

## SPORTS

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## Oregon softball hits brutal road stretch

■ Oregon softball looks for first Pac-10 win at No. 9 Washington today before flying to No. 2 UCLA for two games over the weekend

By Chris Cabot  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon softball team (18-18 overall, 0-9 Pacific-10 Conference) embarks on a road trip of dizzying magnitude as it rivals a roller-coaster grand enough to make even the most steady-stomached rider call for Dramamine.

Today's game in Seattle against No. 9 Washington marks the beginning of a hectic stretch for the Ducks, where they will compete in 10 games in 10 days.

After the game against the Huskies, the team will travel to No. 2 UCLA for Saturday and Sunday games, immediately followed by a Monday double-header at Portland State. The Ducks will have Tuesday off before hosting a double-header of their own against Portland State on Wednesday.

April 26 begins a weekend in Arizona, where the Ducks will face the No. 1 Wildcats on Friday and No. 6 Arizona State on Saturday and Sunday.

"It's going to be a grind from a time perspective," Oregon head coach Brent Rincon said. "The kids are going to have to focus academically and athletically in order to be successful."

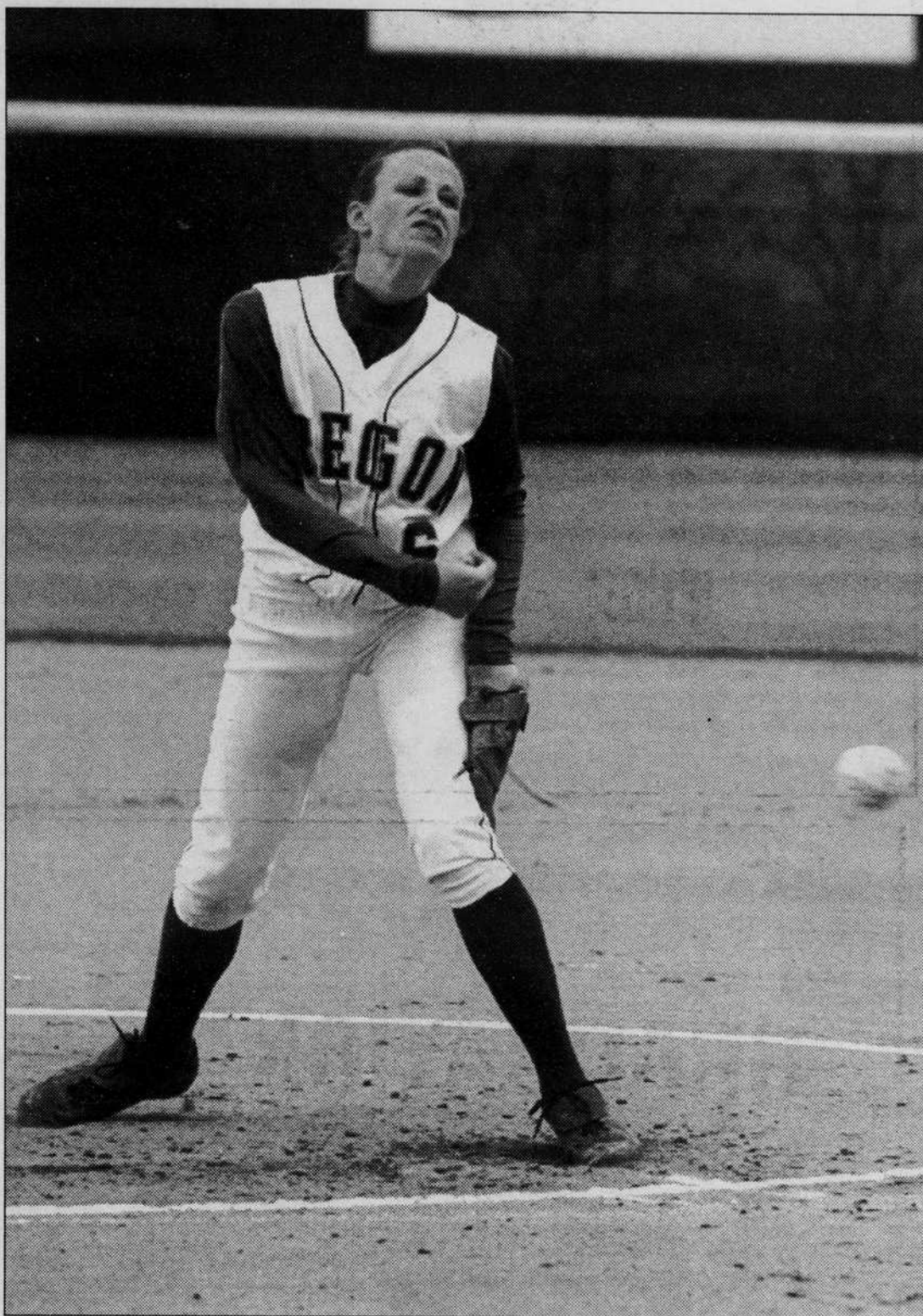
Oregon has had opportunities to win many of its nine Pac-10 games, keeping pace with some of the best teams in the country, but has struggled to piece together excellent pitching, offense and defense in the same game. All of the other seven teams in the Pac-10 are ranked in the top 14.

"We've played some tough games against some of the top teams, and we're playing right with them," short-stop Lynsey Haij said. "All we can do is remember the positives and keep working hard."

In order for the Ducks to get out of their losing slide, they need to "play consistently high softball for an extended period of time," Rincon said.

During Oregon's two weekend games against UCLA, the Ducks will try to prevent a historical monument. UCLA's Stacey Nuvean has hit 13 home runs in her senior campaign, giving her a career mark of 83, which places her third on the all-time NCAA list. She needs only two to reach the record held by Arizona's Leah Braatz and Laura Espinoza.

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Jonathan House Emerald

Senior pitcher Connie McMurren and the Oregon softball team will play 10 games over the next 10 days.

### Pacific-10 Conference standings

	Pac-10	GB	Overall
1. Arizona	7-1	—	38-5
2. UCLA	5-3	2.0	37-6
Arizona State	5-3	2.0	35-10
4. Oregon State	5-4	2.5	31-11
California	5-4	2.5	37-12
6. Stanford	4-5	3.5	33-6
7. Washington	3-5	4.0	33-12
8. Oregon	0-9	7.5	18-18

## Handful of athletes head to Mt. SAC

■ The Oregon men's track team heads to the biggest meet on the West Coast with high individual expectations

By Peter Hockaday  
Oregon Daily Emerald

A week after a team mentality gripped the Oregon men's track and field squad, it's now back to being individuals again.

Eight Ducks will compete in different events at the Mt. San Antonio College Relays in Walnut, Calif., this weekend. Several of those athletes will be looking to notch NCAA-qualifying times amid the chaos of the West Coast's biggest track meet of the year.

For starters, decathletes Billy Pappas and Jason Slye were in action Thursday at Azusa Pacific University — next to Mt. SAC — in the decathlon competition. They will conclude the 10-event decathlon today.

On Saturday, the Ducks will hit the track for two days of running madness. Sophomore Ryan Andrus will compete in the 800-meter race and the 1,500. Ross Krempley will also compete in the 800, but because of the

large meet, Krempley won't run the same race as Andrus.

On Sunday, Terry Ellis will run the 110 hurdles, Samie Parker will run the 100, Brandon Holliday will run the 400 hurdles and Micah Harris will run the 110 hurdles, but not against Ellis.

All the track action puts a direct spotlight on the runners and the handiwork of sprints coach Steve Silvey. The first-year assistant coach has already impressed head coach Martin Smith with his ability to mold distance-runner Simon Kimata into a national-title contender in the 800, and also to get personal bests out of several athletes early in the season.

"I think I have two of the finest coaches in the country," Smith said of Silvey and field coach Bill Lawson. "The athletes really respond to those guys."

Silvey brings an impressive history to Oregon, especially the 34 Olympians he coached in stints at Blinn College and Arkansas.

Now, Silvey has the task of molding Oregon's sprinters and distance runners into NCAA champions. This weekend, especially, will be a chance for the Ducks to shine on a large stage at Mt. SAC.

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## Ducks California bound in search of high marks

■ Bolstered by a strong field program, the Oregon women head to Los Angeles in large numbers

By Hank Hager  
Oregon Daily Emerald

There is no question now as to the ability of Tom Heinonen's athletes.

They can fly, they can jump, they can throw with some of the best collegiate athletes in the nation.

Now, the question is, how far will they go?

After a 105-95 win over Pacific-10 Conference foe Washington last weekend in Eugene, the Ducks travel south to the City of Angels. Eighteen Oregon athletes will participate in three meets this weekend, the most notable being the Mt. SAC Relays, held in Walnut, Calif., near the bustling

city of Los Angeles.

All of this comes at the right time for Oregon.

"There's a lot of stuff going well right now for us," Heinonen said.

The Ducks have earned nine NCAA provisional marks this season, and have already begun a process to improve last season's 60th-place finish at the NCAA Championships.

For starters, junior Eri Macdonald has come out from beyond the shadows to become a force for the Ducks. Her mark in the 800 (2:06.37) vaulted her into 10th place nationally.

The Honolulu native looks to improve upon that this weekend when she competes at Mt. SAC on Saturday.

Then there is the Oregon javelin foursome. All four have earned NCAA provisional marks, are in the top 30 in the nation, and all but freshman Roslyn

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