



**Best Bet**  
MLB: Oakland vs. Seattle  
7 p.m., FoxSports Northwest

# Sports

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## Guts and glory adorn athletes

I slowly rolled over in my bed on Sunday morning and glanced at my clock to see that it was 7:45 a.m.

Ugh. I needed more sleep — lots of it — after a late night that was capped off by a viewing of the classic movie "Wayne's World" on the USA Channel from 3-5 a.m.

But after a few tosses and turns and with the bright sunlight peeking through the curtains, I realized that sleep just wasn't going to happen.

So I turned on the TV, and got hooked. Hooked by none other than Tiger Woods. I just laid there and watched Woods do what he does best — dominate a field of professional golfers.

This time he was in St. Andrews, Scotland, playing in the prestigious British Open.

The dude was nailing pars and birdies like they were nothing and on his face was a look of relaxation. It was as if he didn't realize he was playing on the course where the game of golf originated and as if he didn't seem to notice the thousands of spectators making fools of themselves by rushing from hole-to-hole to catch a glimpse of the greatest golfer in the world today.

Sure, I could have used the sleep that morning, but I had no problem watching this golf phenom tear up the competition and win by eight strokes with a record-breaking score of 19-under.

With the win, Woods became the youngest player ever to win the career Grand Slam, meaning he captured wins at all four majors. At the precious age of 24, Woods became only the fifth person ever to have won the British Open, the PGA Championship, the Masters and the US Open.

In less than four years as a pro, Woods has already earned about \$20 million in prize money.

One would think he has reached the top of his game, but according to his father, the best is yet to come.

"What you're seeing now is only the tip of the iceberg," Earl Woods told Sports Illustrated columnist Rick Reilly this week. "Tiger is going to get better, more efficient and more effective."

Wow. I'll be watching... As great a performance as Woods put on, another American deserves equally as many props for his efforts.

Lance Armstrong won the Tour de France. Not impressed?

Well, did I mention that he's a cancer survivor, who was diagnosed with testicular cancer four years ago?

And did I mention that the Tour de France is a gut-wrenching 21 day, 2,250 mile race that includes the most treacherous of mountains?

The guy is unbelievable.

And so is the actual event. Could you imagine spending three whole weeks on a bike in not-so-friendly conditions? I would be winded from just driving up the types of hills they had to bike up.

Armstrong won the world's premier bicycling race for the second straight year, and had every reason to drink champagne — as he did while still on his bicycle, approaching the finish line on Sunday.

Bottoms up... While Woods and Armstrong lived up to the hype, Maurice Green and Michael Johnson both did the opposite.

After nearly two weeks of emotionally charged competition at the U.S. Olympic Trials in Sacramento, Calif., it all came down to one race.

The one race that NBC conveniently scheduled as the last race to further suck every last ounce of hype from it.

It was the Johnson vs. Greene 200 meter battle. One-on-one, as advertised.

But guess who won? John Capel. And guess who didn't even finish the race? Greene and Johnson, due to hamstring problems.

So neither gets to compete in the 200 meters in Sydney.

Both do, however, get to represent their country in the 100 and 400 meters, respectively.

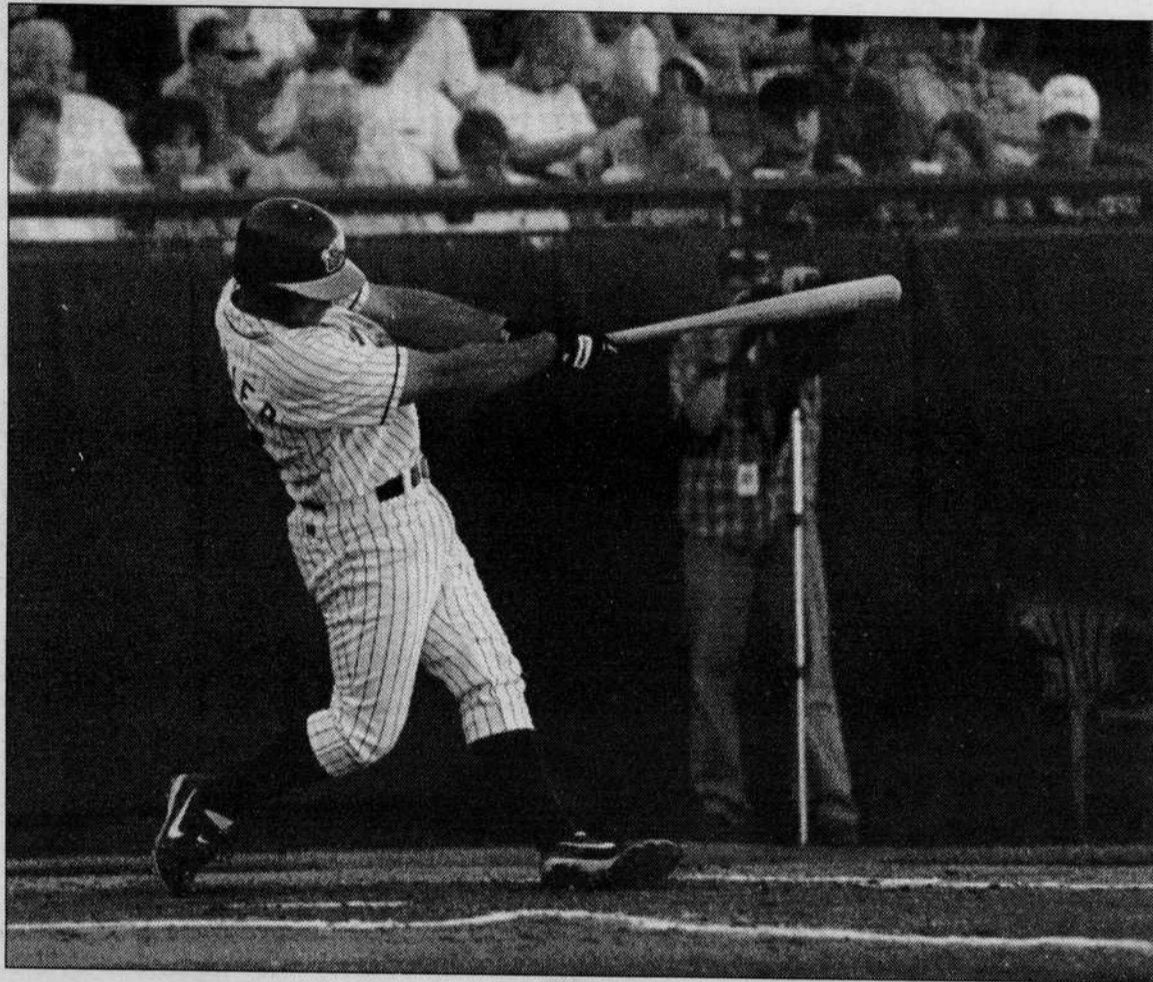
But America, it seems, is let down. Get over it folks. There's many more great athletes who deserve to be recognized for their efforts.

In the words of Aesop:  
"We would often be sorry if our wishes were gratified."



Jeff Smith

## On pace for a pennant



Azle Malinao-Alvarez Emeralds

Infielder/DH Blair Barbier went 3-for-4 last night, including an RBI single in the first inning to temporarily give the Emeralds a 2-1 advantage.

## Ems put up four in a losing cause



by Jeff Smith  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The fans were sensing something.

They had just stood up and sung "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" and were ready to push on their beloved Eugene Emeralds to a win.

It was the bottom of the seventh, and Dionnar Martinez had just ripped a single down the left-field line with two outs. Blake Blasi then walked, which prompted the crowd to stomp their feet and clap their hands in unison to the tune of "We Will Rock You."

Nic Jackson obliged the

3,541 fans at Civic Stadium on Monday night by poking a single just past the diving glove of Everett shortstop Guillermo Martinez, scoring Martinez and cutting the Ems' deficit to two.

Then with Adam Morrissey at the plate, Aquasox pitcher Hawkeye Wayne threw a wild pitch, enabling both runners to move to second and third.

With Morrissey being the potential go-ahead run, Wayne dug down and threw a two-strike curve that Morrissey bit on and struck out swinging.

End of threat, and as it would turn out, end of game.

But there were positives the

Ems (18-16) could take out of its 6-4 defeat to the Aquasox (18-16).

After all, Eugene had only scored two or less runs in five of their last six games. So by "busting loose" and bringing home four runs off nine hits, it should breathe a little bit of life into the offense.

"Tonight was better than last night," said centerfielder Mike Mallory, referring to the Ems 6-0 defeat to Everett on Sunday. "Last night was kind of laid back, but we came out aggressive tonight. We came out swinging and hopefully we'll Turn to Emeralds, page 6

The Eugene Emeralds do finally put some runs on the board, but its pitching can't hold up its end of the bargain

## Local athletes earn trips to Sydney

■ Outstanding competition from past, present and future Ducks reinforces local Tracktown USA reputation at the U.S. Olympic Trials in California

By Robbie McCallum  
for the Emerald

Several Eugene athletes found mixed results at the U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials in Sacramento, Calif., last week.

While some Olympic bids came as expected, some did not, and there were even a few surprises.

American record holder Lance Deal qualified for his fourth Olympic games with a win in the hammer throw. Deal, who will retire after this year, was bothered by leg cramps

during his last attempts but still managed to throw 258 feet, nine inches. The mark was just shy of Deal's goal of breaking the meet record of 262-10, held by third place finisher Jud Logan. Deal will shoot for his second straight Olympic medal in September in Sydney, Australia. In 1996, Deal finished second to Hungary's Balasz Kiss.

Former Duck Nick Rogers provided the surprise of the day on Friday. Rogers picked off American record holder Bob Kennedy and contender Marc

Davis in the 5,000 meters to place third. Rogers' time of 13 minutes, 29.4 seconds was only two seconds off Adam Goucher's winning time of 13:27. Although Rogers shattered his previous best in the 3.14 mile event by 14 seconds, his time is still 0.4 seconds off of the Olympic "A" standard.

Things did not fare as well for a couple of current Ducks. Juniors Jason Boness and Nikki Reed both no-qualified in their events — the high jump and pole vault, respectively. Boness, hampered by a knee injury that has bothered him all season, missed all three of his opening

“I just wish I was healthy because I really believe that making the Olympic team was attainable.”

Jason Boness  
Oregon high jumper

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