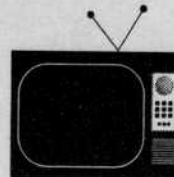


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6:30 p.m., UPN



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"It is going to be an uphill struggle. ... I'm still impressed with the girls' attitude and their desire to compete."
— Brent Rincon, Oregon head coach

Oregon softball drops three to Cal, Stanford

■ Despite a strong effort, Duck errors cost the team three games and dropped its Pac-10 record to 0-6

By Chris Cabot
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon softball team is still in search of its first Pacific-10 Conference win after losing three straight games this weekend.

The Ducks (18-15 overall, 0-6 Pac-10) began the weekend with a 4-3 loss on Friday to No. 3 Stanford (31-5, 2-2), then lost 3-2 Saturday and 7-0 Sunday to No. 6 California (37-12, 4-2).

Sunday's game pitted the Oregon offense against California's senior hurler Jocelyn Forest (17-7), who was a first team All-Pac-10 and second team All-American last season with an ERA of 0.82. The Bears' ace blanked Oregon and allowed only three hits and one walk while striking out six.

Forest "kept us off-balance all day," Oregon head coach Brent Rincon said. "They have great pitching and play just awesome defense, and you can't give teams like that breaks."

The biggest Oregon threat came halfway through the first inning when, after shortstop Lynsey Haij reached on a single up the middle, Andrea Vidlund was hit by a pitch. Second would be as far as any Duck runner advanced, as cleanup-hitter Jenn Poore lined out to third baseman Candace Harper, and Lakeesha Eversley flied out to Harper for the third out.

In the circle for Oregon, freshman Lindsay Kontra pitched six innings, allowing five hits and three runs along with five walks. California touched up Anissa Meashintubby for four more runs in the seventh, one of which was unearned, until Connie McMurren came for the final two outs to close the door on the Bear offensive onslaught.

"I'm disappointed today just with how we executed in all three phases — pitching, defense and offensively," Rincon said.

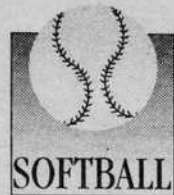
The loss dipped Kontra's record to 5-7, but Rincon said



Adam Amato Emerald

Lynsey Haij (16) pleads her case to the umpire after applying a tag Sunday against Cal. Oregon has not won a Pac-10 game in more than a year.

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Javelin champ Stiegeler injured in win

■ The defending NCAA champion scratched during Saturday's events and will have an MRI on his knee today

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

It looked like John Stiegeler's first-place javelin throw would be one of the few bright spots for the Oregon men's track and field team this weekend.

Instead, Stiegeler, the NCAA champion in the javelin last season and the current national leader, scratched from the Texas Relays with a knee injury Saturday. An Oregon athletic official said Stiegeler will undergo an MRI today to determine the severity of the injury.

Before scratching on his fourth throw Saturday, Stiegeler won the javelin toss at the Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays in Austin, Texas, with a heave of 242 feet, 11 inches. The throw beat Scott Russell of Kansas by almost four feet, but was four feet short of Stiegeler's national best of 247 feet.

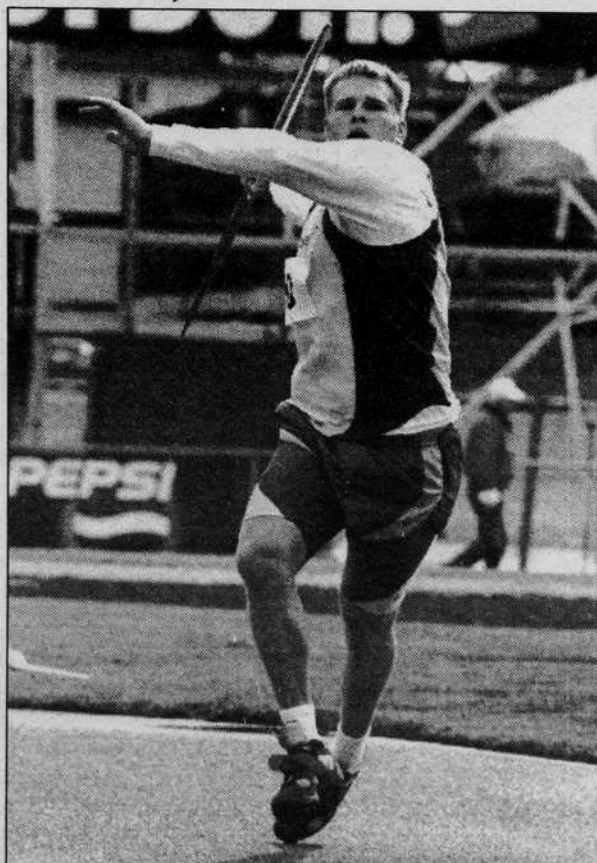
That 247-foot throw was good enough to land Stiegeler an automatic berth in the NCAA Championships May 29-June 1. Unless his injury is season-ending, Stiegeler will defend his NCAA title at the meet in Baton Rouge, La.

Oregon sophomore Adam Jenkins was the only other Duck to compete in the javelin toss at the Texas Relays, and he finished 12th with a throw of 194-1. That throw fell short of his season best of 207-3.

In other Oregon action, Jason Boness finished second in the high jump with a leap of 6-11 3/4. That jump didn't improve his season-best and Pacific-10 Conference championship-qualifying jump of 7 1/2.

The only Oregon athlete to improve or match his season best on Saturday was Trevor Woods in the pole vault. Despite windy, cold conditions, Woods matched his season best and

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Jonathan House Emerald

Reigning NCAA champion John Stiegeler won the javelin competition at the Texas Relays on Saturday with a throw of 242 feet, 11 inches, but he suffered a knee injury in the process. He will have an MRI today.

Etter leads Oregon in impressive outing

■ Mary Etter stars at the Texas Relays for the Oregon women, who took home five first-place finishes

By Hank Hager
Oregon Daily Emerald

There's just something about Texas that makes the Oregon women that much better.

After ending the Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays on Saturday in Austin, Texas, the Ducks had accumulated five first-place finishes, with two more athletes taking second place in their respective events.

Mary Etter even made history. The junior became the first woman in the history of the Texas Relays to win both sections of the same event, monopolizing the discus throw.

Etter took discus "A" with a throw of 173 feet 6 inches, edging out Nebraska's Becky Breisch by less than three centimeters. She followed that win with another in the "B" section of the event, this time earning a mark of 172-7, and taking the event by almost four feet.

"It really was a fun day, but it was a long one," Etter said. "After a while I got tired, and that ended up being a good thing, because it relaxed me somewhat. I was pulling really well through the discus and had a great sense of balance going. It was one of those days when everything seemed to click."

Making her day even better, Etter took second in the shot put, losing to Louisiana Tech's Mariela Guante by less than one inch. Her mark of 49-9 1/4 did not fulfill her goal, but it

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