

Adam Amato Emerald

Chris Christoffersen is one of two Oregon starters who won't be back next season.

## Men's

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Crosswhite end their stints as red-shirts next season. And further down the road, the Ducks will have the athleticism of Jordan Kent, a senior at Churchill High School and the coach's son, who has stated he will run track next season before joining the basketball team in 2003-04.

But before looking too far forward, the Oregon team members will simply bask in the glow of all the accomplishments from this

*"I don't think I have ever, ever, been around a team like this before."*

**Ernie Kent**  
head coach  
men's basketball

historic season.

And perhaps the most historic accomplishment, according to the Ducks, is the sense that a true team was forged at McArthur Court during the 2001-02 season.

"I don't think I have ever, ever been around a team like this before, where young people are just completely submitted to winning and coming together as a team and playing with such a tremendous amount of heart and courage," Kent said. "We'll be down for a little bit, but we need to stop and sit back, reflect and celebrate some of the things we have gotten done this year." So that's where they'll begin.

E-mail sports reporter Peter Hockaday at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com.

## Hockaday

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Go back to Wisconsin. After most of the media pests have cleared out, after all the questions, Luke Ridnour sits against a locker, head bowed. Freddie Jones sits lodged into a corner, the back of his head pressed hard against the cold metal and a blank expression on his face. The always-upbeat Chris Christoffersen answers questions in a low monotone. Luke Jackson is barely audible when he speaks, despite

the near-silence in the room.

It is this mentality that will get the Ducks back to this position in the future. The idea that no matter how far they go, it won't be far enough until a National Championship banner hangs in the Mac Court rafters to accompany the 1939 championship.

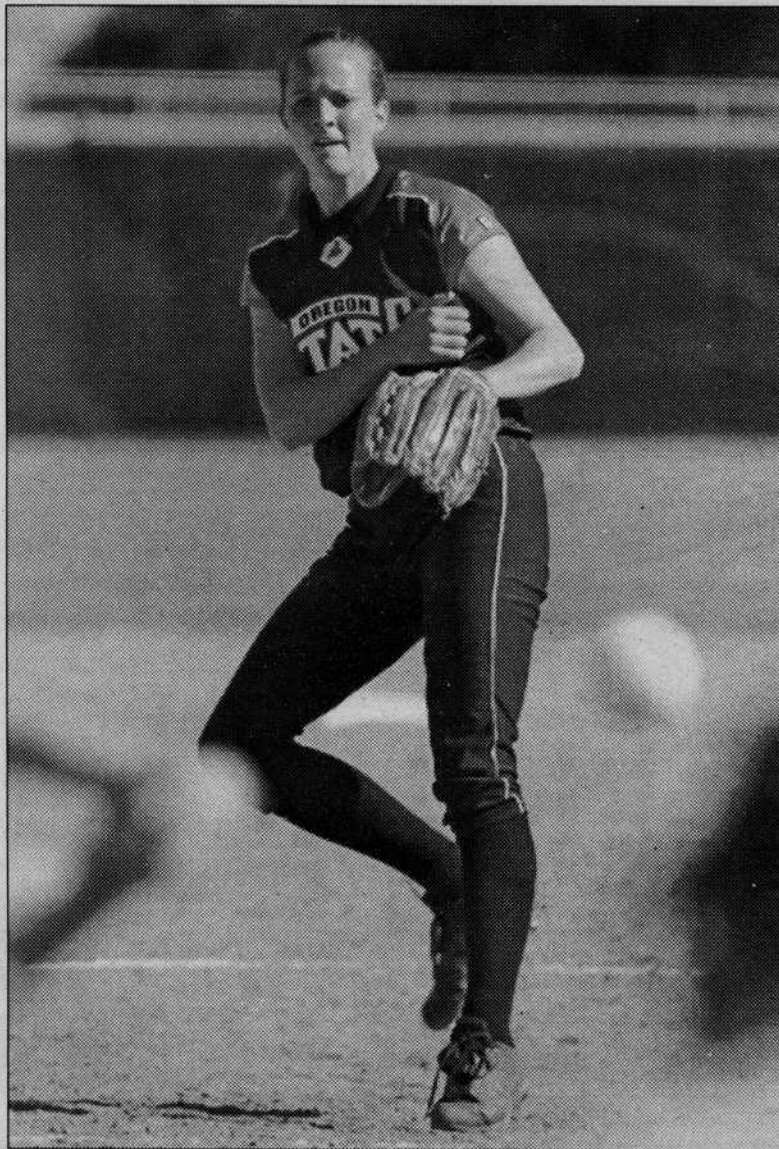
Ernie Kent said the Ducks got so close to the Final Four they could practically taste it. Maybe that taste will turn into a full-blown appetite for winning that will put Oregon into the national picture in the

same way the football team is now consistently dominating the national scene.

When the Ducks lost that game at Minnesota on Dec. 10, their disappointment turned into resolve and they promptly went 22-6 over their next 28 games.

Now, disappointment must turn to resolve again if Oregon is to make it back to the Elite Eight and beyond.

E-mail sports reporter Peter Hockaday at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com.



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Oregon State sophomore Monica Hoffman held Oregon batters hitless in a 1-0 victory over the Ducks on Tuesday. It was Hoffman's third no-hitter of the season.

## Softball

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Peterson led the inning off by drawing a walk. She was advanced to second by Jessica King's sacrifice bunt. Senior Jenni Jodoin drove Peterson in with a hard-hit double to right-center field.

Oregon State managed to load the bases following Jodoin's double with a walk and a single, but the Ducks escaped any further damage on the scoreboard by picking off the two Beaver runners on the corners when they strayed off their bases after a pitch temporarily eluded Poore.

Hoffman was steady throughout the ballgame, striking out seven, and only once needed to rely on an outstanding play in the field to preserve her no-hitter. In the Oregon half of the third, Haij hit a quick

grounder up the middle, but second baseman Brynne Guthrie ranged to her right, backhanded the ball and tossed it to Jodoin at first for the final out of the inning.

"I wasn't having too many problems with too many of my pitches," Hoffman said. "I felt like I had really good control. (The Ducks) had really good swings — they fouled off a lot of really good pitches. Usually I can throw my changeup more effectively, and they really waited back on that."

Despite losing the last three games to Oregon State, Rincon is encouraged by how his team is playing.

"We're right there," he said. "For us to battle the No. 14 ranked team in the country, it says good things about us as well. I feel like our kids are ready to win in this conference."

E-mail sports reporter Chris Cabot at chriscabot@dailyemerald.com.

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