

## SPORTS

Sports Editor:  
Adam Jude  
adamjude@dailymerald.com

Best Bet  
NH L playoffs:  
Los Angeles at Colorado  
6:30 p.m., ESPN2



Monday, April 29, 2002

# Laux homer puts Ducks in Pac-10 win column

A two-run home run by Alyssa Laux helps Oregon softball end a 32-game Pac-10 losing streak with a win over Arizona State

By Chris Cabot  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The streak is over. The Oregon softball team defeated No. 5 Arizona State 4-2 on Saturday, breaking its 13-game losing slide in the Pacific-10 Conference this season. The game also broke the Ducks' 32-game losing streak in the conference dating back to last season's game against Arizona State on April 1, 2001. Oregon (22-24 overall, 1-14 Pac-10) won its first Pac-10 contest on the road since April 16, 2000 against Stanford.

After losing to No. 1 Arizona, 7-1, in Tempe on Friday, Oregon put the ball in the hands of Lindsey Kontra in the first of a two-day, two-game stand against the Sun Devils (38-13, 8-6) — and the freshman welcomed the challenge.

Kontra allowed a run in the second on a Nichole Thompson home run, and the game remained 1-0 until the top of the sixth when the Oregon bats caught fire. With Jenn Poore on first from a walk and one out from a pop out by Lynsey Haij, second baseman Alyssa Laux hit a lined shot over the

right field fence for her third home run of the season to put the Ducks up 2-1.

Mari Lyn Petrick followed immediately with a single up the middle, and Andrea Vidlund was hit by a pitch. Kristi Hall hit a hard groundball to second, which Missy Hixon couldn't handle, creating a bases-



loaded situation for Ashley Richards. Richards worked the count full and

then ripped a double down the left field line, scoring Petrick and Vidlund.

Arizona State gave the Ducks a scare in the seventh when Jennifer Forner, who had led off the inning with a hit, scored on a double by Kara Brun. Phalen Wright followed by drawing a walk from Kontra, who seemed to pitch around the hard-hitting third baseman, to bring up Thompson. The Sun Devils' first baseman needed only a triple to complete

Turn to **Softball**, page 12

## UO success story continues in Spring Game

■ Quarterback Jason Fife leads the Green team's charge in an 'expected' 51-3 win over the backups

By Adam Jude  
Oregon Daily Emerald

PORTLAND — It's still early, but 2002 is turning out to be a special year for the Oregon football team.

The Ducks improved to 2-0 this year with a convincing 51-3 victory Saturday in the Spring Game in front of 12,524 fans at PGE Park. Of course, Oregon couldn't lose — the game pitted the Ducks against themselves, with the Green team, composed of mostly starters, dominating the second, third and fourth units, otherwise known as the White team.



"I think we put most of the good players on the Green team, and they showed up and did a good job," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said. "Our defensive linemen were only one-deep for two teams, and they played every down, as did our offensive linemen, so the line of scrimmage people got a heck of a workout and a great day."

After the most successful season in school history — capped off on New Year's Day with a Fiesta Bowl victory over Colorado and a season-ending No. 2 ranking — Oregon's main task this spring was to find out who would replace Joey Harrington as the starting quarterback.

For the first three weeks of spring drills, junior Jason Fife was less than spectacular. On Saturday, he didn't disappoint.

Fife solidified his role as the No. 1 quarterback heading into fall camp by completing 12-of-15 passes for 217 yards and four touchdowns, two of which ended up in the hands of junior receiver Samie Parker.

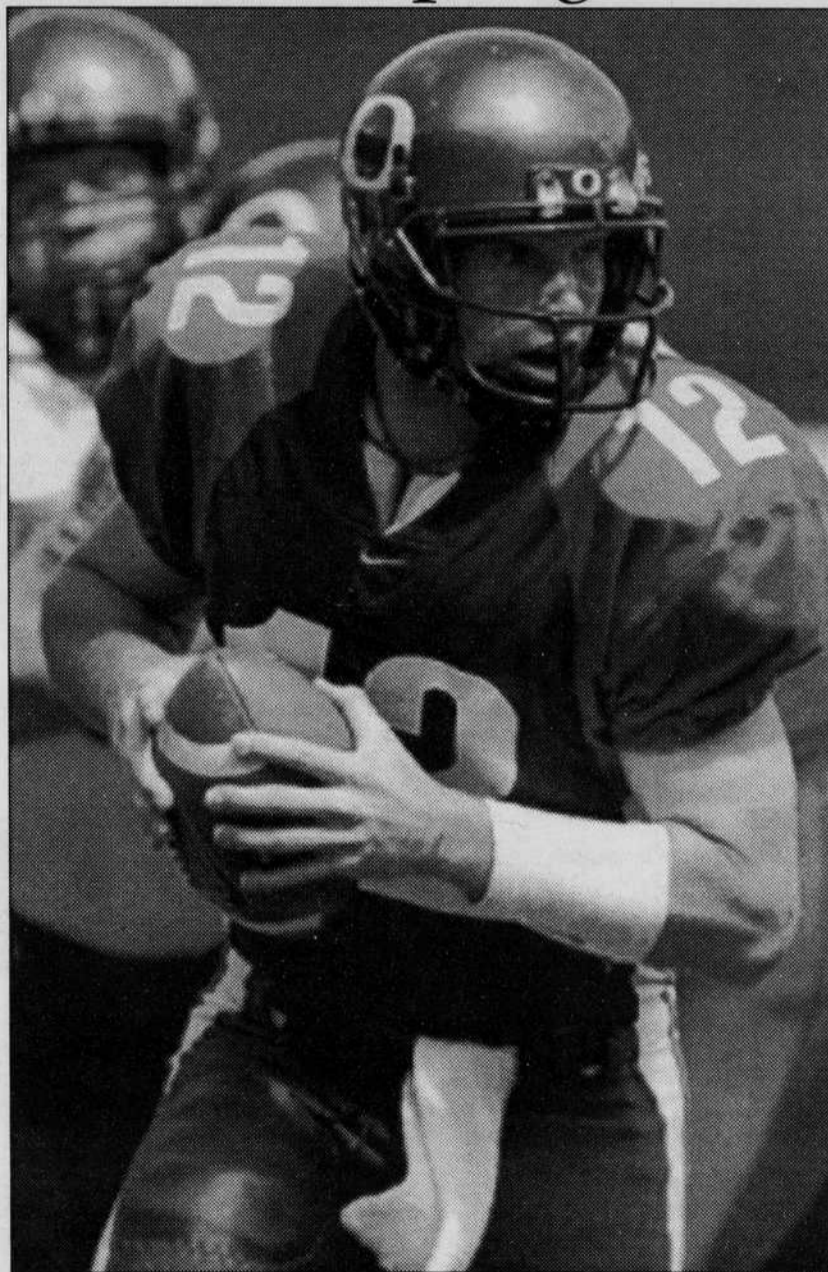
"I've been here for a couple years, so I've been in this setting," said Fife, who also had a 32-yard run in the game. "I hope that I'm ready for this type of thing."

Fife's counterpart, redshirt freshman Kellen Clemens, was clearly the inexperienced, as he finished 8-of-13 for 72 yards and a touchdown pass to Keith Allen. Bellotti said Clemens, who was also sacked five times, was "lost" at times against the second-team defense.

Despite the contrasting performances, Bellotti wasn't prepared to name Fife the starter for the season opener against Mississippi State on Aug. 31.

"The guys I expected to make plays did," Bellotti said. "I have been pleased with Jason's progress all spring as he has shown signs of improvement every practice. But that is somewhat to be expected from a junior."

Turn to **Football**, page 12



Adam Amato Emerald

Junior Jason Fife secured his spot as the No. 1 quarterback heading into fall camp as he completed 12-of-15 passes for 217 yards and four touchdowns in the annual Spring Game on Saturday.

## Fife, Parker connection a success in scrimmage

■ The Ducks' quarterback and receiver tandem steps into the spotlight at the Spring Game

By Peter Hockaday  
Oregon Daily Emerald

PORTLAND — There's a new gun-slinger in town, and he already has a favorite target.

Jason Fife stepped calmly and comfortably into the top quarterback spot at the Oregon football team's annual Spring Game at PGE Park on Saturday. But the play of wide receiver Samie Parker, who was the recipient of two scoring strikes, was as impressive as Fife's 217-yard, 4-touchdown performance.

"I mean c'mon, what does Samie run, a 4.3 40 (yards)?" Fife said. "There's not a lot of guys that can defend that. He's got some crisp routes, and he's just an awesome weapon to have."

Parker utilized his speed to get behind defenders and break free for big gains. His 143 yards came on seven receptions, giving him a 20.4 yard-per-reception average.

"Samie has the ability and the speed to make some things happen," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said. "I'm excited that he's had a tremendous track season, and he showed up today in a big way."

Parker's first touchdown was also the first touchdown of the game, and

Turn to **Tandem**, page 12

## Oregon golfers fight back to finish fifth at Pac-10 Championships

■ Junior John Ellis shoots a one-over 73 Saturday to finish in a tie for seventh place at the Pac-10 Championships in Corvallis

By Jesse Thomas  
for the Emerald

After a dismal opening round Thursday, the Oregon men's golf team fought its way back to finish fifth at the 2002 Pacific-10 Conference Championships.

The Ducks shot an eight-over 368 in the final round played Saturday and

slipped into fifth place in the final standings at 1,471. Oregon played at the 7,022-yard, par-72 Trysting Tee Golf Course in Corvallis.

"It wasn't a stellar round by any means, but it wasn't terrible either," Oregon head coach Steve Nosler said. "A couple of guys fought really hard just to get what they got."

Junior John Ellis shot a one-over 73 in Saturday's final round to finish tied for seventh at 289. The Ducks also carded a 72 from senior Brandon Hamden, a 73 from junior Chris Carnahan and 75s

from senior Aaron Byers and sophomore Mike Sica.

Defending champion USC, which entered the final round in third, took control with a four-under 356, the best round of the day. Stanford shot 373 Saturday, but still finished 15 strokes behind the Trojans.

USC finished one-over par at 1,441, with the Cardinals at 1,456, while Oregon State took third with 1,458. UCLA fired a 359, the second-lowest round of the day, to edge out Oregon by two strokes at 1,469.

"I would have liked to finish a little higher," Nosler said, whose team was in a tie for last after Thursday's beginning round. "Except for that first round, we hung in there fairly decently."

The Ducks were sitting nicely after Friday's third round, where they climbed into a tie for fourth after being in seventh at the conclusion of Thursday. Oregon fired their second consecutive 365 for the third-lowest score of the day.

Byers shot two-under 70 for the Ducks on Friday, and the team also

Turn to **Golf**, page 8



ELLIS