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Best Bet
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Javelin champ Stiegeler out for 2002 season

John Stiegeler, the current national leader in the javelin toss, tore his ACL Saturday in Texas

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

The defending champ can't defend against injury.

Oregon junior John Stiegeler, last season's NCAA champion in the javelin and this season's current national leader, tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee and will not compete for the rest of the season.

"It's a part of sports," Stiegel-

er said. "It's a gamble every time you go out there. I lost this round, but there will be plenty more rounds in the future."



The junior thrower suffered the injury when he planted for his fourth throw at the Texas Re-

lays on Saturday. Before scratching from the competition, Stiegeler won it with a throw of 242 feet, 11 inches. That throw earned him Pacific-10 Conference Field Athlete of the Week honors for this week.

The Coos Bay native will have surgery on the torn medial meniscus in his knee on Thursday, and will have surgery on his ACL in six to

seven weeks.

In a supreme twist of irony, Stiegeler's nation-leading throw of 247 feet could lead the nation all season, and possibly even through the NCAA Championships. His throw of 252-10 in the NCAA Championships last season beat the next-best toss by a full 13 feet.

"I was looking forward to repeating, and I felt like I would

have," Stiegeler said. "I felt like I had some big throws left in me."

The injury deals a serious blow to the Ducks' chances of repeating last season's ninth-place finish in the NCAA Championships. At the meet last season, Stiegeler's national title accounted for 10 of

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Oregon softball travels to Portland State for two

Softball travels to Portland State to take on the Vikings hoping for revenge of last season's three tough losses

By Chris Cabot
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon softball team has a welcomed break from Pacific-10 Conference play today with a doubleheader against in-state rival Portland State (11-20 overall, 3-5 Western Athletic Conference) at the Erv Lind Stadium in Portland.

Losing their last six consecutive contests, the Ducks and their (18-15, 0-6 Pac-10) falling record do not reveal the high level of play at which they have been performing. In five of those six losses, the opposing teams (Oregon State, Stanford and California) defeated the Ducks by a total of six runs.

Along with a desire to snap their six-game skid, memories of last year's series against Portland State are a primary motivation for the Ducks heading into the two-game set with the Vikings. Oregon lost three of four games last year to Portland State — two of those losses came in heartbreaking fashion. It was Portland State's first series win against Oregon since 1985.

In the first game of a doubleheader on April 3, 2001, Portland State senior Kiaina Anderson belted a walk-off two-run home run off Andrea Vidlund to win the game 4-2.

The second game was even more disastrous for the Ducks as they were ahead 7-4 heading into the bottom of the seventh. Sophomore Lisa Wangler, who has since transferred away from Oregon, loaded the bases when she struggled with her control. Connie McMurren, one of the three mainstays on this year's pitching staff, relieved Wangler, inheriting the bases-loaded, no-outs situation. After striking out one Portland State batter, McMurren walked Anderson, allowed a double to Summer Con-

roy and a groundout that scored Anderson for the 8-7 game winning run.

Anderson, who also made a home run-saving catch last season against the Ducks, has since graduated, but Conroy and others have returned. Nichole Ivie (.325) and Monica Martell (.313) are leading the way offensively this year for the Vikings, and in the circle Morgan Seibert has been outstanding. Seibert (8-9) is one of only two Portland State pitchers with more than 500 strikeouts and was 3-0 against Oregon last season.

Oregon head coach Brent Rincon knows that his team will have to play well to come out of Portland with two wins.

"We don't need any motivation to go play them," he said. "It will give us an opportunity to re-establish the things that we do well. We're looking forward to two tough, hard-fought ball games."

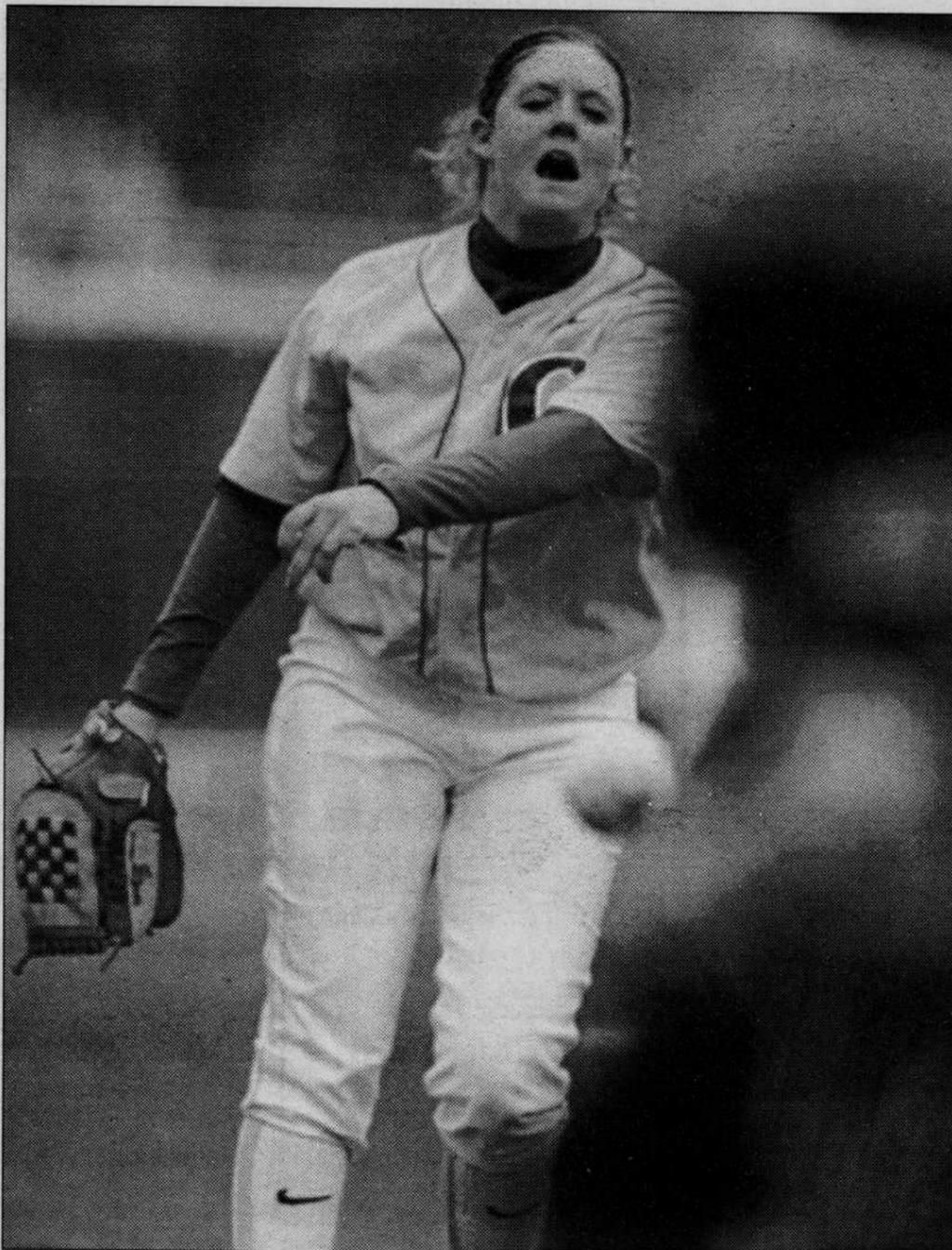
Oregon's double play combination of second baseman Alyssa Laux and shortstop Lynsey Haij have been solid up the middle all season. The primary leadoff and second hitter role in the lineup, Laux and Haij have combined for two home runs to go along with excellent averages (.280 for Haij and .341 for Laux).

Vidlund is leading Oregon offensively with a .375 average and seven home runs.

The pitching rotation of McMurren, Lindsey Kontra and Anissa Meashintu, by have a combined ERA of 2.32.

The Ducks return to conference play on Monday when they host No. 8 Arizona State at 2 p.m. at Howe Field. Oregon hosts No. 1 Arizona at 2 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday.

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



Adam Amato Emerald

Freshman pitcher Lindsey Kontra and the Oregon softball squad travel to Portland State for a doubleheader today. In 15 appearances this season, Kontra (5-7) has a 2.59 earned run average with 32 strikeouts and 16 walks.

Oregon golfers stumble in final round of Western Intercollegiate

After standing in second after the first day, the Ducks' men's golf team finishes in sixth place Tuesday

By Jesse Thomas
for the Emerald

In golf, some days it just doesn't happen.

The Oregon men's golf team shot their worst round of the tournament, 298, Tuesday and fell to sixth in the final standings of the 56th annual Western Intercollegiate in San Jose, Calif.

The Ducks were in second

place after two rounds Monday, firing off a 291 and 278, trailing Washington by 23 strokes.

Oregon and Washington have been in steep competition recently as they tied for second at the Cleveland Southwest Invitational March 4-5, and the Ducks edged the Huskies by one stroke in the Oregon Invitational two weeks ago.

Oregon's final 867 was not enough to hold onto their first-day position.



"Sixth is still a decent finish," Oregon head coach Steve Nosler said. "It was disappointing

that we couldn't keep things going in the right direction like we have been, but I think we'll come right back."

Washington stole the tournament and shot 834 to win by 20 strokes over Fresno State.

San Jose State, the tournament host, took third with 856, followed by Kansas at 865, UC Irvine right behind

with 866 and Oregon.

Senior Brandon Harnden shot a four over par 74 Tuesday and tied for 11th at two-over 212. Harnden had a career-best 65 in Monday's second round. Senior Aaron Byers tied for 25th at 219 after a disappointing final round 79.

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