



Best Bet

NHL Stanley Cup Finals Game 2:
New Jersey vs. Dallas
5 p.m., ESPN

Sports

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Ducks set to make presence known at NCAAs

■ Oregon makes its first showing at the NCAA Championships as three athletes compete on day two of the four-day meet

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

The national rankings are impressive.

But to prove those rankings on the national stage would be even more convincing.

Oregon track athletes Mary Etter, Katie Crabb and Steve Fein will get the opportunity to do just that today in the second day of the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Durham, N.C.

The three are the first Ducks out

of the seven Oregon competitors to compete against the nation's elite.

Etter gets things kick-started as she competes in the women's discus at 4:30 p.m. The redshirt-freshman is seeded 16th in the nation after heaving a personal best discus throw of 173 feet-11 inches at the Pacific-10 Conference Championships last week.

She has been known to be "unpredictable," but that's what makes her appearance at the NCAAs so intriguing.

She's "kind of like a firecracker in a heated box," throws coach Sally Harmon said. "You just don't know when it's going to go off. And that's exciting."



Harmon then goes on to compare her with a famous box-office hit. "You know that movie 'There's Something About Mary'?" Harmon asked. "That's her. There's something about Mary. She's very exciting."

Two other Ducks who are "very

exciting" in their own right are 1,500 meter runners Fein and Crabb.

Fein, ranked sixth in the nation, will get the shot to make up for an up-and-down spring when he competes in the 1,500 Qualifying at 7:55 p.m.

The senior will see a familiar face in South Alabama freshman David Kimani. Back in the fall, the two were a part of a memorable three-man finish at the NCAA Cross Country Championships in which Kimani took first and Fein captured third.

Third-place was not exactly where Crabb envisioned finishing

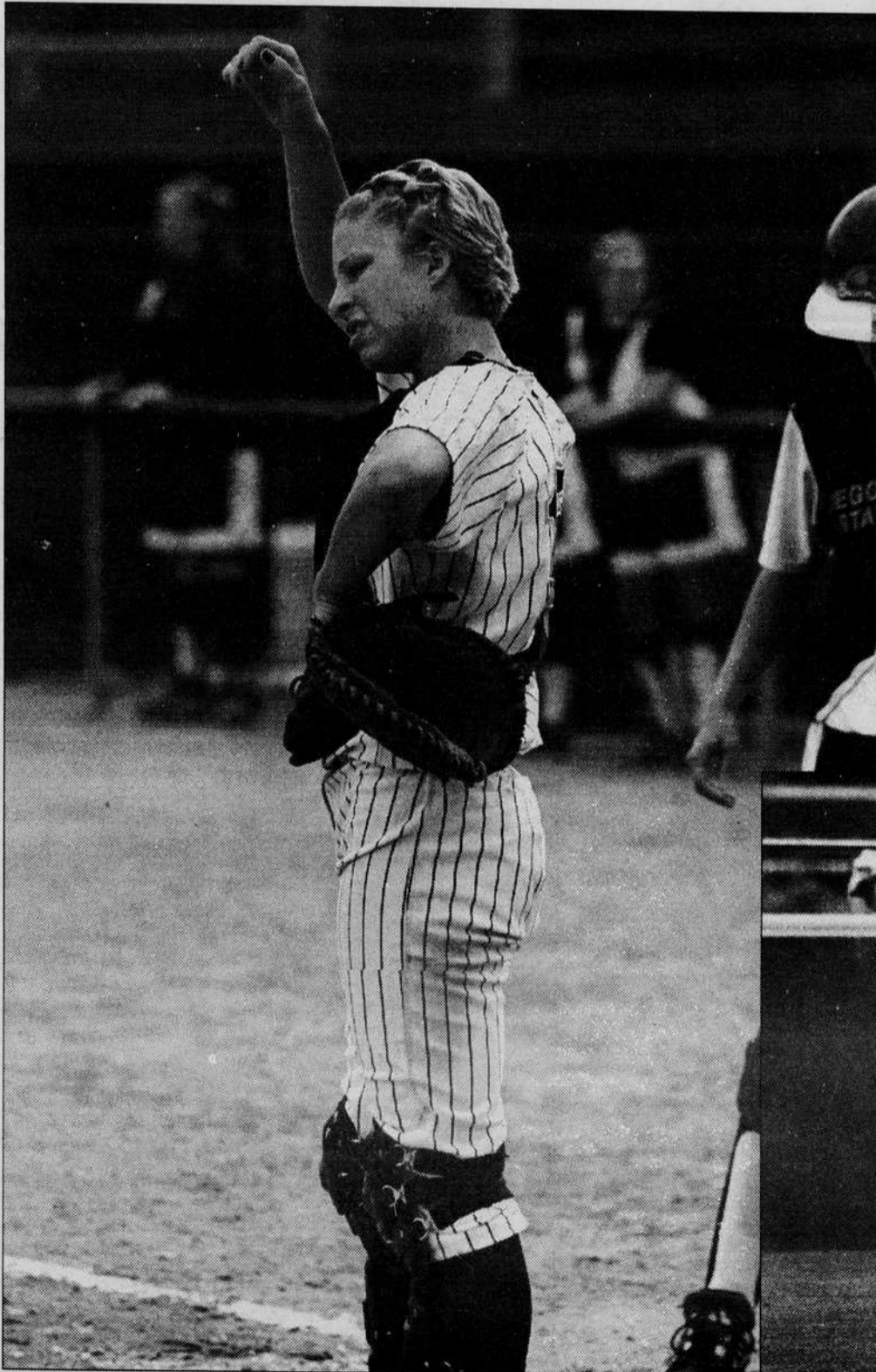
at her final Pac-10 meet, but at 8:10 p.m. tonight she has the chance to atone for the slight disappointment in the 1,500 Qualifying run.

At stake is the prestigious All-American honor that eighth-seeded Crabb has set as her personal goal.

"She's got a great chance," head coach Tom Heinonen said. "She's got to run smarter and finish strongly, and she'll be fine."

Santiago Lorenzo and Niki Reed will compete on Friday while Jason Boness and Karis Howell have to wait until Saturday to show what they can do.

Oregon bids farewell to seniors and eyes its future



■ The No. 19 Ducks made the NCAA Regionals and had six players selected to All-Conference teams

By Matt O'Neill
Oregon Daily Emerald

There were some lofty goals set in the beginning.

Some of them were met, some were not.

But overall, the Oregon softball season was a success as the No. 19 Ducks made their second consecutive trip to the NCAA Regionals, falling one game short of the coveted College World Series.

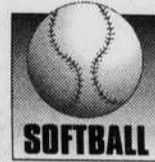
If it were not for All-American Courtney Blades of Southern Mississippi, Oregon would have made only its second trip to the CWS in school history.

"We definitely should have gone," senior Jill Robinson said. "When things don't turn out the way you wanted, you have a tendency to look back at them as a failure. But I don't think that our season was a failure."

Taking a look back over the season in which the Ducks finished 36-29 overall, it can defi-

nitely be seen as a season of records and streaks.

Robinson and fellow departing seniors Lindsey Welch and Andrea Gustafson left their marks in the Oregon record books. All three were named to the honorable mention All-



Pacific-10 Conference team.

Sophomore pitcher Connie McMurren joined the seniors on the honorable mention All-Conference team. Missy Coe and Triawn Custer were named to the All-Conference second team.

Robinson etched her name atop both the single-season and career home run categories.

Her 15 four-baggers pushed her ahead of Katie Mackey for most in one season and her 33 career total puts her two ahead of Kathy Stahl.

"You come in as a freshman and say 'I can get up there,'" Robinson said. "I'm glad that I broke these records because I worked hard."

Along with her home run ac-

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Sophomore catcher Missy Coe (above) made the All-Pac-10 Conference second team while, Andrea Vidlund (8) learned from seniors Jill Robinson (middle) and Lindsey Welch.

Kevin Calame Emerald