



### Best Bet

NBA: Minnesota vs. Sacramento  
7:30 p.m., TNT

# Sports

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(above) Despite a sore hamstring, junior high jumper **Kyle Johnson** hopes to begin his drive for a second Pac-10 title. (left) Senior **Colin McArthur** hopes to finish his collegiate career with more Pac-10 points in the long jump.

Emerald

By **Scott Pesznecker**  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Those who go to Oregon's second home meet of the season this Saturday may be in for something special.

But don't blink, or you might miss it.

No, Oregon's relay teams aren't quite that fast, but some of Stanford's are. And if Cardinal head coach Vin Lananna decides to let his second-place NCAA Indoor team run wild at the Hayward Relays, the Ducks could have fast times awaiting them.

The Cardinal's distance medley relay team took first place at the NCAA Indoor meet last month in a world-record time of 9 minutes,

28.83 seconds. Oregon sprinter Ross Kremp-ley describes Stanford's 4x800 relay team as "crazy."

Can the Ducks' relay squads possibly match up with that?

Maybe Oregon can't break a world record... but, Oregon's 4x400 relay team did almost make the NCAA Indoor meet, missing a provisional time by about one second.

"We're really close, we could [qualify] in both of them, really," said long jumper Nat Johnson, who plans to compete in the relays. "We have some good people running on our team. I think we could have some good

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### On tap

**What:** Hayward Relays track and field meet

**Who:** Oregon, Air Force, BYU, CS Fullerton, Colorado, Colorado State, Minnesota (M), Northern Arizona, Portland, San Diego State (W), Stanford, Washington

**When:** Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

**Where:** Hayward Field

## OFF AND RUNNING

The season gets rejuvenated this Saturday as the Oregon women's track team hosts many top teams in the prestigious Hayward Relays

By **Jeff Smith**  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Katie Crabb is sick. She has been battling an ongoing flu and cold. A nagging bug that just doesn't seem to go away.

But that's not stopping the engaging smile from surfacing on the senior long-distance runner's face.

Yes, there's a reason Crabb is, as she says, "pumped."

She'll tell you that she's extremely excited for Saturday's Hayward Relays that features many of the country's superior teams. No itty-bitty cold is going to keep her off the track this weekend.

"It's going to be a spectacular meet," Crabb said. "It's always

seemed to make for a great race. And there's nothing compared to running here at home."

The Hayward Relays mark Oregon's second home meet of the season, and definitely its biggest home competition of the regular season. It also shifts the track and field season into high gear, as the women will compete in a different meet every weekend from now until they host the Pacific-10 Conference Championships on May 20-21. In Oregon's previous meets they have had two week intervals to prepare.

"This weekend is the beginning of a march to the Pac-10

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Emerald

Sophomore runners **Natalie Wright** and **Endia Abrante** and junior pole vaulter **Karina Elstrom** are among the Ducks hoping to capitalize on energy at the Hayward Relays.

## Ducks seek stability against top-ranked teams



Emerald

**Christi Shelton** is the Pac-10 Player of the week after hitting two home runs and driving in six runs in three games.

■ Oregon looks for consistency at the plate and on the mound as it faces Washington and UCLA

By **Matt O'Neill**  
Oregon Daily Emerald

This weekend marks the beginning of spring in Eugene.

No, it doesn't say so on a calendar, or in the Farmer's Almanac. Spring begins because the No. 23 Oregon softball team has its first Pacific-10 Conference homestand starting today.

And what better way to open up the home season than against the defending national champions and the No. 1 team in the nation. Something that senior **Lindsey Welch** said the Ducks are ready for.

"We just need to make sure

our bats are working," Welch said. "We need to keep each other pumped up and not have a let-down."

Oregon will open the homestand against defending national champ No. 3 UCLA today at 2 p.m. at Howe Field, before hosting No. 1 Washington Saturday and Sunday.

The Ducks are coming off a weekend trip to Arizona in which they either scored ten runs in a game or were held to three or less. It's something that head coach **Rick Gamez** would like to see change during the homestand.

"We're playing No. 1 and No. 3, so runs are going to be hard to come by," Gamez said. "We're going to try to manufacture runs as best we can."

During an offensive outburst that saw the Ducks explode for ten runs against Arizona State last Saturday, sophomore **Christi Shelton**, this week's Pac-10 player of the week, hit her first home run of the season and knocked in five runs. However, the very next day, Oregon came back against the same Sun Devils and dropped a 7-3 decision, something that Shelton points to as a motivation.

"[The loss] will make us more hungry," Shelton said.

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### On tap

**What:** Softball

**Who:** No. 3 UCLA vs. No. 23 Oregon

**When:** 2 p.m.

**Where:** Howe Field