

SPORTS

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Best Bet 
MLB: Atlanta at St. Louis
5 p.m., TBS

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Conference tourney is a big pain

Here it is again, like a big rattler coming to bite us in the behind. The Pacific-10 Conference Tournament, like a plague, is permeating the Pac-10 schedule. The conference announced Monday that CBS would pick up broadcast rights to the brand-new men's tournament starting

in 2002, and that 7UP would be the major sponsor of both the men's and women's tournaments.

Hey, don't get me wrong. I think it's great that the Pac-10 is getting national exposure for its basketball teams. Of course, the nationally broadcast tournament works wonders for recruiting.

Highly touted recruit #1 (flips to CBS): "Dude, is this March Madness?"

Highly touted recruit #2: "Yeah, dude, it says 'tournament,' doesn't it?"

Highly touted recruit #1: "Dude, I want to go to Oregon!"

No, my beef is with the scheduling. In this department, specifically, the Oregon men's team is really, and pardon my bad English, screwed.

Any true Oregon fan will hate to see this on the schedule: "Dec. 20, UCLA, at Mac Court, no TV." Although the men haven't released their schedule yet, the women play at Pauly Pavilion on that date, and with the Pac-10's home/away schedule, the men and women always switch locations against the same teams on the same days.

So ... December 20 ... at Mac Court ... against Jason Kapon, Matt Barnes and the rest of the Bruins who went to the Sweet 16 in last year's NCAA Tournament, where they lost to Duke. I'm almost speechless.

The only things coming to my mind are images. UCLA at Oregon, with the Duck in a Santa hat? Tinsel hanging from the Mac Court rafters? No students? No students? No students.

No students! UCLA will get another shot at the Ducks later in the season, in Los Angeles. You see, the Pac-10 Tournament will take place in the Staples Center in that wonderful Southern California city. Every year.

Advantage, UCLA and USC. What are the chances of Oregon pulling off a miracle Pac-10 tourney victory in the massive, SoCal pro arena? Next to zilch. Actually, zilch.

Of course, the Oregon women have none of these problems. The Duck women are just peachy-keen, thank you.

The Oregon women get to play at a stony-silent Pauly Pavilion before Christmas, put their feet up a bit, and then take on Washington at Mac Court to a post-Christmas, pre-New Year's Eugene crowd.

Oh, and at the end of the season? The women's Pac-10 Tourney is at Mac Court.

Turn to Hockaday, page 8

That finishing touch



Jessie Swimeley Emerald

A construction crew moves the Autzen Stadium scoreboard from its lower level to its new, higher perch. The scoreboard was moved to accommodate next year's final phase of expansion, which includes the addition of seats to the end zone.

Summer is no break for some

SUMMER NOTES

Those involved with Oregon athletics are still busy in this offseason, even if they aren't in Eugene for the break

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

Who says there aren't any sports in the summer?

Sure, all the Oregon teams have packed up until their seasons start. Yes, there's no football games to go to yet, not even any practices for at least a couple weeks. And surely Mac Court is gathering dust as we speak.

But that doesn't mean there's no Oregon sports going on. What with former players getting down and dirty, Duck coaches competing on an international stage and football season poking its head through the cracks, there's enough going on to fill a whole article.

Welcome to the middle of summer.

City of Roses turning into Mowe-town?

Former Oregon women's basketball player Jenny Mowe has been making an impression on the WNBA. Big time.

Mowe, playing for the Portland Fire, went face-to-face with Seattle Storm rookie sensation Lauren Jackson two weeks ago, and Mowe won the battle of the big women — sort of. Mowe threw a punch at Jackson after the two players tussled at the top of the key late in the first half of the game on Friday, July 20. The officials gave Mowe a flagrant foul for the incident.

Two days after the game, Mowe was suspended for one game by the league and fined \$250. She was fined an additional \$300 for the flagrant foul.

Tuesday, Mowe was placed on the Fire's injured reserve list with a strained left rotator cuff.

Turn to Notes, page 6

Inconsistency name of Ems' mid-point game

The Eugene Emeralds have struggled all season, but better times may lie ahead

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

Halfway through their season, the Eugene Emeralds are, well, halfway there.

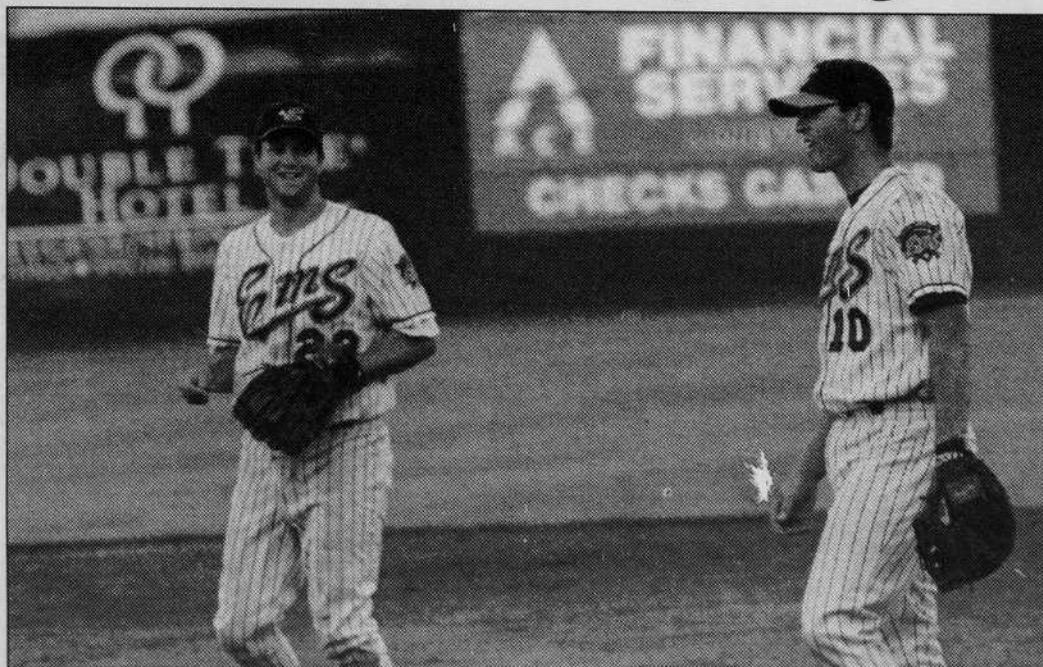
The Ems have strong hitting but struggle with runners in scoring position. Eugene has good pitching, but no consistent pitchers. They perform well against the lowly Northwest League teams, so-so against the so-so teams, and poorly against the good teams.

Still, the 17-22 Ems defy explanation. Like any minor-league club, they haven't been consistently good or bad all season.

The Ems won the front end of a twin-night doubleheader — which started at 6:05 — 6-2 over the Tri-City Dust Devils.

Heading into the double bill Monday night, after Sunday's game was rained out, the Ems were third in the league in hitting, with a .266 team average. Top

Turn to Ems, page 8



Jessie Swimeley Emerald

The Ems have been led by slugger Greg Sain (right) in most offensive categories. John DiBetta (left) is another Ems slugger.