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SPORTS

Best bet
NCAA men's basketball:
Gonzaga at Pepperdine
9 p.m., ESPN

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

University must find right coach for lacrosse

Oregon made a smart move Monday by adding women's lacrosse to the school's lineup of sports beginning in 2004.

Crew, gymnastics and swimming are all good sports, but the sport that is a combination of hockey and soccer will fit in fine.

But now comes the hard part — the part that could help define the new sport at Oregon in the next five years, the next 10 and possibly the next 20.

The head coach search is on. And Oregon must be smart in its selection.

In 1996, a new set of Ducks began putting on the green and yellow, and leading them was new soccer coach Bill Steffen.

Having come from national power North Carolina, Steffen immediately began to put a stamp on the sport at Oregon that has carried over. He is still at Oregon, and although the Ducks finished 2-14-2 this past season, he has brought the program a long way.

So Oregon needs to get out the old blueprints and study up on how they want women's lacrosse to look.

The sport is anchored deep in East Coast roots, so looking that way wouldn't be a bad choice.

No one is saying Oregon can be like national power Princeton soon, and even trying to equal what the Portland women's soccer team has done — winning a national championship in 2002 after beginning play in 1992 — would be a stretch.

But thinking big time will deliver Oregon to the national rankings sooner rather than later.

So why not go after someone big time? You could pretty much throw out any head coaches in the top 20 in the nation, simply because leaving at what could be the peak time of a program would be like committing coaching suicide.

So there goes Jenny Grapp from Cornell, Chris Sailer from Princeton and Ken Simons from Georgetown.

Those three constituted the coaches of the year in the North, Mid-Atlantic and South regions, respectively, last season. And even though building a new program might intrigue even the most recognizable coaches, it's not likely.

So, look deeper; there are some more interesting choices that could definitely benefit the Duck head coaching search.

Missy Holmes has a winning track record at Princeton, having won three national titles while at Maryland as a player in the mid-1990s and won another with the Tigers as an assistant last year.

But even more of an intriguing selection resides with the name Colleen Smith. One of the assistants at Virginia, Smith has already done what Oregon is looking for.

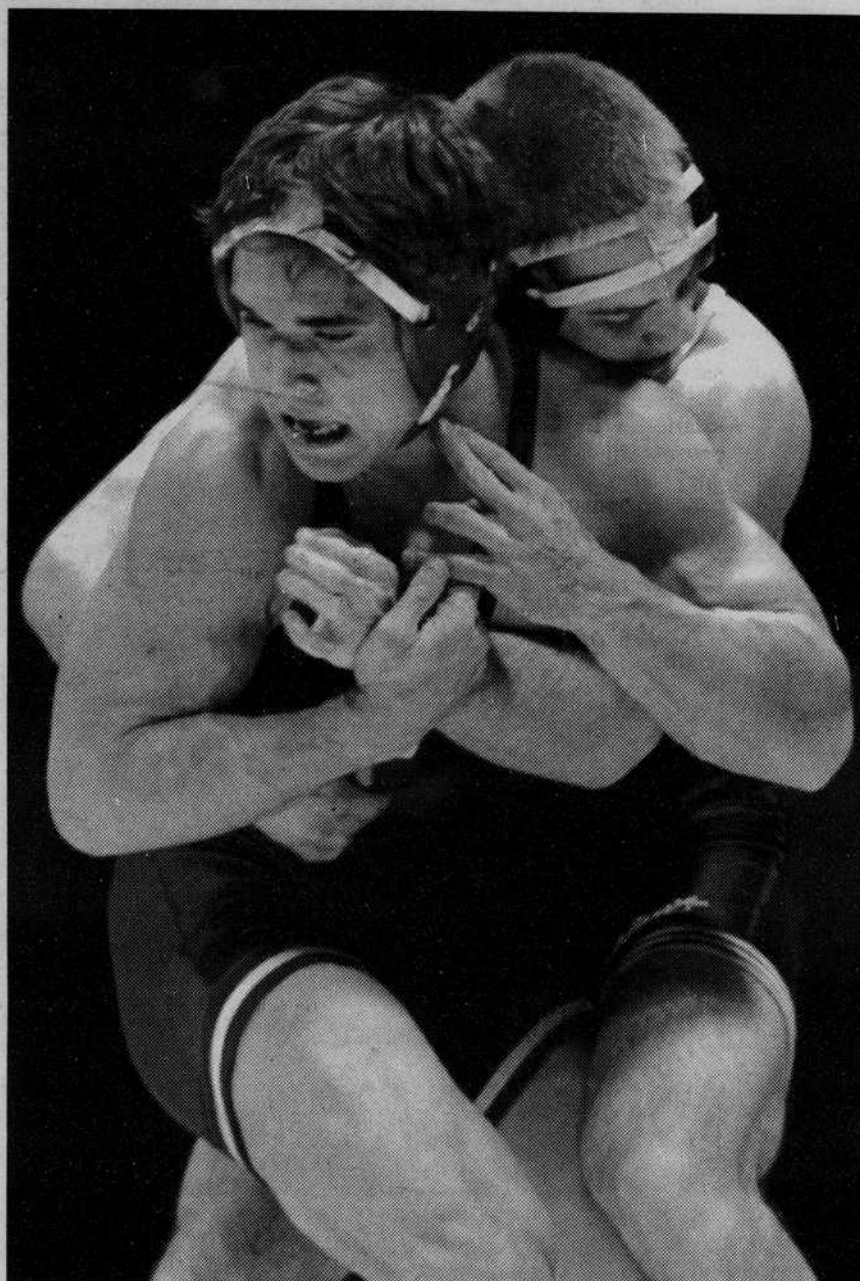
After a stellar career at Rowan, Smith started her coaching career as the head coach at Wagner College. She took over the Seahawks in the team's first season as

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Hank Hager
Behind the dish

Wrestlers flock to California



Adam Amato Emerald

Luke Larwin (bottom) and the Ducks play two away matches today in California.

The Ducks begin a three-day, four-team tour of California today against two Pac-10 opponents

Wrestling

Mindi Rice
Freelance Sports Reporter

Oregon is heading south to sunnier skies and warmer weather as the wrestling squad travels to California for two midweek matches against Pacific-10 Conference opponents.

Today, Oregon (5-8 overall, 4-2 Pac-10) battles California-State Bakersfield at noon. The Ducks then head west to face Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo at 7 p.m.

Cal-State Bakersfield (5-5, 2-2) features sophomore Efrén Ceballos. Ceballos finished second at 133 in the 2002 Pac-10 Championships. This year, Ceballos has moved to the 125 class and is ranked between No. 14 and No. 19 in all four polls.

Cal Poly (8-6, 4-1) has two wrestlers earning national recognition. Senior David Schenk, the defending Pac-10 champion at 197, is ranked in the top 20 in all four polls. Schenk's record this season is an impressive 22-6. Sophomore Vic Moreno, ranked No. 8 by InterMat, has an 18-6 record on the season.

Oregon hosted both Cal-State Bakersfield and Cal Poly last year. The Ducks won their matchup with the Road Runners 35-9, but lost to Cal Poly in a close 19-15 match.

Sophomore Shane Webster remains the only Oregon wrestler ranked by InterMat, sitting at No. 11 in the 174 weight class. Sophomore Martin Mitchell at 125, redshirt junior Jason Harless at 133, senior Casey Hunt at 141 and senior Tony Overstake at 149 are all listed as wrestlers to watch in their respective weight classes by InterMat.

College wrestling has three recognized polls in addition to InterMat.

W.I.N. Magazine puts Webster at No. 11, Overstake at No. 19 and Mitchell at No. 20. The Amateur Wrestling News ranks Webster at No. 11, Overstake at No. 17 and Harless at No. 20. The Wrestling Mall has Webster at No. 13 and Overstake, Hunt and Harless each at No. 20 in their weight class.

The Ducks are recovering from their first Pac-10 losses of the season. Mitchell missed Friday's 27-9 loss to No. 10 Boise State, while Overstake sat out Sunday's 21-20 loss to No. 11 Arizona State.

Webster split his matches from the weekend. He earned an 8-3 decision over Boise State's Pat Owens on Friday but lost a 10-4 decision to Arizona State's Curtis Owen. Owen was ranked one spot below Webster going into the match.

Webster leads the team with a 20-4 record and is the

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Lacrosse 101: For West Coast dummies

The Emerald breaks down the sport of lacrosse, recently added as a sport at Oregon

Lacrosse

Peter Hockaday
Sports Editor

When you read the story Tuesday that the Athletic Department was adding women's lacrosse in two seasons, you probably had the same reaction as most of your fellow West Coast students.

"Oh, that's nice. What's lacrosse?"
"It's kind of a mix of soccer, basketball and hockey, played in the air," said Chip Rogers, a representative of the United States Lacrosse National Committee.

Lacrosse bills itself as "the fastest game on two feet," and it is. Unless you're talking about the 100-meter dash in track.

But, seriously, lacrosse is a foreign entity to most of us. So without further ado, the Emerald proudly presents its "Official Guide to Women's Lacrosse," © 2003.

The basics

The main goal of lacrosse is to score goals — in particular, to score more goals than your opponent. Odd, isn't it? Each team fields 12 players, including a goalkeeper to guard a goal that is slightly taller than an ice hockey goal.

The players use long lacrosse sticks with "baskets" on the end, and the goalie has a larger basket than a field player. They can't pick up the small, hard ball with their hands, and they run down the field "cradling" the ball, slinging the ball in the net to score goals.

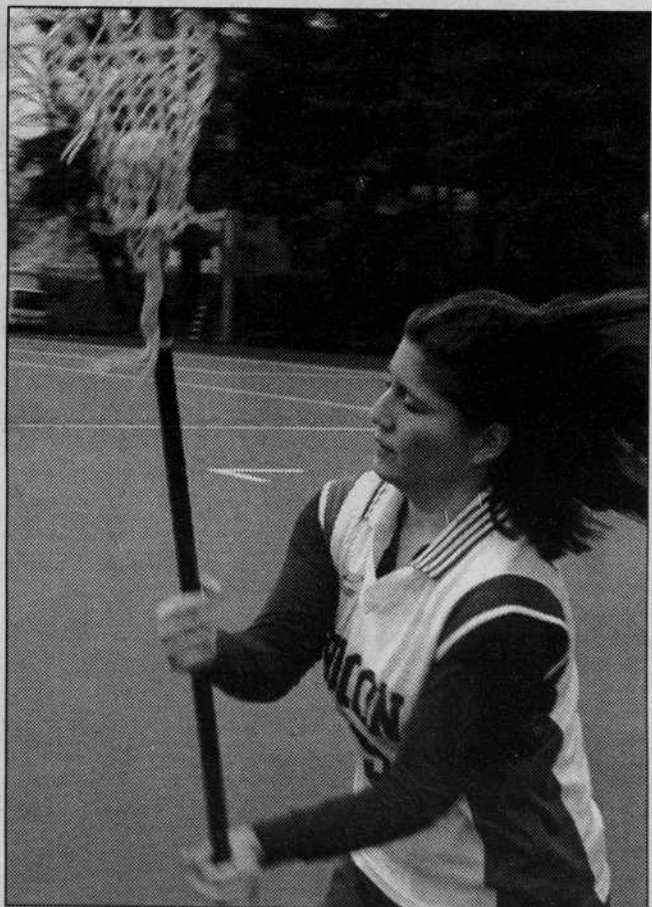
The rules

The lacrosse playing field is approximately 120 yards wide by 70 yards across, but there are no out-of-bounds lines on the field. The teams play two 30-minute halves and have one two-minute timeout per half. Overtime is two three-minute periods, followed by as many sudden death periods as needed.

Now, here's where it gets complicated. Like hockey, there is an "offensive zone" on each end of the field, with the restraining line 30 yards out from the goal. Only eight defensive players and seven attacking players can be in the zone at the same time, or offsides is called.

There is an eight-yard arc in front of the goal, in which a defender can only stand for three seconds unless she's directly guarding an offensive player. If a defender fouls an offensive player inside the arc, the offensive player gets a penalty shot from a nearby hashmark. A circular "crease" surrounds the goal where no player is permitted except the goalkeeper.

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Adam Amato Emerald

Players "cradle" the ball in their sticks in the sport of lacrosse.