

NCAA ponders impact of potential war

Wendell Barnhouse

Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

DALLAS — March Madness is one of sports' most well-known terms. However, a starkly different and genuine form of March madness could affect the NCAA Championships.

Numerous reports indicate a war with Iraq could start next month. The men's basketball tournament opens on March 18, and the women's tournament starts on March 22.

Should the war start before or during the tournament, the possible consequences are varied and mind-boggling. For the past few months, NCAA officials

have had numerous meetings to plan for as many situations as possible.

"We have talked through numerous reasonable and unreasonable scenarios," said Greg Shaheen, managing director of the Division I Men's Basketball Championship. "We're trying to do the best we can to be prepared for any eventuality."

The logistics of putting on both tournaments requires years of planning. Postponing and rescheduling any games would create a nightmarish tangle of problems.

The NCAA has existing procedures and plans that deal with de-

lays and rescheduling. So, what kind of event or catastrophe would cause the NCAA to alter its schedule? And if so, what would happen?

"That falls in the category of hypothetical," Shaheen said. "It would depend on the situation and how we think we need to react to it. With everything we're looking at, flexibility is the key."

Since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the government has designated certain events, such as the Super Bowl, as National Security Events. Such a designation brings federal law enforcement and intelli-

gence agencies to help with security. For National Security Events, the Secret Service is in charge of security measures and precautions.

CBS Sports president Sean Manus said if there are news developments worthy of coverage, the network might have to move its telecasts of men's games to its affiliated cable networks. CBS is owned by Viacom, which also owns cable networks MTV, VH1 and TNN.

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Sports briefs

Softball jumps into ESPN poll

After a 3-1 weekend at a tournament in Texas that moved them to 12-5 on the season, the Oregon softball squad debuted at No. 22 in the season's first ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Top 25 poll Tuesday.

The Ducks joined all seven other Pacific-10 Conference teams in the poll. UCLA (No. 1), Arizona (No. 4) and Washington (No. 5) are the highest-ranked conference squads.

Oregon is also currently ranked at No. 25 in the NFCA Top 25 poll.

One of the main reasons the Ducks are ranked is their record against ranked opponents this season. Oregon has toppled Florida State — ranked No. 15 in the USA Softball poll — No. 12 Georgia and No. 21 Michigan. The Ducks haven't lost to a ranked opponent yet.

— Peter Hockaday

Men's

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be during these games; I just want them to do it with class," Kent said. "We don't need to be disgracing or putting anybody down on the other team, disgracing ourselves. We don't need to do that, because this is a class community, and we don't want to lower ourselves to some of the other environments that I've been in around the country."

Last year, The Pit Crew started a wave of controversy by chanting "deadbeat dad" and other derogatory comments at Bibby, in reference to his strained relationship with his son, Mike Bibby of the NBA's Sacramento Kings. As the USC players left the court after the Oregon win, a fan taunted them with obscenities and jostled with assistant coaches. Bibby called the entire situation a "disgrace."

Kent, naturally, wants to avoid a similar situation this year.

"There are some things that we've faced on the road, environments that I've not felt comfortable in, that I didn't like either," Kent said. "I don't want us to be compared to those environments. I want us to have a great environment and do it in a first-class way."

If it's in the game...

Got a few extra Pit Crew T-shirts from years past? Bring 'em to the EMU Amphitheater on Thursday, because they're going to need 'em.

Local EA Sports representatives will be out at the amphitheater, filming students as they proclaim EA Sports' motto "If it's in the game ... it's in the game!" for next year's March Madness video game. Students selected for the shoot also have a chance to win \$100 from EA Sports.

The shoot will take place Thursday from noon to 3 p.m.

Ridnour redux

As Joseph answered questions in front of a media horde on Tuesday, Luke Ridnour calmly took free throws behind him. Then he missed one, and threw the ball at the backboard in frustration.

It was another free-throw miss that had Ridnour frustrated after Saturday's game. The junior guard missed a free throw with 1:31 left after connecting on 62-straight attempts. That number is the new conference and school record.

"So what?" said Ridnour, who didn't talk to the media Tuesday, after Saturday's game. "I'm trying to win games. (The streak) doesn't matter to me."

Bracket busted

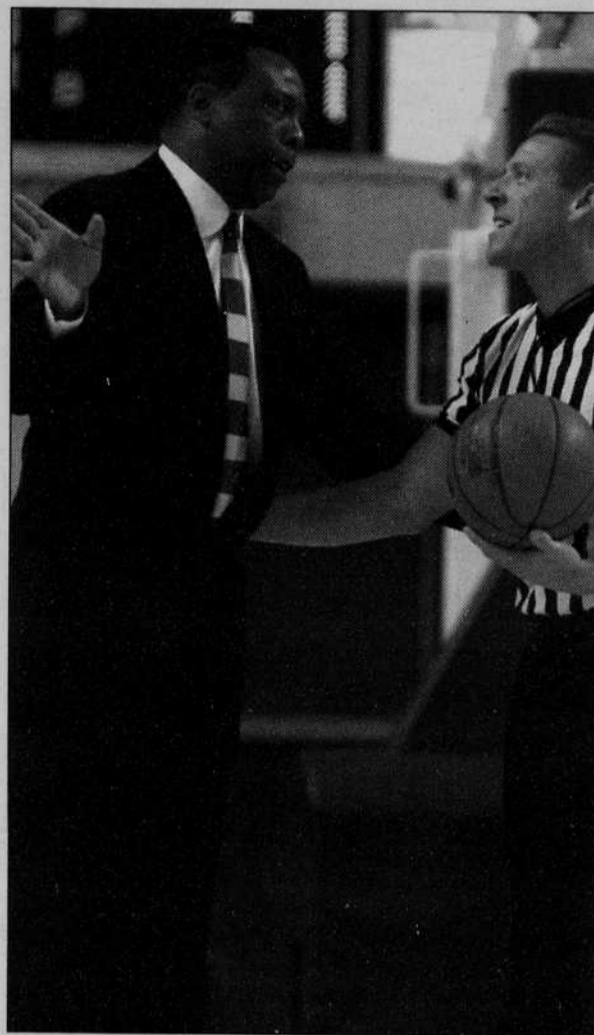
ESPN.com's Joe Lunardi didn't mince words as he moved Oregon down to a No. 8 seed in this week's edition of "Bracketology," which dares to answer the question, "If the season ended today, what would the NCAA tournament field look like?"

"You just knew the Ducks would lose a game in Washington somehow," Lunardi quipped in his Oregon team report. "A bad loss at home to one of the L.A. schools and this will be a 'bubble' team."

That's not what the Ducks want to hear. Lunardi has Oregon projected as a No. 8 seed in the Midwest region in Tampa, Fla., where the Ducks would play No. 9 Gonzaga and face a possible second-round matchup with No. 1-seed Florida.

Conventional wisdom says the Ducks need 20 wins to get to the NCAA Tournament, which means Oregon needs to at least split its last four games with USC, UCLA, Arizona State and Arizona.

Contact the sports editor at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com.



Adam Amato Emerald

Ernie Kent asked that the Pit Crew be respectful of USC head coach Henry Bibby and UCLA head coach Steve Lavin.

Jude

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shots, and I'll score 40 ... on Sega, in easy mode)...

Trendy: The Lukes should get tattoos on their face. Just for fun...

Did anybody else not notice that men's tennis stud Oded Teig (career victories) and women's track sensation Becky Holliday (pole vault) both set school records last week? That's what I thought...

Also in the oh-I-didn't-know-we-even-had-that-sport file, the softball team cracked the top-25 this week after more than two years of turmoil and futility. That should last for, say, 30 days, when the Ducks face their first Pac-10 opponent...

Food for thought: 10 of the Oregon men's basketball team's 18 wins are against teams with a losing record, plus three others vs. Florida A&M and Oregon State, who are a combined three games over .500 (shhh, don't tell the NCAA selection committee).

Contact the senior sports reporter at adamjude@dailyemerald.com.

Spring 2003 Classes

Business	English
BA 410	ENG 408
CRN: 30655	CRN: 31721
2:00 - 3:50 U	2:00 - 3:50 H
Biology	Journalism
BI 407	J 399
CRN: 30780	CRN: 32368
10:00 - 11:50 H	4:00 - 5:20 W
Chemistry	Physics
CH 408	PHYS 408
CRN: 30951	CRN: 33822
10:00 - 11:50 H	10:00 - 11:50 U
Exercise & Movement Science	All Majors
EMS 408	PPPM 410
CRN: 31625	CRN: 33871
10:00 - 11:50 H	10:00 - 11:50 U
Environmental Studies	Psychology
ENVS 407	PSY 410
CRN: 31785	CRN: 35216
10:00 - 11:50 F	2:00 - 3:50 M
	Sociology
	SOC 410
	CRN: 34219
	2:00 - 3:50 W

A GOOD MATCH

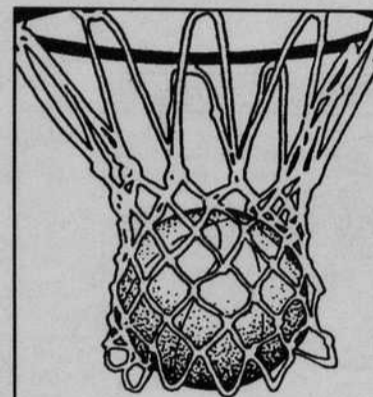


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