

SPORTS

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Best bet
NCAA basketball:
North Carolina at Illinois
6:30 p.m., ESPN2

Tuesday, December 3, 2002

Augusta's decision not ethical, but legally OK

The controversy regarding Augusta National, the Georgia golf club that does not admit women as members, has gotten out of hand, and the tournament is still more than four months away.

This summer, Martha Burk, head of the National Council of Women's Organizations, wrote a private letter to Hootie Johnson, chairman at Augusta National. The letter asked Johnson to "open your membership to women now, so that this is not an issue when the tournament is staged next year."

Burk was expecting to hear back in the same manner. Instead, Johnson, head of the club that only began admitting non-white members in 1995, turned the issue into a public one.

Most recently, after Johnson publicly said Augusta would not have any women members by April, The New York Times wrote an editorial specifically picking out star golfer Tiger Woods and encouraging him to boycott the Masters.

Woods has been pestered by media to give a definite opinion, but has turned back and forth on the issue.

But it's not April yet. Just wait until April. Imagine the picket lines that will appear when it comes time for Augusta to host the Masters.

April will be a busy time in Georgia, with women golfing in the parking lot, hoping to dent the cars owned by the 300 racially-integrated male members of Augusta National, and women walking around the grounds and the spectacle, wearing dark green jackets similar to those worn by the Master's winners.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson even said he plans to organize protests during the Masters, encouraging players not to cross picket lines he would set up.

What will Chairman Johnson do? With any luck, he will continue about his way, pretending — as much as is possible in this situation — that nothing out of the ordinary is happening.

Johnson and his club are well within their constitutional right to not allow women in Augusta if so desired. Augusta is a private club. While it may be morally wrong to have such a globally prominent golf course feature a member policy laced with sexism, Augusta legally has the right to be morally wrong.

Boy Scouts of America, a private group, are permitted to not allow gay males into their organization. That's not to say they didn't get bad press when they made the decision, but they made the decision legally just the same. Augusta is in the same boat — while it will get bad press

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UO volleyball marks 2003 as breakout

The Ducks ended a losing streak this season and now look ahead to next year

Volleyball wrap-up

Hank Hager
Sports Reporter

For the Oregon volleyball team, it is prudent to think of the future — not the present or the past.

After all, looking back at a 1-17 record in Pacific-10 Conference play is not a pleasant thought. Nor is an 11-21 record that produced just one victory after the month of September.

Instead, it is what the Ducks possess that means the most.

"I see a team that is ready to make a statement in the Pac-10," sophomore Lauren Westendorf said. "We're so young, still. Next year, we're going to be young again. Especially, the impact that our freshmen made this year. Next year, they're going to be sophomores. They're going to be older and more experienced. They're going to know what it takes to be in the Pac-10 and be successful."

That freshman class — four strong — produced one Pac-10 All-Freshman Team member and two honorable mentions.

Dariam Acevedo became the first Oregon player since 1991 to be named to the all-freshman squad after having a stellar season. The Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico, native missed the entirety of Oregon's pre-season but managed nine double-doubles during Pac-10 play.

Setter Jodi Bell and middle blocker Kelly Russell were named to the honorable-mention list after playing important roles — Bell as a

starter and Russell off the bench toward the end of the season.

The three — along with Jaelyn Jones — should form a formidable core group of players that, coupled with Westendorf and sophomore Katie O'Neil, could vault the Ducks into the middle of the Pac-10 standings next season.

"We showed what we can do against Oregon State," Bell said when asked what kind of talent the Ducks could possess next season. "It's just going to take time and commitment, and we're willing to work as hard as we can to get there."

Oregon will lose three seniors — middle blockers Lindsay Closs and Amanda Porter, as well as setter Sydney Chute — from a squad that broke a 32-match losing streak with a victory against Oregon State on Nov. 1.

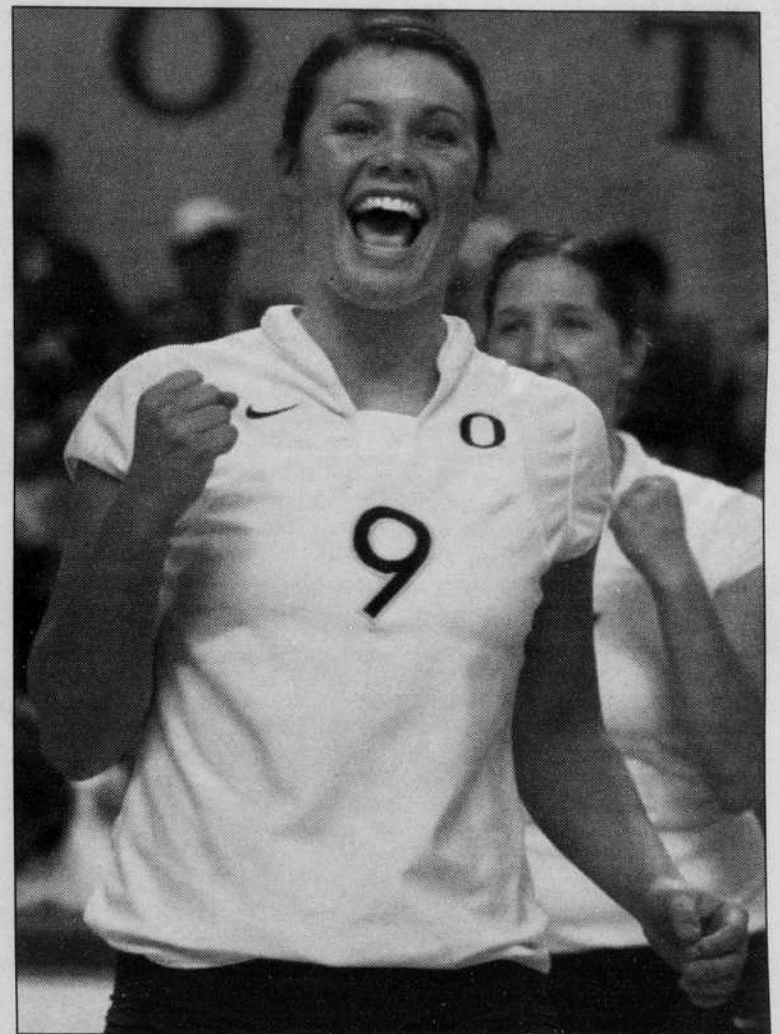
Closs led the team in offensive production with 407 kills en route to an all-Pac-10 honorable mention honor. Chute didn't start in Pac-10 play but was a valuable substitute for Bell. Porter did not have a season on par with the other two seniors.

Despite the success of the three, Oregon should be fine. The Duck freshmen are well-equipped to fill the vacated roles, and will be joined by a recruiting class that includes two middle blockers that stand 6 feet 3 inches or taller.

Still, it is hard not to look back at the past.

Entering the season, Oregon's outlook seemed grim. The Ducks suffered a setback when last season's top offensive weapon, Stephanie Martin, did not qualify academically.

That left Closs seemingly alone, as the Ducks did not have a ton of



Adam Amato Emerald

Freshman Jodi Bell leads a crew of youngsters that could lead the Ducks to success.

leadership offensively.

Yet Oregon fought hard, ended its Pac-10 losing streak and began to turn around a program — at least its competitiveness and mental capacity — that had been stagnant since the early 1990s.

The wins are still not there, but the Ducks produced more close calls than opponent blowouts.

"I think it's very misleading," head coach Carl Ferreira said when asked to rate Oregon's season. "What the conference does is, the conference basically says, 'You're going to lose perspective of who you are unless you're a top-20 team.' You have to be a consistent top-20

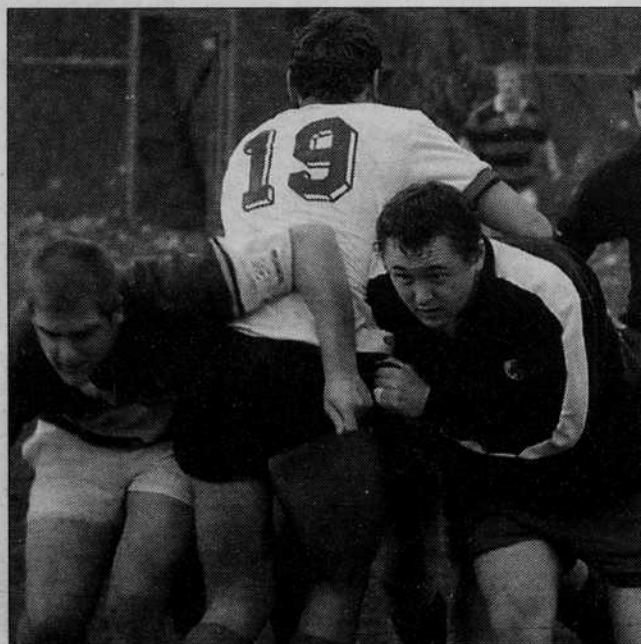
to really have an identity.

"I have nothing to be disappointed about. For the highest percentage of the season, we were over-achieving. If 10 was maximum, they were playing to their maximum ability. If I had to give ourselves a grade, and I'm not going on winning and losing, these kids over-achieved. If you go by the standings, it's frustrating."

The Ducks finished dead last in the Pac-10 but are confident they can climb out of the cellar in the future.

Contact the sports reporter at hankhager@dailyemerald.com.

A civil rugby win



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

The Oregon rugby squad was the only tackling team to win a Civil War.

The men's rugby team looks to use its Civil War victory to propel it to greater success

Scott Archer
Freelance Sports Reporter

Maybe there was something positive to come out of Corvallis on Nov. 23.

A dominating performance in the air and on the ground made for a lopsided victory that day, in a game better representing students at Oregon and Oregon State than the football teams did.

It was Oregon's very own men's Club Rugby team that gave some Duck fans something to smile about: a 32-14 pounding of their most hated rival, the Oregon State Beavers.

This game featured more regular students, except one wouldn't call these guys regular. It takes a certain trait, a moral fiber, to go out every weekend and tackle men running at full speed with nothing but built-up aggression for an opponent.

Aggression is a word that describes

Club Sports Tuesday

these Ducks.

"We are very aggressive; we dominate scrums and loose play," coach Bob Snyder said.

Still, the team has a lot of work to do as it prepares for the spring season, which starts Feb. 1 at California-Davis. Finishing with an overall record of 2-5 and a league record of 2-3, there is some work that needs to take place before Oregon hits the field again.

"We tend to get selfish. We play more individually than we should," Snyder said.

Oregon will lose one player from its roster, giving the Ducks the opportunity

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