

SPORTS

Monday

Best Bet

NCAA Tournament Final:
Arizona vs. Duke 6 p.m., CBS

SPORTS EDITOR: JEFF SMITH Smittside@aol.com

Oregon scores high at Stanford Invitational

The Oregon Track and Field teams are off to a hot start and are already thinking about the NCAA Championships

By Robbie McCallum
Oregon Daily Emerald

After only three outdoor meets this spring, several Oregon Track and Field athletes are wasting no time getting to the NCAA Tournament this June. Five Ducks earned NCAA qualifying marks at the



prestigious Stanford Invitational in Stanford, Calif., over break. On the men's side, redshirt freshman Jason Hartmann earned an automatic berth for the national meet in the 10,000 meters with a personal best time of 28 minutes, 56 seconds. The time also vaulted Hartmann to seventh on

the Ducks' all-time list.

Freshman John Lucas placed 63rd in a time of 30:42 in his first 10,000 meters on the track.

For the Oregon women, distance runner Hanna Smedstad earned an NCAA provisional qualifying mark for the women in the 10,000 meters. The senior transfer placed 21st with a time of 34:42. Smedstad, traditionally a 5,000 meter runner, ran her second 10,000 meter run ever on Stanford's track.

"I didn't race as well as I would have liked," Smedstad said. "I started out all right the first half, but didn't have that much in the second half. The goal was hopefully to run an NCAA automatic time or a provisional time that would get me into nationals."

Sophomore Mary Etter notched an NCAA provisional mark with a second place finish in the discus, throwing the platter 168 feet, four inches. Etter also earned a season best in the shot put with a throw of 46-11 3/4, but was two feet off an NCAA provisional mark. Senior Maureen Morrison followed with a fifth place finish, a Pac-10 qualifying mark.

A trio of Duck women earned provisional marks in the pole vault and javelin. Junior Niki Reed placed sixth in the pole vault with a height of 12-11 3/4 inches. Teammate Holly Speight tied for tenth at 11-11 3/4. Speight had already scored an NCAA provisional mark at the Oregon Preview.

Freshman Sarah Malone now

ranks fifth nationally after placing fourth in the javelin with a toss of 159-7. Malone ranks second on the Oregon all-time list behind teammate Karis Howell.

A trio of Ducks also earned Pacific-10 Conference Championship qualifying marks. Sophomore Amanda Brown placed sixth in the long jump with a leap of 19-2, two inches farther than the Pac-10 mark.

Freshman Ann Sullivan earned a personal best in the 100 hurdles, placing sixth with a time of 14.16, easily qualifying for the Pac-10s.

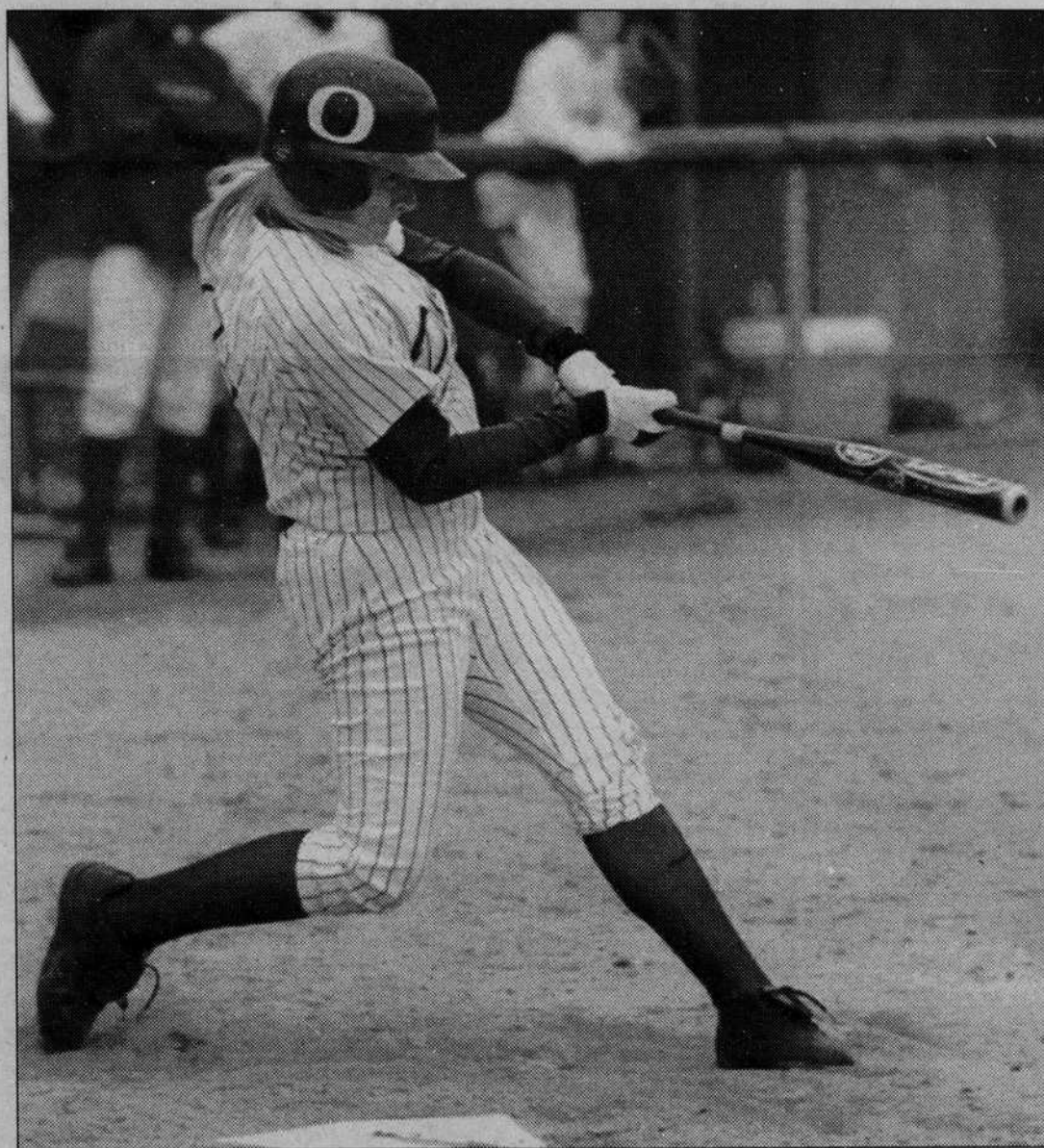
Slye, Steigeler, Howell lead Ducks in Tempe

Three Duck men picked up victories at the Baldy Castillo Invitational. Turn to **Track**, page 12

"I didn't race as well as I would have liked."

Hanna Smedstad
Oregon distance runner

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R. Ashley Smith Emerald

Sophomore infielder/pitcher Andrea Vidlund and the Ducks captured game one from Arizona State, but lost the second.

Softball ends break with ASU doubleheader split

■ The Oregon softball team takes the first game against No. 9 Arizona State, but drops the second contest.

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon softball team put together a complete game Sunday against No. 9 Arizona State at Howe Field, using pitching, hitting and defense to upset the Sun Devils 4-0.

Unfortunately for the Ducks, they faced Arizona State again Sunday afternoon, and the Sun Devils wreaked their revenge, 10-1.

Sophomore Lisa Wangler picked up her third shutout of the season in the first game of Sunday's double header, going all seven innings and striking out three in the win.

"I just hit my spots," Wangler said.

The Ducks' bats came alive in the morning game to help propel Wangler to the shutout. Janell Bergstrom started things off by hitting her first career home run in the bottom of the second inning, nearly bouncing the ball off the scoreboard in right field.

"It always helps the pitcher [to get runs]," Wangler said. "You're not as tense out there."

Later in the second inning, after Amber Hutchison singled, Lynsey Haij singled to bring Hutchison home. Wangler and Hutchison also had RBI hits later in the game to bring the final score to 4-0.

"We did a great job of battling in the first game," Oregon head coach Rick Gamez said. "Wangler threw a great ball game. She did what she needed to do."

In the second game, Arizona State didn't waste time against Oregon's Connie McMurren, scoring five runs on five hits in the first two innings. The big hit came from right fielder Kristen Swetel, who had a three-run bomb with two outs in the top of the first.

Arizona State's designated hitter Erica Beach and pitcher Kirsten Voak added homers to propel the Sun Devils to the

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"We did a great job of battling in the first game. Wangler threw a great ball game. She did what she needed to do."

Rick Gamez
Oregon head coach

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Opening Day brings on severe episode of Baseball Fever



HAKUNA
MATATA

JEFF SMITH

Uh-oh, it's happening again. The cold sweat. The achy body. The temperature that miraculously rises at the same time every year. There's absolutely nothing I can do about it. For some reason, when the calendar flips

to April, I come down with the same harsh sickness that forces me to stay home from school, work, etc.

In fact, as you read this right now, I'm locked up at my house suffering away.

Suffering from my annual case of Baseball Fever, baby.

Oh yes, today is the day when grown men wear eye black to work. When a congratulations is offered through the simple words, "Atta babe!" And when a hearty lunch consists of two juicy hot dogs and beer in a paper cup. (Mr. Hot Dog man across from the bookstore be warned: I'm

coming your way, and I'm bringing a David Wells-type appetite with me.)

Today, of course, is Major League Baseball's Opening Day. Granted, the Rangers and Blue Jays squared off in Puerto Rico yesterday, but today is where it's at. Games all day on the tube, including my Padres vs. Giants at 1 p.m. on ESPN2.

Today is all about baseball. It signals the true beginning of spring and elicits an overwhelming sense of hope (after all, even San Diego isn't mathematically eliminated from the playoffs yet).

It's a day that should finally be recog-

nized as an official holiday so thousands of people don't have to forge doctor's notes or lie about attending their dear old great grandma's funeral to attend the games. I know my forehead sure got tired through the years of holding it up against the lamp for too long just to ensure myself of a sick day, which I've had on Opening Days since 1991.

So without further adieu, here's my brief synopsis of the six divisions and who I believe will be left standing when the 162-game joy ride concludes in October.

NL West: Colorado is feeling mighty good

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