

SPORTS

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Best bet
NCAA men's basketball:
Florida at Kentucky
6 p.m., ESPN

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IX lives

Title IX has been bad and good for sports, most recently benefiting Oregon's female athletes

Mindi Rice

Freelance Sports Reporter

A hockey team that had been to every national tournament in five years.

A men's gymnastics program that was consistently ranked in the top 10 in the country.

A baseball program that is part of Oregon's rich athletic history — in the early 1880s, a baseball game against Monmouth College was one of the first documented Oregon athletic events.

While officials say these programs, along with women's gymnastics, women's field hockey and men's and women's swimming and diving squads, were cut by the Athletic Department mainly because of budgetary reasons, there was also another factor.

Title IX.

Title IX, technically, prohibits gender discrimination in public and private schools that receive federal funding. Passed in 1972, it applies to high schools and colleges, and to opportunities both on the field and in the classroom.

However, the most widely-used interpretation of Title IX is the gender equity law that has spurred the mass entrance of women's athletics and female athletes into existence and the national spotlight.

Monday, the Athletic Department announced that a varsity women's lacrosse program will begin at Oregon in fall 2004. The announcement came four days after a Title IX Commission

appointed by the Bush administration approved recommendations to make minor, but calculated, changes to Title IX that will, if approved, affect how schools determine whether they are in compliance.

Currently, schools must show that they meet three standards.

One standard is athlete scholarships, and making sure they are given proportional to student-athlete participation according to gender. Oregon is in compliance with this standard — in the 2001-02 school year, 37.47 percent of Oregon's student-athletes were female, and 37.36 percent of scholarship money went to those females.

Another standard schools must comply with is the "laundry list." This list of 11 items includes travel expenses, publicity and equipment. The school must show that men and women have equal funding and access to these items.

The third, and most difficult to interpret, is "accommodation of interests and abilities," a three-prong test. Schools must meet one of three criteria: Athlete gender percentage must be proportional to the student body, the school must demonstrate a history and continuing practice of program expansion for the underrepresented gender, or the school must show that it fully and effectively accommodates the interests and abilities of the underrepresented gender.

For Oregon, the prong choice is a simple one — the second prong. Oregon strives to demonstrate a history and continuing practice of program expansion.

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Adam Amato Emerald

Lauren Peters and the women's lacrosse team are the subject of Title IX reform, as Oregon will add the sport in 2004.

Club lacrosse still looks forward to '03 season

The Ducks are excited their sport will soon be a varsity one, but they are currently focusing on 2003

Women's lacrosse

Jon Roetman

Freelance Sports Reporter

They sprint around an area of the field, looking for any way they can help the team win.

Leaving everything out on the field, they go almost entirely unnoticed.

They're driven by the desire to win and a commitment to the team.

Sound like the life of an offensive lineman? Try a West Coast women's lacrosse player.

Club Sports Tuesday

The sport of lacrosse is a monster on the East Coast, but for athletes on the West Coast, like those on the Oregon women's club lacrosse team, their efforts have gone mostly unnoticed.

"I didn't realize that it's not a big sport out here at all," said senior Tina Thompson, who grew up playing lacrosse in Washington, D.C. "People (on the West Coast) are like, 'What's lacrosse?'"

With Monday's announcement that Oregon

will feature women's lacrosse as a varsity sport for the 2004-05 season, it appears lacrosse out west is heading toward a growth in popularity.

"(Lacrosse) is a wonderful sport," student club coordinator Louisa Dorsch said. "It will elevate the school in general just to have the program."

This year, the women's club team returns half of its players from a team that finished tied for sixth in the Northwest Women's Club Lacrosse League.

The Ducks feature a mixture of youth and experience. Dorsch and Thompson, two of the Ducks' most experienced players, lead the team into battle.

Dorsch is in her third season with the Ducks. A goalkeeper from Hagerstown, Md., Dorsch said the Ducks have shown potential

for the upcoming season.

"We have some terrific players," Dorsch said. "The team is very dedicated and a great group of girls."

Thompson is the only Duck in her fourth season. She said the biggest ally the Ducks have for potential success is that they've had the same coordinator for two years. In her first two seasons, the team switched coordinators, essentially having to start from scratch each season. With half of the roster returning, they can continue to build on what is already established.

"We have a little foundation going," Thompson said.

A talented group of underclassmen will contribute to the Ducks as well. Freshmen Leslie

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Sun sets early, Oregon finishes Ping first round in ninth



Emerald

Golf head coach Steve Nosler said he was pleased with how the Ducks played in their opening round.

Jimmy White and Gregg LaVoie lead the Ducks with opening round par-71s, and both sit 22nd overall

Men's golf

Scott Archer

Freelance Sports Reporter

After the sun set early at the first day of the 2003 Ping-Arizona Intercollegiate tournament, the Oregon men's golf team found itself tied for 9th when play was suspended midway through the second round at the 6,973 yard, par-71 Arizona National Golf Course. The second round of play was suspended due to darkness.

Junior Jimmy White led the Ducks with a season-low round of 71, also the second-low-

est round for his career. Also scoring an opening-round score of 71 was freshman Gregg LaVoie. Both White and LaVoie are tied for 22nd overall. Freshman Justin St. Clair set his lowest round score of his young career while tying teammate and senior John Ellis at 72. Senior Chris Carnahan finished the day with a two-over-par 73.

"Our guys played pretty well for our opening tournament, especially with two freshmen," head coach Steve Nosler said. "We left a lot of shots out there on the course, but we're not that far off."

The Ducks concluded the first round with a team score of 286, 16 strokes behind current leader and Pacific-10 Conference rival, No. 17 UCLA. No. 10 Arizona was second on the day, shooting a 276, followed by No. 21 Pepperdine with a team score of 280.

Only six teams completed the second round. Scott Archer is a freelance writer for the Emerald.