

SPORTS

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Best Bet
NHL Playoffs:
L.A. at Colorado
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Immediate Dividends

In just two weeks, freshman Daria Panova has had a significant impact on the Oregon women's tennis team

By Peter Martini
for the Emerald

Entering spring break, the Oregon women's tennis team was 7-9 overall and had lost six straight matches. The team is now 12-9 and riding a five-match winning streak.

What happened?

Daria Panova happened.

The 19-year-old freshman joined the team at the end of winter term and was immediately thrust into the No. 1 singles spot.

Originally from Moscow, Panova competed at Sopot Academy in Poland with Oregon junior Monika Gieczys a few years ago, which is the main reason she chose to join the Ducks.

"I knew Monika from before and I knew she chose to come here because of the coaches," said Panova, who is 3-2 for the Ducks this season. "I also knew that I would feel more comfortable here at the school and on the team because she was here."

Besides tennis, Panova's favorite sport is figure skating. Because of frequent injuries and her dedication to tennis, she no longer figure skates competitively. But she still enjoys watching her favorite figure skater, Olympic gold medalist Alexei Yagudin of Russia.

"I don't have enough time to figure skate anymore," she said. "But it's still my favorite sport to watch."

Panova, Dasza (pronounced Da-SHA) to her friends and teammates, has spent much time traveling around the world and competing in tournaments. Living away from home isn't anything new to her, but she still finds it difficult to adapt to the new culture.

"I still have lots of problems with English," she said. "I'm nervous about language. I fear people won't understand me."

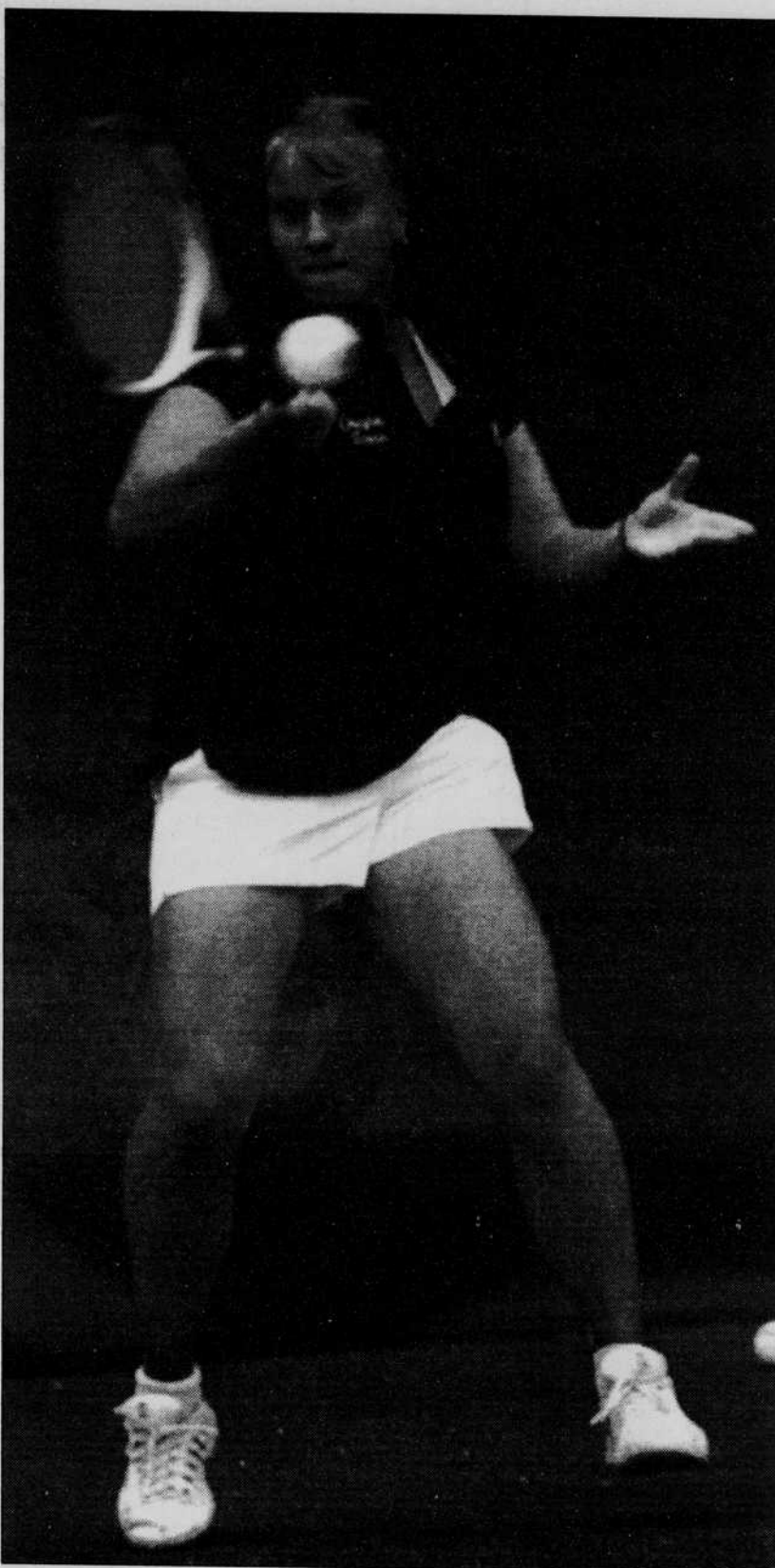
She said her teammates are making the adjustment easier for her and she is starting to feel more at home.

"I'm spending a lot of time with my teammates off the court," Panova said. "We go to dinner, the movies and just hang out."

Gieczys said that Panova's personality fits right in with the team's chemistry.

"She's a very fun and outgoing person. She wasn't shy at all," Gieczys said. "It was nice to have a spring break for her

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Adam Amato Emerald

Freshman Daria Panova joined the Ducks during spring break and has taken over the No. 1 spot.

Options limited for NFL hopefuls

■ Joey Harrington was once the projected No. 1 pick, but it's anyone's guess as to where the Oregon quarterback will end up

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

It's late in the game and Joey Harrington is down once again.

But this time, he's not getting the ball. He will not get the chance to direct an impressive 11th come-from-behind victory before entering the professional ranks. This time, the outcome is out of his control.

All he can do is wait, wait, wait ... and perhaps wait some more.

At one point, Harrington was the potential top pick in the NFL Draft, which begins Saturday (9 a.m. ESPN).

While many prognosticators still have him as a top-10 pick in Saturday's NFL Draft, some have speculated that "Joe College" may fall all the way to the second round.

"I'm not assuming anything. ... No matter what happens, I am going to end up far away from home in a new situation with a new offense," Harrington said recently. "It's all going to be a new, fun experience for me. I'm not getting my hopes set on anywhere or getting too picky because I have no choice in the matter."

With the No. 1 pick, the expansion Houston Texans officially committed Wednesday to Fresno State's David Carr, as he agreed to a seven-year deal

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HARRINGTON

National rankings suffice as Oregon prepares for Mt. SAC

■ The Oregon women place a bevy of athletes on national collegiate lists as they head to California this weekend

By Hank Hager
Oregon Daily Emerald

All season long, the Oregon women's track and field team has put up impressive numbers.

Sophomore Sarah Malone has thrown the javelin 179-feet-2 inches. Her teammate Roslyn Lundeen, a freshman from Victoria, British Columbia, has thrown at 166-11. Last year, Malone ended the collegiate season ranked third in the nation with a throw of 174.

Mary Etter has even impressed in two different events. The junior has put the shot 49-9.25, and countered that in the discus with a mark of 173-6.

Most of these marks represent personal bests for the respective athletes. However, the most important numbers

associated with each is the placement it puts each in the collegiate national rankings.

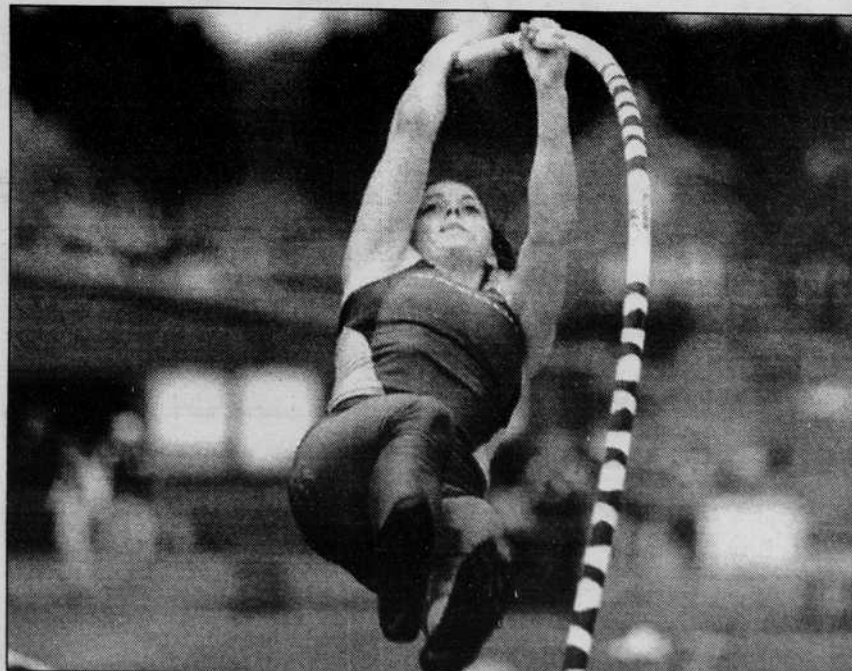
Malone's top throw is the third longest in the nation, with Lundeen's four spots behind at No. 7, according to trackandfieldnews.com.

Continuing the national javelin domination, the Ducks also field athletes at the No. 9 and No. 22 positions. Freshman Elisa Crumley's top mark of 166-1 rounds out the top for Oregon, while junior Charyl Weingarten is in the top 25 with a throw of 155-2.

Etter's two marks place her 32nd and eighth, respectively. Last weekend at the Washington Dual, Etter did not come close to equaling her high marks, but looks to this weekend at the Mt. SAC Invitational.

"Next week, we're going to Mt. SAC," she said after taking first and two second place finishes at last weekend's Washington Dual meet. "I am really looking forward to that in thinking of PRs."

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Sophomore Kirsten Riley has impressed so far this season, hitting a high mark of 12-feet-5.5 inches in the pole vault. The feat is good enough to warrant an NCAA provisional mark.

Adam Amato Emerald