**

Scoreboard

Rocker 'favorites'

"I swear to you if he said that to my face I'd tear him up, and one of us would be suspended right now. When I joke, I don't try to make somebody feel bad. He knows, too. We don't joke like that."

— **Randall Simon**, on Atlanta relief pitcher John Rocker's calling him a "fat monkey" and then covering his tracks by claiming it was just a friendly jab between teammates.

"Actually, it's kind of fun seeing that you can get into that many people's heads because of something you've said. I certainly don't believe anything they say. They're screaming, 'You suck.' Well, if you watched my performance over the last year, you know why I've got too much confidence to believe stuff like that."

— **John Rocker**, with 38 saves in 1999

"I've never wished harm on a baseball player, but I'd really like to see Rocker take a Mike Piazza liner between the eyes. Not enough to kill him, you understand. Just enough to straighten out his vision and make him a little less verbose."

— **Thirteen** (contributor to Web site "Lunkhead! A tribute to baseball buffoon.")

Jordan back in the game

WASHINGTON (AP) — Michael Jordan will join the Washington Wizards as head of basketball operations and part-owner a year after he retired from the NBA.

The announcement will be made at an afternoon news conference, two league sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press.

Jordan was to attend the news conference and tonight's home game against the Dallas Mavericks.

One of the sources said final details of the deal were being worked out even as the former Chicago Bulls great was on a plane to the nation's capital.

Reaching for the Summitt

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Few coaches can come off their worst conference defeat and say they are enjoying their job. But few coaches are like Tennessee's Pat Summitt.

"You know I like this challenge," Summitt said Wednesday. "It is different."

This won't be another 39-0 dream season like 1998 for the Lady Vols. Losses to top-ranked Connecticut and No. 3 Louisiana Tech assured that.

But even a 27-point loss to Southeastern Conference rival and seventh-ranked Georgia on Monday isn't proving dispiriting to Summitt.

For the mentor to six national champions, this is a new opportunity to do what she does best — teach, analyze, rotate players and prepare for March.

Best Bet

NCAA Basketball
Arizona vs. UCLA
7:30 p.m.,
FoxSports Net



Sports

Thursday

January 20, 2000
Volume 101, Issue 79

Oregon Daily
Emerald

UO hungry to battle at the Pit

■ After enduring a 10-game road trip, Oregon returns home unranked to host regional rival Washington

The Hustle

What: Women's basketball
Who: Oregon (11-4) vs. Washington (5-11)
Where: McArthur Court
When: Tonight, 7 p.m.

By **Scott Pesznecker**
Oregon Daily Emerald

The ominous, way-larger-than-life poster of Jenny Mowe with basketball palmed in hand, glares coldly at onlookers from the northwest corner of McArthur Court.

Then, in big, bold words: home-court advantage.

But now, back from a school-record 10-game road trip, the Ducks (11-4 overall, 2-1 Pacific-10 Conference) play at home tonight at 7 p.m. And if the visiting Washington Huskies (5-11, 1-3) don't see Mowe's sign on the way in, Oregon wants its opponents understanding home-court advantage by the time they walk out.

Even without Lisa Bowyer, the former Oregon defensive standout who would do anything to win, and Jamie Redd, her counterpart on the Huskies who never found a shot she wouldn't take, Mowe isn't concerned about the lack of competition.

"Our fans just hate the Huskies," Mowe said. "I don't know why, I have no idea where this comes from, this hatred. I mean we want to go out and beat them but our fans are like 'Raurgh!' What do they say? 'Huck the fuskies?' It's going to be a lot of fun."

Undoubtedly, Oregon fans are hoping that the Ducks



Jeffrey Stockton Emerald

Point guard Shaquala Williams and teammates try to extend a 22-game win streak against Northwest Pac-10 teams tonight.

Turn to **UO women**, page 8A

Ducks taking Washington trip seriously

■ The Huskies and Ducks are getting prepared to renew one of the Northwest's most competitive collegiate rivalries

By **Jeff Smith**
Oregon Daily Emerald

When viewing the conference road schedule, the trip to Washington is seemingly the easiest road swing in the competitive Pacific-10 Conference.

But if the Oregon men's basketball team (11-3 overall, 2-1 Pac-10) starts to take this weekend's games for granted, it might be taking another kind of trip — a trip down to the middle of the Pac, that is.

Tonight's matchup against Washington (6-10, 1-3) at 7:05 p.m. at Seattle's Key Arena will pair two teams coming off losses that would both love nothing more than to get back in the win column against their Northwest nemesis.

For Washington head coach Bob Bender, taking on



Jeffrey Stockton Emerald

Senior forward A.D. Smith says that neither he nor his teammates are taking the next two games lightly.

Turn to **UO men**, page 8A

