

Ducks look for a blast of sun

■ The Oregon Club Sports ultimate frisbee team flies south to Davis for a weekend tournament

By Shigenari Matsumoto
for the Emerald

Frisbee under the California sun sounds like a perfect way to spend the weekend, but the Oregon Club Sports ultimate frisbee team is not going there just for the fun of it.

The Ducks play in the Davis Ultimate Invitational this weekend. The men's team (15-7) sends



a first and second team, which consist of 30 players, to the tournament which won't affect Oregon's national standings.

"It should be a great experience for the younger guys because there will be a lot less

pressure and we can tune up for the sectional tournament next weekend," Joshua Greenough said.

"Many of our veterans are recovering from injuries right now so they will be either taking the weekend off or playing less points."

The Ducks have played well this season with the men's team ranking eighth and women's team (10-4) sitting 10th in the nation heading into the tournament.

Lofty baseball salaries balloon even more

By Ronald Blum
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — These days, a \$2 million baseball player is just average.

Just eight years after the average salary broke the million-dollar mark, it nearly reached \$2 million on opening day, falling just short at \$1,988,034, according to a study of all major league contracts by The Associated Press.

"I don't know if it is negative or positive for the game," New York Mets catcher Mike Piazza said. "It rewards guys with talent who have worked hard all their lives, rode the buses in the minors and now are getting paid very well for what they do."

When Piazza first came up to the major leagues in 1993, he made \$126,000. This year, he's making \$12,071,429, and that only puts him sixth on the pay scale.

Dodgers pitcher Kevin Brown is No. 1 at \$15,714,286, only slightly less than the \$16,519,500 the Minnesota Twins are paying their entire roster.

Arizona pitcher Randy Johnson is second at \$13.35 million, followed by Baltimore outfielder Albert Belle (\$12,868,670), New York Yankees outfielder Bernie Williams (\$12,357,143) and Colorado outfielder Larry Walker (\$12,142,857).

Belle had been No. 1 the previous three seasons.

Cincinnati's Ken Griffey Jr. is only 19th at \$9,329,700, which includes \$7 million in salary,

\$625,000 as the remaining share of the signing bonus from his Seattle contract and \$1,704,700, which represents the 2000 value of \$5.5 million in deferred payments. While Cincinnati gave Griffey a \$116.5 million, nine-year contract, \$57.5 million is deferred and won't even start earning interest until 2009.

"If the salaries continue to escalate and you don't have revenues that come close to staying even, then you're in trouble, and that's where we are," said Diamondbacks owner Jerry Colangelo, who pays Johnson every two weeks. "I don't think anyone could say it's a healthy sign. There needs to be a change in the economic system. That's just clear and distinct."

The average went up 15.6 percent from \$1,720,050, nearly as much as the 19.3 percent increase last season.

Salaries have increased 85.6 percent from the end of the 1994-95 season, when the average was \$1,071,029 on opening day. The NBA average is \$3.5 million this season, and the NHL average was \$1,297,000 in 1998-99, the last season for which figures are available. In the recently completed season, NFL players averaged \$1,043,000.

The New York Yankees, at \$92,538,260, have the highest payroll for the second straight year, followed by Los Angeles (\$88.1 million), Atlanta (\$84.5 million), Baltimore (\$81.4 million) and Arizona (\$81.0 million).

Galindo will continue to skate despite HIV

By Barry Wilner
The Associated Press

Rudy Galindo wants to live as normal a life as possible, even though he is HIV positive. For Galindo, that means pleasing audiences with his grace, athleticism and, often, his outrageousness.

The 1996 U.S. national figure skating champion revealed Tuesday he is HIV positive but intends to keep skating to raise awareness of the disease.

"If my story can help people, anybody at all, it is positive," Galindo said as he prepared for the opening of the Tom Collins Champions on Ice tour in Baltimore on Wednesday night. "I've always tried to help people, whether it be as a gay man, or a Mexican-American or now, as someone who is HIV positive."

Galindo says he will use the inner strength he found earlier in his career while dealing with the death of his brother and two coaches from AIDS.

That strength helped him step out of a short retirement to win the '96 nationals with one of the best performances in the history of that prestigious event. He did so in his hometown of San Jose, Calif., in a comeback even his competitors applauded.

Now, the 30-year-old skater faces an even bigger challenge, and he will use 1996 as an inspiration.

"I looked back at it and said, 'That was a blessing.' Your life is a roller coaster and this is a down time, and I have to look at the positives and how I survived all that and use it for strength," Galindo said. "I do look back and see I was so positive then after such tough

things happened. And I can be positive now."

Galindo began feeling ill at the Winter Goodwill Games in February. He was diagnosed with pneumonia, then was tested for the AIDS virus and found to be positive on March 1.

He began taking medication in late March, and it has affected his skating.

"It makes me drowsy, so I take it in the morning and hopefully I'm fine for the rest of the day," said Galindo, who won a bronze medal in the 1996 world championships and is a national pairs champion with Kristi Yamaguchi.


"I am a little nervous with my skating, with all that is going on and a lot of the attention focused on me. It's like opening-night jitters, except I have extra jitters."

Michael Rosenberg, Galindo's manager, said the skater plans to do the entire two-month nationwide tour, unless he is weakened by the HIV virus and the treatments. Galindo often has stolen the show from more renowned skaters such as Michelle Kwan, Brian Boitano and Todd Eldredge with his penchant for outlandish costumes and wild routines.

Although he won his national title and world bronze medal by skating to the classical "Swan Lake," his spoofs of the Village People have become a staple of many skating shows.

"The people all around me are always here for me. This show, it is like a family and the love and friendship they show me gives me strength. I can face the challenge with them so supportive and they'll always be by my side."

"Whatever it takes to get through the tour, I'll do it."



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