



Lacrosse goalie Louisa Dorsch, a freshman, is 'so incredibly excited' about playing in the U.S. championships this weekend.

R. Ashley Smith Emerald

# Beyond her years

■ Freshman Louisa Dorsch has made an impact on the Ducks this year and will now take her game to the national level

By Jesse Thomas  
for the Emerald

She has played on a men's lacrosse team without pads.

She received MVP honors four years in a row.

She has now been chosen to play on the women's national team.

She is freshman Louisa Dorsch, goalie for the Oregon Club Sports women's lacrosse team.

Oregon traveled to Portland recently to compete in the Pacific Northwest Lacrosse Association Tournament. The Ducks did not finish as desired amid the 30-degree weather with rain and hail, but Dorsch tried out for the Northwest National Team after the tournament was over.

Along with 16 other players, she was chosen for the team and will travel to Allentown, Pa., this weekend to compete in the United States Lacrosse Women's Division National Tournament.

"I am so incredibly excited," Dorsch said.

Dorsch began the sport of lacrosse in seventh grade, when she attended a private school and it was mandatory that everyone play sports. From the beginning, she knew lacrosse was for her.

"I had a blast doing it, and it was just so much fun," Dorsch said. "It

just clicked right away as my sport."

When she attended a public school for eighth grade, there was no women's lacrosse team, so Dorsch just tried out and played on the men's team. She enjoyed the aggressiveness, but she still remembers the bruises she received.

On her high school team, Dorsch earned MVP honors all four years and was a first-team all-star during her junior year.

When Dorsch moved from Maryland to be a Duck for college, she realized how much the competition level had changed. Her new teammates, though, were grateful for her talent and the potential she possessed for improvement.

"Louisa is the most committed member [of our team]," Oregon coordinator Terra Cloyes said. "She is always early to practice, knows what is going on and is the best goalie I have ever had."

"She is really good, and it's impressive that she has played on guys' teams," Oregon sophomore Kate Cody said.

With the regular season now over for the Oregon women, Dorsch will be playing on a team of high-caliber athletes and competing against the best teams in the world this weekend at Lehigh University.

"I think it is going to be really tough," said Dorsch, who will be the coordinator for the Oregon women's lacrosse team next year.

On Saturday, the Northwest National Team will play three games against Scotland, team one of the Great Lakes and team two of the Upper Atlantic. Dorsch knows the competition will be steep, especially since the sport is so popular on the East Coast.

"She is going to do great," said Cloyes, who competed on the women's national team last year. "It will bring her game up so much and be a great experience for her."

Of all the competitors on the national team, Dorsch is currently anticipating being the only goalie, and she plans to accept the new challenge with open arms.

"I am expecting to hang in there with the other teams," Dorsch said. "But the [goalie] position sucks because you always feel like you just lost the game."

Dorsch will be playing at a level she has never experienced and is confident she can compete up to the talent level of her new teammates.

These talented teammates will be counting on Dorsch greatly, as she will be the team's only goalie, but her fellow Ducks have no doubt that she can meet and perhaps exceed those expectations.

"Her skills are incredible," Cloyes said. "You can always count on Louisa."

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