



Best Bet

NCAA Slam Dunk contest
6 p.m. ESPN

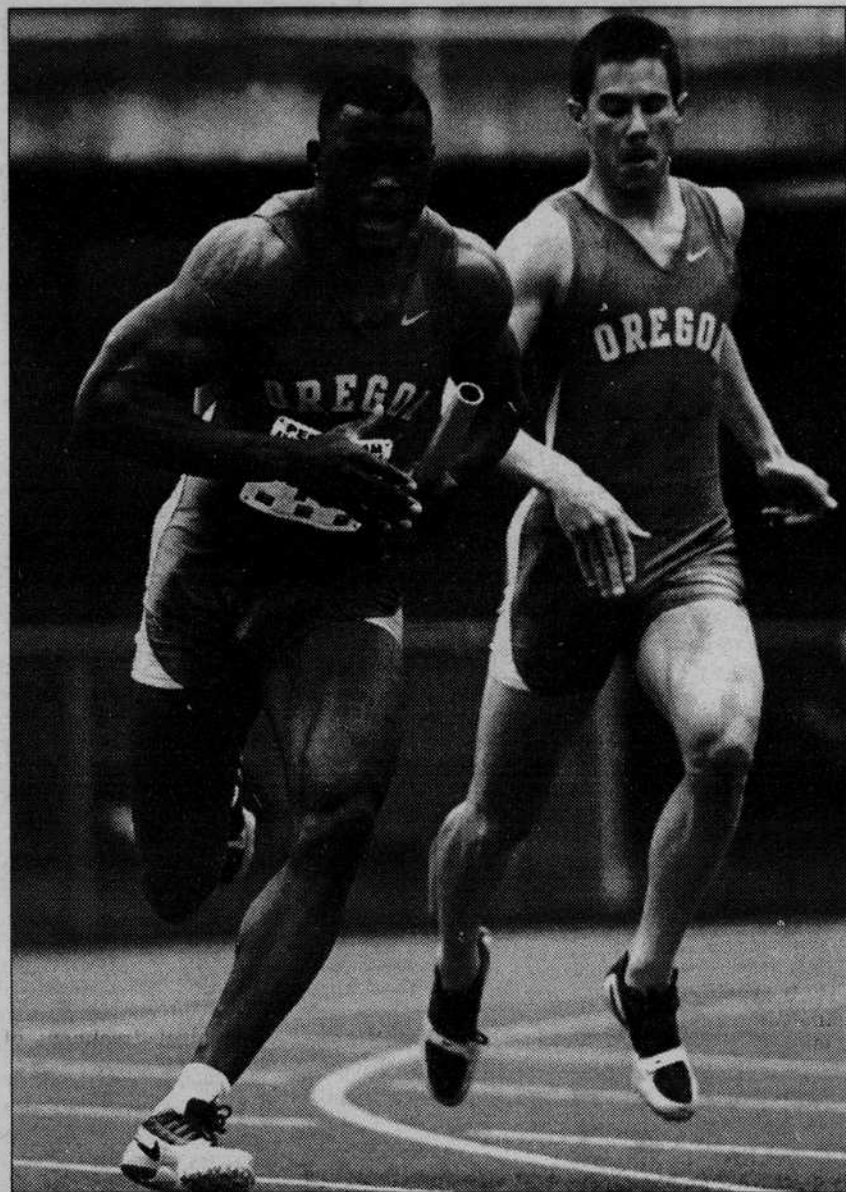
Sports

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Spring previews



Emerald

Jermaine Hanspard and the Ducks intend to pick up the pace for the Hayward Relays on April 8.



Catharine Kendall Emerald

Katie Crabb finds herself an elder stateswoman on the 2000 Oregon women's track team.

Group effort the focus for men's track team

The Ducks are ready for their second season under head coach Martin Smith

By Scott Pesznecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

When Martin Smith replaced Bill Dellinger as the Oregon men's track coach in fall 1998, he spoke about his plans for Tractown, U.S.A.

That he wanted to rebuild the Ducks to a national powerhouse. That he wanted to rekindle the mystic of Hayward Field. That he wanted to put a championship attitude in the hearts of

Oregon athletes.

One out of three isn't bad. The Ducks are buzzing about Smith's teamwork philosophy — a simple motto that turns the usually individual nature



of track and field into a team contest.

Turn to **Men**, page 16A

Oregon women expect for youth to be served

The Duck women's track team looks for a growth season

By Mirjam Swanson
Oregon Daily Emerald

Any realist would tell you that the Oregon women's track team is hard-pressed to improve on the fifth-place Pacific-10 Conference finish that it has had the previous three sea-

sons. Because the Ducks are young. Talented, for sure.

But also young after losing 14 seniors — several of them key — to graduation.

"We're going in the right direction," head coach Tom Heinonen said. "We want to do as good as we can be in the Pac-10 meet in May. It's just go-

Turn to **Women**, page 13A



It's World Series or bust for the 2000 Oregon softball team

The Oregon softball program, loaded with big bats and strong arms, sets its sights on its first College World Series since 1989

By Matt O'Neill
Oregon Daily Emerald

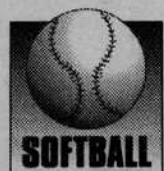
As the old saying goes, hope springs eternal.

And for the Oregon softball program this spring is full of hope.

While the ultimate goal is the school's second-ever College World Series berth, nothing less than an appearance in the NCAA Regionals will be considered satisfactory, senior infielder/outfielder Jill Robinson said.

"Our No. 1 goal is to get to the World Series," Robinson said.

"As a senior, I don't want to end with [Pacific-10 Conference] play. I want to go to the next step.



"I think this team can." But along the way, the Ducks have to contend with some of the toughest competition in Division I-A softball.

"The Pacific-10 Conference is one of the toughest around," head coach Rick Gamez said. "Everyone is really tough. You

can't afford to take any games off because there is no weak sister in the bunch."

Among that tough competition are some of the top-ranked teams in the country. Eight of the top 25 teams reside in the Pac-10. Washington, Arizona, UCLA, California, and Arizona State are the top five, while Stanford also cracks the top 10 at seven. Oregon State is ranked 11th, and the Ducks are the seventh team, ranked No. 23.

Robinson feels that despite the high rankings of some of the

Turn to **Softball**, page 12A

Home runs			
Robinson	9	Welch	30
Custer	6	Gustafson	25
Ray	6	Custer, Coe	23
Coe	5	Wins	
Batting Average		Vidlund	12
Custer	.446	McMurren	9
Robinson	.392	Haag	2
Hutchinson	.381	ERA	
Gustafson	.380	Haag	2.41
RBIs		Vidlund	2.50
Robinson	31	McMurren	2.68