

Sports brief

Softball home opener postponed

No. 22 Oregon has to wait another month to play on its home field.

Thursday's doubleheader against Portland State was postponed be-

cause of weather conditions.

The softball team opens Pacific-10 Conference play Saturday in Corvallis. Oregon (16-6) faces No. 17 Oregon State (19-9) at 1 p.m. The Ducks and the Beavers are the two lowest-ranked Pac-10 schools in the top 25. All eight conference schools with a softball program are ranked

in the poll, including No. 1 UCLA.

The Ducks will open at Howe Field on Wednesday, April 9 in the rescheduled doubleheader against Portland State. The following weekend, Oregon hosts Washington and UCLA to open Pac-10 play at home.

—Mindi Rice

Pac-10

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second, extending its lead to as many as 12 points.

But UCLA somehow came back on the top team in the land. The Bruins cut the lead to six points with 9:03 left in the game on a Dijon Thompson dunk and free throw. Four minutes later, Thompson hit a three-pointer with 5:49 left to cut the lead to three.

The teams traded baskets until the end. Arizona's Salim Stoudamire hit two free throws with 11.1 seconds left to put the Wildcats ahead by three. That's when Young hit his insane jumper to send the game into overtime. In the extra session, Arizona's Jason Gardner missed four three-pointers, setting the tone for a lackluster Wildcat performance, and the Bruins capitalized for the win.

UCLA advances to face Oregon in today's semifinal, set to tip off at 6:15 p.m.

USC topples Stanford

Desmon Farmer was upset he didn't make the All-Pac-10 Team. USC saw two upsets earlier in the day.

So, naturally, USC went out and upset Stanford, 79-74.

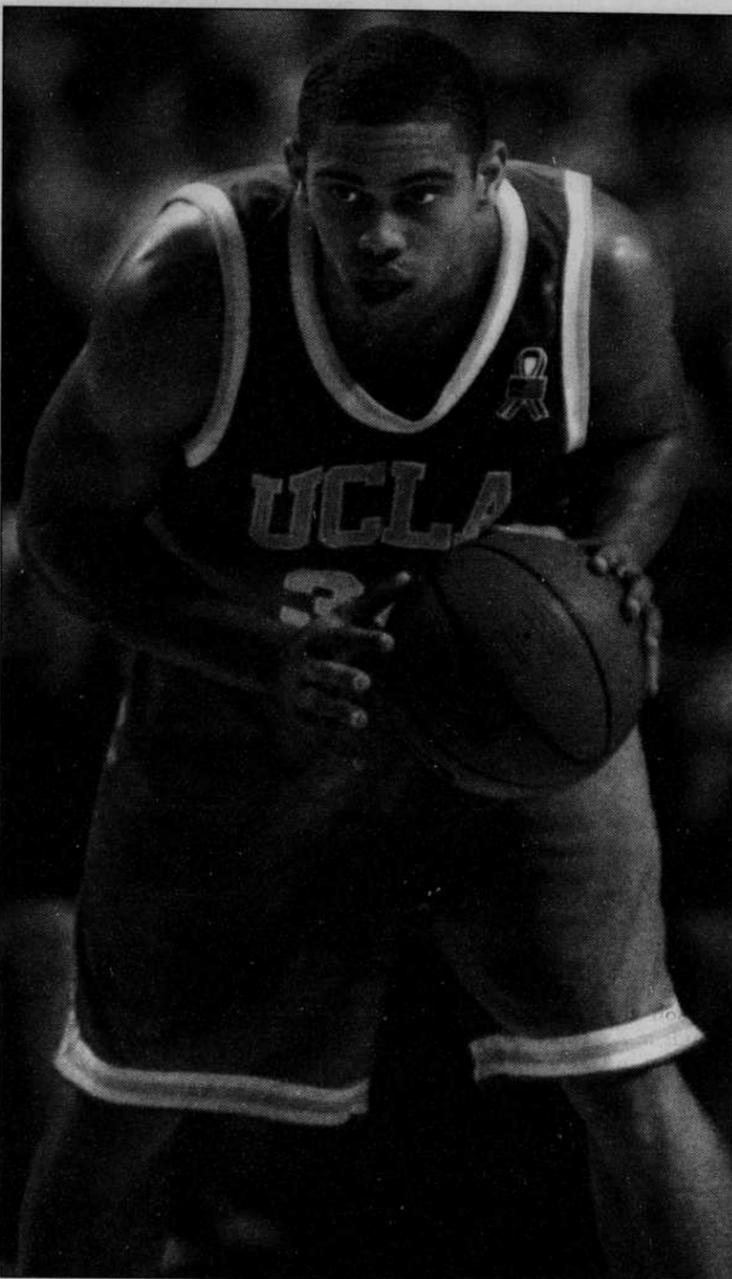
The Trojans, behind Farmer's 24 points, jumped out to a lead midway through the first half and never relinquished it en route to the third-straight upset of the Pac-10 Tournament's opening day.

"I feel bad (Farmer) didn't make All Pac-10," USC coach Henry Bibby said. "But he played great tonight."

The biggest shot of the night came from Rory O'Neil, who hit a three-pointer with 1:13 left to make the score 77-74 in favor of USC.

In the closing seconds, Stanford failed to capitalize on several opportunities to pull even or overtake USC. With less than 30 seconds left, Stanford's Josh Childress missed a three-pointer, Nick Robinson missed the putback and USC's Errick Craven was fouled. But he missed his third and fourth free throws in a row to give Stanford hope. On the other end, Julius Barnes missed a three-pointer and USC went on to win.

No seed lower than a No. 2 has ever won the Pac-10 Tournament.



Mark McCambridge Emerald

Ray Young hit a big three at the end of regulation to send UCLA-UA to overtime.

But with No. 1 Arizona and No. 2 Stanford now knocked out, that will happen this year.

In Thursday's nightcap, No. 3 California became the only top seed to survive, as the Bears blew out Oregon State, 69-46.

The first game of today's action tips off at 6:15 p.m., while the second game will tip off at 8:45 p.m., or half an hour after the first game ends. Both games will be broadcast on Fox Sports Net.

Contact the sports editor at peterhockaday@dailymerald.com.

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has posted a mark of 14-1 3/4, an improvement from her mark at last year's championship of 13-7 3/4.

McEwen trails her teammate by half an inch at 14-1 1/4. Riley will join the squad in her NCAA debut after

scoring a personal best of 13-3 1/2 in last weekend's provisional qualifier.

"I expected to qualify, but it's still really exciting to find out for sure," Riley said. "I've been over 13 feet much more in practice this year compared to last year, so I knew it was coming, and the good thing is that there's still more there."

In 2002, the men posted a best-ever ninth-place team finish whereas the women took 46th overall. Parker, Holliday and McEwen all return a year stronger, faster and higher to lead Oregon to the top.

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailymerald.com.

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