

Seattle forces decisive Game 5 against Jazz

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Gary Payton and the Seattle SuperSonics are returning to the Delta Center, looking nothing like the team that limped away more than a week ago.

The series against the Utah Jazz comes down to Friday night's decisive Game 5 in Salt Lake City.

The series started out easily for the Jazz, who got 50 points from Karl Malone in Game 1 and dominated in Game 2 for a 2-0 lead. Reporters in both cities declared the Sonics as good as dead.

"That's why I don't listen to people in the media. You don't know what's going to happen," Payton said after his first playoff triple-double sealed a 104-93 victory in Game 4 on Wednesday in Seattle.

The Jazz went flat on the road, and the Sonics seized the momentum.

Lakers hope to avoid shocking upset

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Cassius Clay shocked the world when he knocked out heavyweight champion Sonny Liston in 1964.

Joe Namath backed up his guarantee that the New York Jets would upset the Baltimore Colts in the 1969 Super Bowl, and later that year, the New York Mets stunned the Baltimore Orioles in the World Series.

Should the Sacramento Kings beat the Los Angeles Lakers at Staples Center on Friday night to win their best-of-five first-round playoff series, it would have to rank right up there as one of the biggest upsets in sports history — certainly the biggest shocker ever in the NBA playoffs.

"Of course it would, of course," Lakers star Kobe Bryant said.

Holyfield, Ruiz try to sell title fight

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Evander Holyfield and John Ruiz did their best Thursday to sell their June 10 bout as a legitimate heavyweight title fight.

Just to be sure the point was made, promoter Don King did his best to help.

"I guarantee you this fight will be a better world championship fight than Lewis and Grant," King said. "That fight was a farce."

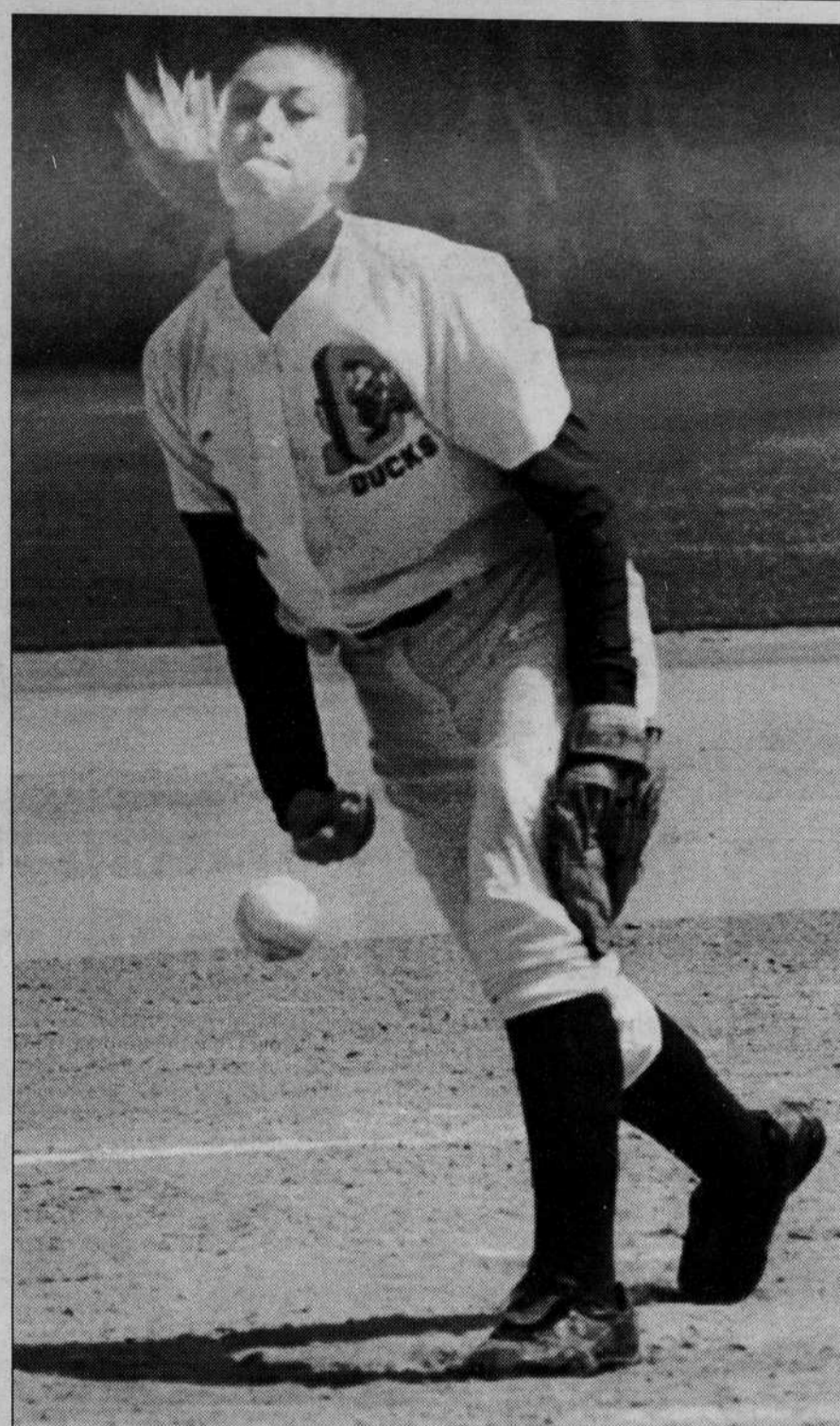
A federal court order stripping Lewis for defending his title against Grant instead of Ruiz, the WBA's top contender, means the heavyweight title is fractured once again.



Best Bet

NBA Playoffs: Kings vs. Lakers
7:30 p.m., TNT

Sports



Kevin Calame Emerald

Freshman Andrea Vidlund made the transition from a power pitcher to a finesse pitcher this season.

Young GUN

■ Emotion is the fuel that powers up-and-coming freshman Andrea Vidlund's pitches and could propel her to superstardom

By Matt O'Neill
Oregon Daily Emerald

With a quick snatch of her glove and slumping of her shoulders, it's easy to tell that she is upset with the call.

She puts her hands on her hips, kicks at the dirt and stares a hole through the umpire.

And then, in the next second, she takes a deep breath and composes herself before quickly firing another laser past the opposing hitter.

"I'm real intense out there and I want to win," freshman pitcher Andrea Vidlund said. "In order to win you have to be focused 100 percent."

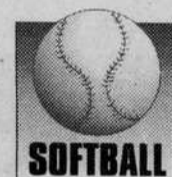
That intensity garnered Vidlund some pretty high accolades in high school.

As Northern California Player of the Year and second-team All-America at Orangevale High School, she was accustomed to getting the majority of the close calls.

But Vidlund also knew that she was coming into the best conference in collegiate softball, and that she was going to have to step up her game to contribute to the No. 16 Ducks (33-22 overall, 5-10 Pacific-10 Conference).

"I had no idea that it was going to be as intense as it is," the Sacramento native said. "I did-

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On Tap

What: Softball

Who: No. 10 Stanford vs. No. 16 Ducks

When: 2 p.m.

Where: Howe Field

UO heads to momentous Stanford meet

The Oregon women part ways again this weekend, hoping to keep improving at Stanford, UC-Irvine and Mt. Hood

By Mirjam Swanson
Oregon Daily Emerald

These Oregon women are really starting to believe in themselves.

Over the course of the past two weekends, the youthful Ducks — 33 of the 52 athletes on the squad are underclassmen — came through with three new Pacific-10 Conference Championship qualifying marks and at least six personal bests.

Now they're getting greedy. Expecting more of themselves, because they say so.

"Everybody knows what they're capable of and that we need to step up," said redshirt freshman hurdler Lucretia Larkin, who's putting together a speedy comeback season, PR-ing last weekend with a Pac-10-quality mark — 14.29 seconds — less than a month after making her first appearance of the season at the Mt. SAC Relays. "All the sprinters are stepping up, the jumpers are stepping up. Everybody is peaking and it's perfect timing because there's only a couple meets and then the Pac-10s."

Oregon athletes get a taste of Pac-10 Championship-like competition today at the Cardinal Invitational at Stanford. And Saturday at the Steve Scott Invitational at UC-Irvine.

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■ The Oregon men, still without their star runner Steve Fein, head south as individuals continue their quests for high marks to qualify for NCAA's

By Scott Pesznecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

Stanford? Again?

While the Oregon men's track and field season may be winding down, competition is not. The Ducks compete in Palo Alto, Calif., today at the Cardinal Invitational, facing mighty Stanford for the second time at Angell Field.

"I always like going down to Stanford," middle-distance runner Ross Krempley said. "If you beat someone from Stanford down there, it feels good."

Only one more meet remains after this weekend. The final meet, the Oregon Twilight on May 13, is usually the best meet of the year for Oregon athletes to garner high-level marks.

The Pacific-10 Conference Championships take place at Hayward Field starting with combination events on May 13 and 14, followed by everything else on May 20 and 21.

But nobody likes to wait until the last minute

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“I'm always excited to compete for a crowd.”

Nat Johnson senior