Do it for your school

Hey, people, we here at the Oregon Daily Emerald sports desk would like to offer you the chance of a lifetime. In fact, we're on our knees. Vote in our poll. Please.

You see, we have this online sports poll, and we like it when people vote in it. It's really quite easy. Go online, click the sports link, and click your little mouse to vote in our poll. It's THAT simple. The address is www.dailyemerald.com. The poll is sports. Or "life," as we like to call it. That said, we know you're sweating buckets in anticipation of this week's question. This week we address the topic of the NFL Draft. In case you didn't notice, the Oregon football program got the short end of the stick, and only one player (backup quarterback A.J. Feeley) got picked. So, we ask you to vote for the one Oregon player above all others whom you thought should have been picked. Was it Matt Smith? Kurtis Doerr? Saul Patu? Jason Nikolao? Marshaun Tucker? There's just a boatload of good Oregon talent that went unnoticed last weekend. Of course, all five of those players got free agent contracts Monday, "the day after.

Last week we asked whether the new Women's American Football League would be a success or a bust. You didn't show much interest, but 69 percent of those who did vote said it would fail, while 31 percent said it would survive.

Be patriotic. Be a sports fan. Go to www.dailyemerald.com to cast your vote for this week's poll. Now.

Charlotte rips Miami, 2-0 in series

By Steven Wine The Associated Press

MIAMI - By the third quarter, frustrated fans were booing the home team. Early in the fourth quarter, they were streaming for the exits. And as the game ended, the Charlotte Hornets celebrated.

It was all an improbable repeat of Game 1 Monday night as Charlotte earned another 26-point victory over the hapless Miami Heat, winning 102-76 for a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five series.

Jamal Mashburn again tormented his former team and fans, trading barbs with Tim Hardaway and Dan Majerle, sticking out his tongue at hecklers in the crowd and scoring 22 points. David Wesley added 18 and Baron Davis 17.

'Everybody else has been a little surprised; we haven't," Mashburn said. "We're a loose bunch and a close-knit group. That comes alive in the playoffs."

Charlotte broke open Saturday's 106-80 victory with a 20-2 run to start the second half. This time it was a 24-5 run after halftime to make the score 78-57.

In successive games, the Heat have endured their two most lopsided losses of the season and their two most lopsided home playoff defeats.

"Are we really playing that bad, or are they playing that good?" Miami forward Anthony Mason said. "I don't know."

The Hornets need one more victory to reach the second round of the playoffs for only the third time since the franchise was founded in 1988. Game 3 is Friday at Charlotte, where

"We have to gather ourselves," Heat coach Pat Riley said. "Thank God we have four days. Even though it's a daunting task in front of us, it's been done before."

"We have to be desperate," Hard-away said. "We're still a better team.'

Hardaway again started despite a bruised left foot and again failed to keep up with the Hornets' quicker guards. He scored two points in 19 minutes, and by the third period fans were chanting for rookie point guard Eddie House to replace him.

Adding injury to injury, Alonzo Mourning played with back spasms that had him wincing and stretching on the floor when he was out of the game. He had nine points and four rebounds in 26 minutes.

It was Mourning's 15th game in a comeback from kidney disease, and the storybook ending he had hoped for looks increasingly unlikely.

"We haven't gotten it done," Mourning said. "We have to find a way to win three games. It's not impossible.'

The crowd showed no sympathy toward the Heat. Boos were even louder than Saturday, including a chorus of jeers from the few spectators left when the game ended.

Mashburn, relishing the chance to show up the team that traded him last August, enjoyed the final five minutes from the bench. He got the Hornets off to a good start with 12 points in the opening period.

The Hornets led only 54-52 at halftime before Mashburn scored four baskets to spark their run at the start of the second half. The Heat committed five turnovers and missed 11 of 13 shots to begin the half.

Sports briefs

Women's track

The Oregon women's track and field team finished off competition at the Mt. San Antonio College Relays Sunday, in late results.

Sophomore Mary Etter finished ninth in the shot put, with a throw of 44 feet, 3 1/2 inches, Freshman Sarah Malone threw the javelin 150-11, and senior Maureen Morrison threw the hammer 175 feet.

enough to make the NCAA Provision-

al list. The three athletes have already thrown NCAA Provisional distances this season.

"We got a lot done on this trip," Oregon head coach Tom Heinonen said in reference to the Mt. SAC Relays. "We had a strong Saturday, and although Sunday didn't go quite as well, we helped ourselves overall with a lot of season and personal bests. More importantly, we got to see a lot of powerful competition that will help us down the road."

The Ducks will host the Oregon Invitational this weekend at Hayward Field. It will be the Ducks' third home

Akili Smith found innocent

SAN DIEGO - Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Akili Smith was acquitted Monday of two misdemeanor.

Smith was pulled over Feb. 8 for driving his car the wrong way on a one-way street in San Diego, his home-

Jurors deliberated for about two hours before finding the former Oregon star innocent on both counts, said the player's attorney, Myles Berman.

"We're grateful that the jury did the right thing," Berman said. "We don't think the prosecutor's office was aware of all the evidence. Had they been aware of the evidence, we believe they wouldn't have prosecuted."

The prosecutor, Deputy City Attorney Karen Li, did not return phone messages left seeking comment. Smith, the third overall choice in the 1999 draft, lost his starting job to Scott Mitchell after the 10th game last season, when the Bengals finished 4-12 for a second consecutive year.

The Associated Press



SEARCHING FOR A

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CHECK OUT THE EMERALD'S

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT GUIDE APRIL 30TH!

SLIMMER JOB?

All three marks qualified for the Pac-10s, but none of them were good

meet this year.

drunken driving charges.

town.

Miami is 0-2 this season.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) - Today is a 6 - A friend's crazy scheme is just that. Don't sink your hard-earned cash into it until more of the bugs have been worked out. Don't fall for a telemarketer's sad story, either. Ask what per-centage of your contribution would go to the methy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) - To a old confrontation may pop up again. This ne, you're not the 'rictim. You're prepared and nvinced. Never falter, never fail. The other rson may be surprised when you don't back wn. But it had to happen some day; you arew

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 5-Proceed with the plans you just made. Follow the agenda you just created. Don't even try to get a message out - yet. Wait until you know the whole story. Being accurate will more than make up for the delay.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) - Today is an 8 -Your fortunes may appear to have suffered a setback recently, but this could be a blessing in disguise. If it's not a good time to sell, maybe it's a good time to buy

It is a good mark only. LEO (101) 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 5 - Your forward progress may be temporarily halted, but don't give up. This may be nothing more than another test. Maybe those who outrank you just want to see what you'll do under a little

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 5-Go along with somebody else's decision. It's not because you can't make your own choices; it's just that you've learned when to lead and when it's your partner's turn. If you've chosen wisely, you have nothing to worry about. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is

a 5 - There's no escape, so give up. Face your problems squarely. This may seem terrifying at first, but it might be quite effective. Patience is required, but by this time tomorrow, your relief

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is 8 - Worried about money? Is it because 8 - Worried about money? Is it because you want to buy something special? It's not some-hing for you, is it? Well, don't let it bother you. Expensive gifts aren't the way to show how much you care. Instead, spend time together. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 5-You and a person you love don't see eye to eye. Think about it rationally: If you agreed on everything, why would there need to be two of you? You're not clones; you're friends. Lighten un

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is an 8 -Something you learn may contradict the social-ly correct way of thinking. Could it be that con-ventional wisdom is wrong? Trust your own