

Sports briefs

Ultimate ultimately satisfied with its final four finish

In a performance worthy of nothing but "pleasant adjectives" the Oregon Club Sports ultimate frisbee team faced the nation's toughest competition and played its way into the College Eastern Invitational's final four.

Not bad, considering the Ducks traveled across the country to

North Carolina and played with-out senior captain Joe Keffer.

"We had rookies who stepped up," junior Josh Greenough said. "Because of injuries and people not being able to make [the trip] players who hadn't gotten a chance before played well when given the opportunity."

Among them: juniors Matt Guy and Ross Ward.

In the top-20 Invitational, Oregon beat San Diego, Georgia and Virginia but lost to Colorado, 15-12, on Saturday.

Then, on Sunday, the Ducks beat North Carolina-Wilmington in the pre-quarterfinals, defending national champion North Carolina State in the quarterfinals and then lost to eventual tournament-champ Brown, 17-8, in the semifinals.

"We gave Colorado a good game," Greenough said, "and Brown not so good of a game."

Oregon's next action will be on April 8 and 9 at the Davis Invitational.

Golf

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Jerilyn White find themselves tied for 22nd; both golfers shot four-over-par 76s.

"I'm pleased with our efforts," Baumgartner said in a release. "We started the day really strong. Tomorrow, we need to finish strong."

If national rankings and experience mean anything, the Ducks

should be able to overcome their opposition in the final round. Tournament leader No. 32 California has not won since the Oregon Duck Invitational in September. No. 31 Baylor, the only other ranked team in the tournament, is eight strokes behind the Ducks.

The Ducks are coming off their first win of the spring, an impressive ten-stroke victory at the Colby/Santa Clara Invitational a week ago. A win at the Lady Aztec would give the Ducks their first

back-to-back victories in more than two years.

Individually, Brigham Young's Carrie Summerhays leads the Lady Aztec by two strokes over San Francisco's Emilie Arnaud and Kent's Heather Dobbin. Oregon's Sowden is only a stroke behind Arnaud and Dobbin.

San Diego State's tournament, being played at the Singing Hills will conclude today with an 18-hole round.

Tennis

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win streak when it returns home this Friday to play Montana at the Eugene Swim and Tennis Club. The match begins at 4:30 p.m.

A streak ended for the Duck women too. But this time, they were glad.

On Sunday, Oregon waved goodbye to their five-match losing streak with a 6-3 win over San Diego State. The top four singles players stepped it up for No. 43

Oregon, as senior Alina Wygonowska, freshman Monika Gieczys and sophomores Adeline Arnaud and Janice Nyland all won in straight sets.

"The Ducks finally turned it around," said Oregon head coach Jack Griffin in a released statement. "This was the strongest team we faced on this road trip and we showed a lot of character. It was an awesome effort today. It puts us back in the hunt for the NCAA tournament."

The Ducks were also solid in the doubles portion. Wygonowska

and freshman Jeanette Mattson pulled out a 9-8 (5) tiebreaker win over San Diego State's Lisa Papi and Katja Karrento. Gieczys and Nyland disposed of Whitney Wells and Laura Agüero, 8-4.

The Ducks improved to 6-10 overall.

Oregon will get a chance to enact revenge on the team that started their four-game slide — Washington State — on Friday, in Pullman, Wash. It will also conclude the Pacific-10 conference schedule for the Ducks, who are 1-5 in conference play.

Pitching rotations getting sorted out

With most teams' season openers just a week away, managers put their pitching rotations in order.

Kevin Brown, an 18-game winner last year, will pitch the Los Angeles Dodgers' season opener in Montreal next Monday night against Dustin Hermanson, with Chan Ho Park and Orel Hershiser starting the second and third games.

Alex Fernandez will start Florida's season opener against San Francisco on Monday, and Ryan Dempster, Vladimir Nunez, Jesus Sanchez and Brad Penny will follow Fernandez in the rotation.

Darryl Kile, acquired from Colorado as part of an offseason pitching makeover, will start St. Louis' opener Monday against the Cubs, Chicago's first game back following the two-game series this week against the New York Mets in Tokyo.

Garret Stephenson, who takes the place in the Cardinals' rotation that opened when Kent Bottenfield was dealt to Anaheim for Jim Edmonds, allowed two runs and four hits in five innings Monday during a 3-3, seven-inning tie against Montreal in Jupiter, Fla.

"In the regular season, if he throws 80 pitches the way he did today, that's the difference between going five or six innings or pitching into the seventh or eighth inning," Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said.

At Tokorozawa, Japan, Rickey

Henderson went 3-for-4 as the Mets beat the Seibu Lions 8-1.

Henderson's name has come up in trade talks with the Detroit Tigers involving Bobby Higginson. Baseball's career steals leader created a commotion this spring by asking for a deal, but nothing has happened so far.

Against Seibu, Henderson scored two runs and drove in one. He left after five innings with the Mets ahead 5-0.

"That's the way it is with baseball," teammate Mike Piazza said. "You have to put the distractions behind you."

At the Tokyo Dome, Sammy Sosa went 0-for-4 as the Chicago Cubs lost to the Tokyo Yomiuri Giants 6-0.

"They've got good pitching," Sosa said. "All of them were impressive."

Meanwhile, Jeff Cirillo, expected to replace Dante Bichette as Colorado's cleanup hitter, aggravated a strained right quadriceps Monday while hitting eight times in a minor league game.

"The leg's not ready," Cirillo said. "There's no pain, but there's definitely something in there. I almost regret doing this today. ... I do regret doing it. After my first at-bat, I was like, 'This is probably not a smart idea.' That's where I'm stupid."

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Classifieds

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 28). A move may be required to raise your status. Act quickly to learn what's required in May, and abundance could be yours by July. Don't waste a penny of it. A good deal turns sour in August. Don't bet more than you can lose. Around October, your leadership attracts admiration and maybe a secret admirer. The money should pour in from late November through December. Keep a lid on it in February.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 7 — Focus on your career, and you could advance rapidly. Put a routine into place; it'll make the job easier. A relationship that's in the early phases should be doing well, but don't put much stress on it now. Take it slow and easy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 9 — You could blossom today. You may feel like you're under pressure, but that's good. The pressure could inspire you to try something you used to find intimidating. You'll be past that barrier and on to the next one in no time at all.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 6 — Now is the time to figure out your finances. Get help from someone who knows how to make the most of what you have. If you get into a good plan now, you can create a more secure future. Don't be nervous; follow a leader you can trust.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 6 — You're lucky. A friend will be a big help. This person may be associated with higher education or the law. If you're in a sticky situation, don't worry about figuring it out by yourself. Involve somebody who knows what you're talking about!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 7 — You may be working hard again. You'd rather be playing, and there are a lot of fun things to do. The path to your fantasies and pleasures is blocked, however. If you can turn a work situation into a game, you'll have more fun while you're stuck doing it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 9 —

You're lucky again, so don't waste a moment. You want to be careful to get the best deal. Odds are good you will. You're smart and practical. A partner or mate can help, too. Rely on your common sense, however. There's none better, now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Today is a 7 — You and your mate or partner could be stuck. You can't agree on the final objective, so you can't figure out what needs to be done. If you're fixing up your home or buying real estate, get an objective person to help. You're too emotionally charged.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) — Today is a 7 — The biggest conflict you had to worry about is probably past. You've struggled for the past couple of days, but things should start to get easier. You're getting more efficient, and you're not overwhelmed any more. Give yourself credit and keep at it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 6 — You are cranking right along. You're lucky in love, but you don't have much time for that yet. The day could be exhausting, so don't make a date to go out tonight. Stay home and cuddle instead.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is an 8 — You're an interesting person to be around. One of your admirers might stop by this evening, even if you hadn't planned on company. If you and your sweetheart or family want privacy, you should go somewhere else.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 5 — You're probably still in a pensive mood. You're growing, and sometimes you need time to ponder new information. Sometimes you like to have a lot of people around, but this is not one of them. It's OK to take your phone off the hook, too.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is an 8 — If a class you want to take conflicts with the job you're doing, juggle. It's not easy when you're learning new skills, but it's a good idea. The more you put your natural talents to work, the happier you'll be. And, you could get wealthier, too.

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