

## SPORTS

Best bet  
NCAA Championship:  
Kansas vs. Syracuse  
6 p.m., CBS

Monday, April 7, 2003

## Softball snaps losing streak with upset

Oregon splits its Pac-10 road trip over the weekend with a win over Stanford and two losses to California

## Softball

Mindi Rice  
Sports Reporter

The Ducks snapped their three-game losing streak with a win Friday, tying their Pacific-10 Conference win

total from the 2002 season.

No. 21 Oregon (18-11 overall, 2-5 Pac-10) won two conference games after only five Pac-10 battles for the first time since 1999, when the Ducks were 3-2 after five Pac-10 games.

Oregon had lost three straight games for the first time this season going into Friday's matchup against No. 12 Stanford. The Ducks stretched a two-hour and 50-minute game into a 10 inning, 3-2 win against the Cardinal.

Stanford (28-14, 2-4) scored first with one run in the first inning, but

Oregon junior catcher Jenn Poore hit a two-run home run — her first of the season — to left field in the top of the second inning.

Stanford came back to tie in the bottom of the second with a solo home run. Oregon pitchers Amy Harris, a freshman, and senior Andrea Vidlund held Stanford scoreless over the next eight innings, combining for eight strikeouts during the game.

In the top of the 10th, senior first baseman Alyssa Laux hit a two-out single, scoring Poore for the win-

ning run. Vidlund closed the game, earning the win.

"This was an outstanding win for us today," head coach Kathy Arendsen said Friday. "Our defense was excellent, our pitching was tremendous and we were able to get key hits when we needed them. I'm extremely pleased with how we played today."

The win marked the team's second victory in a row at Stanford. The Ducks ended their 2002 season with a 4-0 win against the Cardinal.

Saturday did not hold the same fate

as Friday for Oregon, as the Ducks were held scoreless by a top-10 team for the second time in one week.

No. 7 California (32-9, 4-2) gave up only two hits to Oregon in the Bears' 4-0 win. Oregon had its sixth errorless game of the season, but the Bears scored two runs in the third and added two more in the fifth to end the Ducks' hopes for consecutive wins.

"I thought we came out strong again defensively and pitched well again," Arendsen said Saturday. "We

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## Plugging the gaps

A number of position battles started Saturday at the beginning of spring practices, most notably at quarterback

## Spring football

Hank Hager  
Sports Reporter

Oregon football head coach Mike Bellotti admitted after the team's spring practice Saturday — the first of the year — that "we're not in great shape yet."

"The first drill where we had to move around, a couple of guys' tongues were hanging out," Bellotti said. "That's to be expected and that's why we do spring ball."

Four months after a devastating 38-17 loss to Wake Forest in the Seattle Bowl, the Ducks were back on the field in the first of 15 spring practices allowed by the NCAA. There were no pads for this day as the NCAA also prohibits teams from practicing in anything but helmets on the first day.

That will change, however, in upcoming days as the Ducks will don shoulder pads today and full pads Tuesday.

"You always fight the battle, when you're in helmets only, of pushing the kids to go as fast as they possibly can without risking injury," Bellotti said.

The practice saw inclement weather with intermittent rain

throughout most of the day. That mostly affected the team's quarterbacks, namely Jason Fife and Kellen Clemens, who are both expected to fight for the starting position, and received a majority of snaps Saturday.

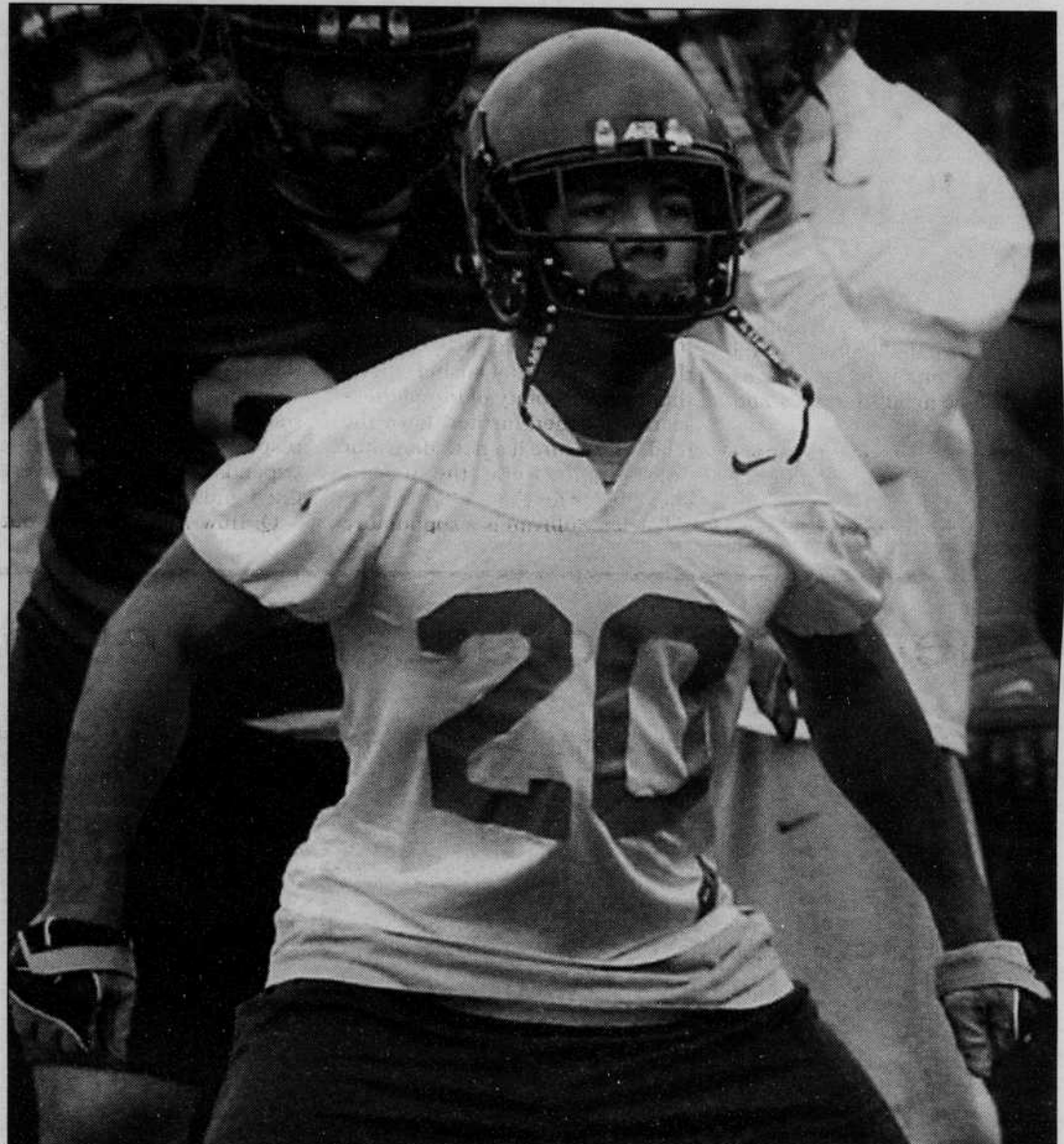
Bellotti said he liked how both threw the ball, especially in the face of swirling winds which wreaked havoc with passes at times. Both players were just ready to get back on the field after six losses in seven games toward the end of last season.

"It was great," Clemens said. "It rained on us a little bit; typical Eugene weather. The team is definitely excited to come out here, both offense and defense. We're ready to go and get the ball rolling. We've been waiting a long time with a bad taste in our mouth from the Seattle Bowl."

"(The Seattle Bowl) lit a fire under our ass in the offseason, so to speak," Fife said.

Johnny DuRocher, a 6-foot-4-inch quarterback from Graham, Wash., and one of five early newcomers to the Ducks after finishing high school early, also got his first taste of action.

"He threw the ball pretty well," Clemens said. "He's picking up really fast. There's a lot of stuff in this offense to learn. I thought he did really well. I was really impressed for his first day."

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Danielle Hickey Emerald

Kenny Washington is one of several tailbacks competing for Onterio Smith's old job as Oregon's starter.

## Holliday vaults to win Saturday at Texas Relays



Geoff Thurner Oregon Media Services

Becky Holliday won the Texas Relays pole vault on Saturday in Austin, Texas.

The senior duplicates her Texas pole-vaulting title from a year ago in final action at the four-day meet

## Women's track and field

Jesse Thomas  
Sports Reporter

Senior Becky Holliday had her poles with her Saturday, luckily for her.

Holliday missed the Oregon Preview two weeks ago because of cargo shipping problems that delayed her poles and her outdoor debut.

And without missing a step, she vaulted her way to the top of the podium with her second-straight pole vault crown at the Texas Relays.

Holliday led the women's track team in Saturday's final day, along with four other Ducks who reeled in top-10 finishes in the field events.

In an all-star field that contained five All-Americans, Holliday was one of just two to clear the

opening height of 12 feet, 1 1/2 inches.

Holliday went on to easily pass 13-1 1/2 while taking all three attempts to clear 13-5 1/4, the height that won her the competition. She opted to pass at 13-9 1/4 and nearly cleared 14-1 1/4 on her final try but knocked the bar off with her body on the way down.

"My first jump was probably my best, and after that I felt a little tired, probably because we've been training hard," Holliday said. "The conditions made it more challenging, but I also didn't feel at top physical condition, so considering the results, I'm happy with it as an outdoor opener."

Also in the vault, junior Kirsten Riley finished eighth after passing 12-1 1/2 in her only clearance of the day. Senior Niki McEwen no-heighted after passing up the first two attempts and missing three times at 13-1 1/2.

In the throws, senior Mary Etter broke through at the 76th edition of the Texas Relays. In Saturday's shot put, Etter needed only one of her six

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