

Scoreboard

**NCAA Round One
SMU 3 - Oregon 0
Oregon (34-28)**

	AB	R	H	RBI	BB
Gustafson, 2B	3	0	2	0	0
Laux, SS	3	0	1	0	0
Coe, C	2	0	0	0	1
Robinson, CF	2	0	0	0	1
Welch, RF	3	0	1	0	0
Custer, DH	3	0	0	0	0
Vidlund, LF	2	0	0	0	1
Ray, 3B	2	0	0	0	0
Shelton, 1B	3	0	0	0	0
McMurren, P	0	0	0	0	0

Totals
23 0 4 4 3

IP	R	ER	H	SO	BB
McMurren	6	3	3	5	3

SMU (58-10)

	AB	R	H	RBI	BB
Berman, SS	3	1	1	0	0
Collins, RF	3	1	0	0	0
Stevens, LF	2	0	1	0	1
Johnson, DH	3	0	1	2	0
Ford, 1B	2	0	0	0	1
Seals, PR	0	0	0	0	0
Peters, C	3	1	2	1	0
Gant, 2B	3	0	0	0	0
Tanner, CF	1	0	0	0	0
Martin, 3B	2	0	0	0	0
Blades, P	0	0	0	0	0

Totals
22 3 5 3 2

IP	R	ER	H	SO	BB
Blades	7	0	0	4	10

Player of the Game

Southern Mississippi's Courtney Blades.

10 strikeouts. Four hits. No runs.

As she has been throughout her career, the NCAA's all-time leading strikeout queen shut down her opponents. Blades entered the game having struck out 570 batters this season, and 1680 over the course of her career. Conference USA's player and pitcher of the year didn't let the Ducks usually potent offense get going. Oregon second baseman Andrea Gustafson: "She's as good as any pitcher we've faced."



Best Bet

NBA, Indiana vs. Philadelphia
3:30 p.m., TNT

Sports

Friday

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Emerald

Oregon's offense sliced by Blades

The Ducks' bats are stymied by Southern Mississippi Hurler Courtney Blades en route to a 3-0 defeat in the NCAA Regionals

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

Oregon knew it was going to have to score some runs to have a chance at knocking off the nation's best pitcher.

After all, the Ducks were 26-3 this season when scoring at least four runs, and 8-24 when they don't.

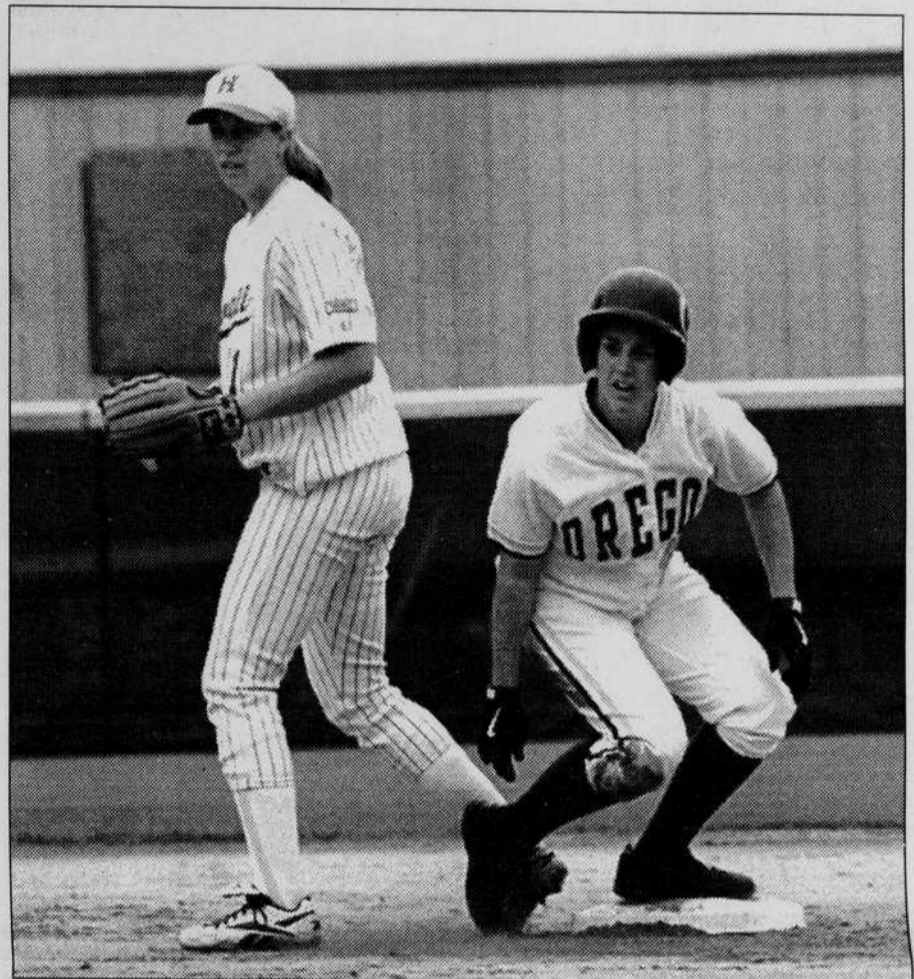
Make that 8-25. Because, once again, it was just too much Courtney Blades.

Back on Feb. 13, the No. 19 Oregon softball team got a first-hand look at the nation's strike-out queen, as the Ducks fell to No. 8 Southern Mississippi 3-0.

More than three months later the teams met again, this time in the NCAA Regional softball tournament in Baton Rouge, L.A. But the result was the same, as second-seeded SMU again captured the 3-0 win over fifth-seeded Oregon, in front of 473 sun-drenched fans at Tiger Park.

The loss drops the Ducks to 34-28 and into a possible elimination game today at 11 a.m. against No. 6 seed Northwestern State, who lost to top-seeded LSU 7-1. Southern Mississippi (58-10) captured its 23rd straight victory and will take on LSU tonight at 7 p.m. in the double elimination tournament.

The Ducks had no answer for Blades (47-5), as the hurler struck out 10 through seven



Andrea Gustafson was one of the few Ducks to reach base against Courtney Blades, as she went 2-for-3.

scoreless innings, while walking three.

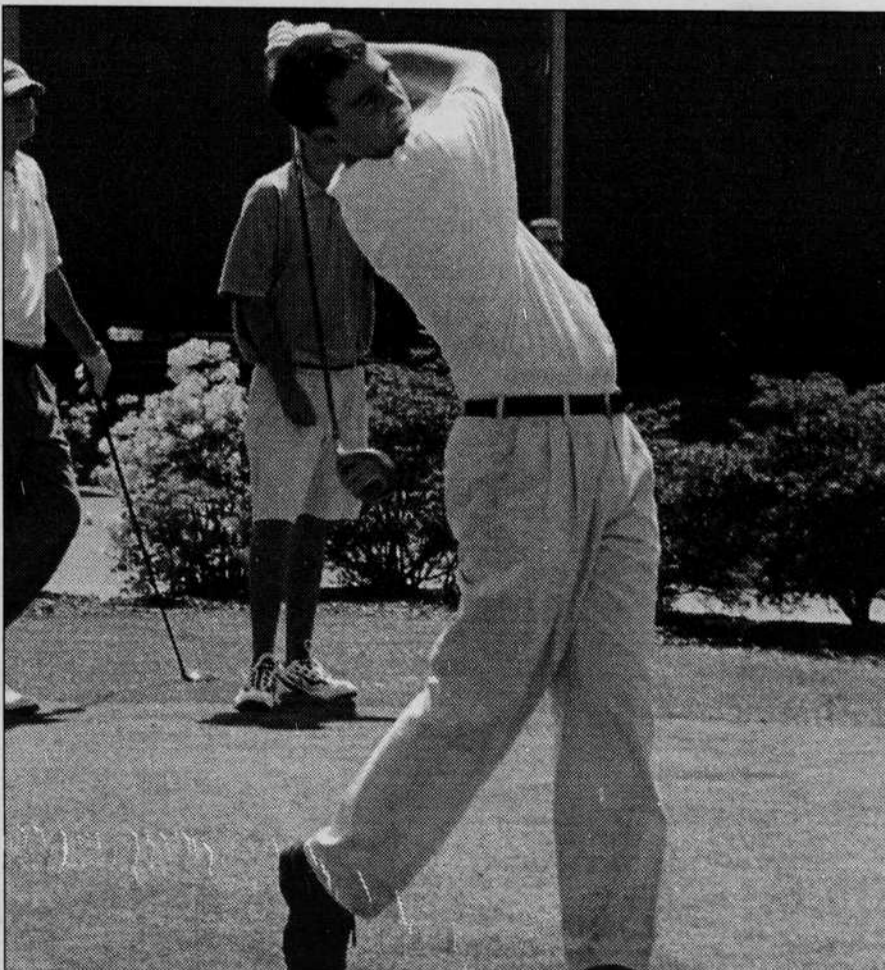
"She's as good a pitcher [as] we've faced in the Pac-10," said second-basemen Andrea Gustafson, who went 2-for-3 at the plate. "She has a great rise

ball, and her change-up just drops off the table. She keeps us off-balance and guessing."

Oregon did improve in the hit department, however. Blades gave up four hits, com-

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Duck golfers on bubble after round one



Junior T.J. Duncan is one of two Ducks under par at the NCAA West Regionals.

■ The Ducks are hanging on for dear life after the first round of the NCAA West Regionals

By Peter Hockaday
for the Emerald

After one round at the NCAA West Regionals in Fresno, Calif., the Oregon men's golf team is in the middle of a wild-west shootout, golf style.

The Ducks are in 10th place at the West Regionals, where the top 10 teams will advance to the NCAA Championships in Auburn, Ala., later this month, despite shooting only two-over par as a team.

Oregon leads California, Stanford and Oregon State, all tied for 11th, by a single stroke but trails UCLA, in ninth, by two. Only 10 strokes separate the No. 2 through 10 teams.

"We didn't play at the level that we needed to," Oregon head coach Steve Nosler said. "We didn't play bad, but against this competition you just have to have good rounds."

Some of the best teams in the country are bunched at the top of the leader board at the regionals.



NCAA West Regionals

Team leaders

- 1. Brigham Young (276)
- 2. Arizona (280)
- 3. Fresno State (281)
- Arizona State (281)
- 10. Oregon (290)

Individual Leaders

- 1. Manuel Merizalde, BYU (68)
- Parker McLachlin, UCLA (68)
- 24. Chris Carnahan, Oregon (71)
- T.J. Duncan, Oregon (71)

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