

SPORTS

Best bet
NBA: Sacramento at L.A. Lakers
7 p.m., TNT

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Softball takes two from Portland State



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Andrea Vidlund (8) finished Wednesday's doubleheader with two home runs. She went 4-for-6 and also notched a win as a pitcher.

Led by senior Andrea Vidlund, Oregon sweeps a doubleheader in its first home games of 2003

Softball

Mindi Rice
Sports Reporter

Just like it opened and shut the door on Portland State, Oregon opened and shut the day with offense.

The Ducks scored five runs in the bottom of the first inning on their way to a 7-2 win in the first game of Wednesday's doubleheader.

In the second game, No. 20 Oregon loaded the bases in the eighth inning and senior outfielder Amber Hutchison scored the winning run in the Ducks' 3-2 win.

"It was great to be home and have our

offense shine today," head coach Kathy Arendsen said. "This is a great way to open our home season and I'm very happy with how we played."

The first game began with solid defense as the Vikings hit into a line-drive out and a groundout. Freshman pitcher Amy Harris struck out the third batter to close the inning.

With one out in the bottom of the first, sophomore second baseman Erin Goodell and freshman outfielder Beth Boskovich earned walks. Sophomore third baseman Ashley Richards followed with a single to score Goodell.

Senior Andrea Vidlund singled to center field, loading the bases for senior first baseman Alyssa Laux. Laux hit a sacrifice fly to score Boskovich.

With two outs and runners still on first and second, junior catcher Jenn Poore hit a home run deep over the left field fence to

put Oregon (20-11 overall, 2-5 Pacific-10 Conference) ahead 5-0. Sophomore Mari Lyn Petrick struck out to end the inning.

Portland State (11-17 overall, 3-1 Pacific Coast Softball Conference) answered with one run in the top of the second on a double by Annie Peccia.

In the bottom of the third, the Ducks added two insurance runs on a home run. Richards singled to left and Vidlund hit her third home run of the season — a shot to left field — to close the scoring for Oregon.

The Vikings answered in the top of the fourth when Peccia drove in a run with her second double of the day.

Harris gave up two runs — one earned — and struck out three batters in four innings.

Sophomore Lindsey Kontra gave up one hit in the last three innings. She also struck out three batters.

Turn to **Softball**, page 10

Rhythmic

Senior triple jumper Foluso Akinradewo is leaping to success for the Duck men, and it's been simply a matter of finding his beat

Track and field

Peter Hockaday
Sports Editor

Fittingly, Foluso Akinradewo carries around a CD player and a pair of those fat headphones. You know the type. The ear-swallowing headphones. The ones that feel like a stereo on your head.

See, Akinradewo competes in the triple jump for the Oregon men's track and field squad. And the triple jump, it seems, is all about rhythm.

"It's kind of like dancing," Akinradewo said. "If you don't have coordination and rhythm, you can't triple jump. Some people can't control their speed in the triple jump, and then you can't do it. You have to have that rhythm, you have to control that speed."

Akinradewo's got the beat. That's partly why the senior from Fresno, Calif., was able to finish second last season in the triple jump at the Pac-10 Championships. Second only to USC's Julien Kapek, who finished third at the national meet.

But the key number in that sentence, in relation to Akinradewo, is "second." This year, Akinradewo's try-

ing to dance all the way to the top.

"I've been making steady progress, but I'm hoping I can just blow up this year," Akinradewo said. "I was happy with second place in Pac-10s, but I didn't get to nationals, so that's what I need to do, start chasing some national marks."

To get what he wants, he will have to improve on his personal best of 50 feet, 10 3/4 inches. Sure, Akinradewo is good enough to sit 10th all-time on the Ore-

gon list, but Kapek jumped 55-3 at Pac-10s last year, and with the top Trojan back this season, Akinradewo knows he needs to get better.

Sort of like he's gotten better every season since stepping on the Oregon campus.

Akinradewo jumped right into — pun intended — his Duck career four years ago. He had a successful start to his first season, jumping 50 feet in winter indoor action and winning four competitions during the outdoor season. But the pressures of big-time college track eventually caught up with him, and he went flat like a day-old soda at the end of the year.

Turn to **Track**, page 12

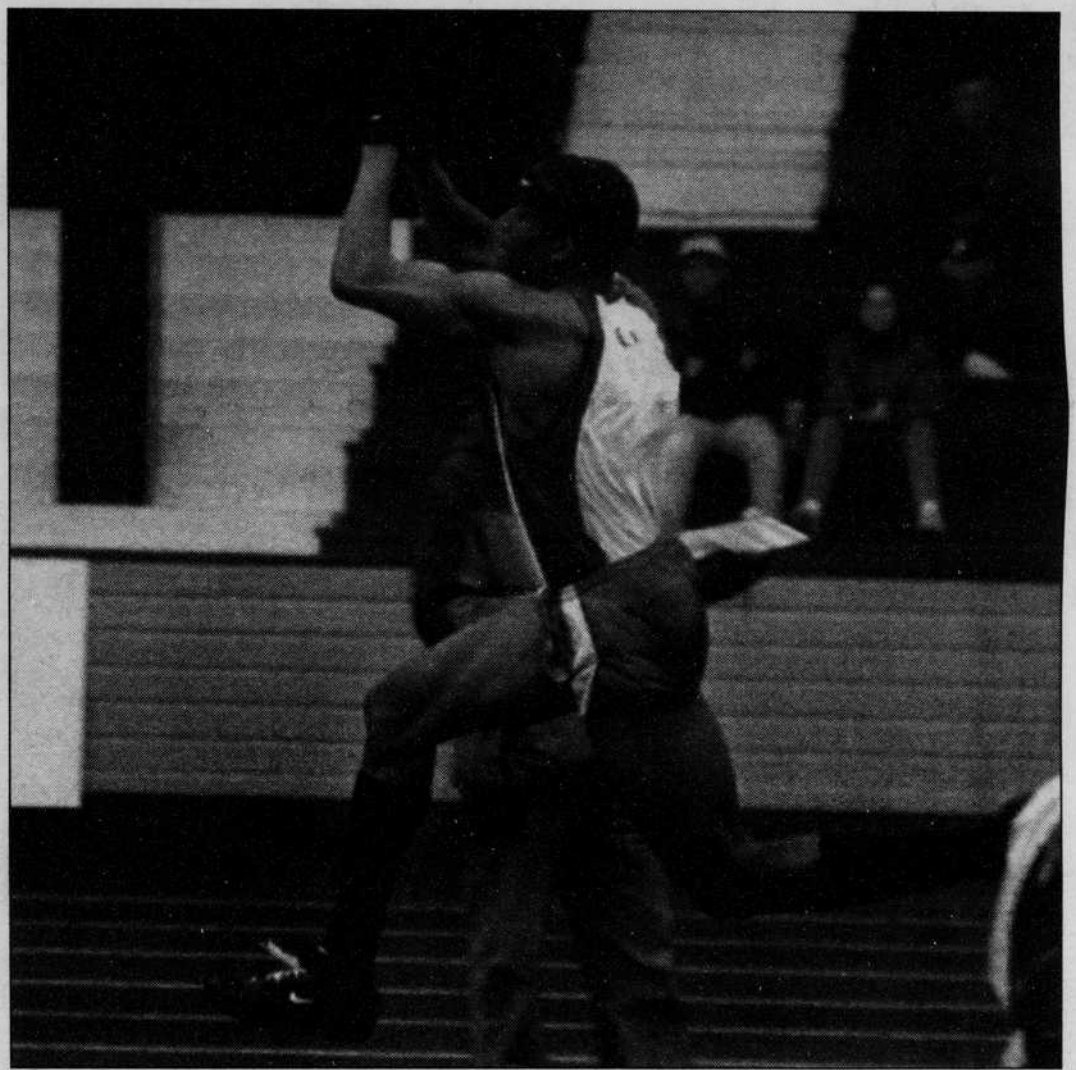
On tap

What: Pepsi Team Invite

Who: Oregon vs. Minnesota, Colorado and Washington

When: Saturday, starting at noon

Where: Hayward Field



Emerald

Foluso Akinradewo said the triple jump is as technical as any track event, as it requires strength and timing.

Masters contenders will cringe like bunnies in front of Tiger

At 10:44 a.m. today, Tiger Woods will try to rewrite history — again.

His journey begins at the par 4,435-yard hole 1 at Augusta National, where he will state his case to 92 competitors and the world to become the first ever to win three straight times at The Masters.

In 2001, Woods shot nothing worse than par down the stretch. It was good enough for his first of the possible trifecta.



Jesse Thomas
Go the distance

Last year's lead on the back nine showed Woods' poise to win his second straight as some of the world's best crumbled.

No player has ever been able to threepate at The Masters. Only Jack Nicklaus in 1965-66 and Nick Faldo in 1989-90 remotely had a chance.

In Nicklaus' third attempt, he shot a second-round 79 and missed the cut by just one stroke. The Golden Bear didn't miss another cut at The Masters for 27 years.

Faldo made the cut in his third attempt in 1991. Although he headed into the weekend nine strokes off the lead, he was only able to finish 12th, just five strokes behind Ian Woosnam.

Now, with the 76th Masters beginning, the question is not whether

Woods can win, but whether there is anyone who can stop him.

The problem surrounding the rest of the golf world is that no one can stop Tiger. All you have is a group of five individuals who, on their best day, may have a chance to make a run or contest for second place.

Who is this group of five individuals that make up The Masters "B"-squad, might you ask? Allow me to introduce them.

Ernie Els has never won at Augusta, although he finished in the runner-up position in 2000. Els is one of the many players whose greatness is shadowed by the aura of Tiger Woods, and many people forget that in the first two months of 2003, Els won four times.

When Els finished runner-up in 2000, he fell two strokes shy of Vijay Singh. Singh wore the green jacket for the first and only time of his career, although now he is recovering from a rib injury. He is a long shot, but he has tasted victory before and knows the feeling.

At age 39, Davis Love III is running out of time in his prime, or at least some would think that. Love just shot a final round 64 at the Players Championship two weeks ago. If he can use his experience to guide him and with deadly putting, he could have a shot.

Then there is Retief Goosen, the no-name of the group. Not much to say except he was runner up last year after holding a tie for the lead with Tiger after 54 holes. One can

only hope he will learn from his experiences after falling three strokes off the lead in the final round.

Last but definitely not least is Phil Mickelson. Talk about someone who is overdue. Mickelson will be competing in his 43rd major and so far, not a single victory. He does have 21 PGA Tour victories and he is the one who always seems to finish second or third behind Tiger.

And if you factor in the chance of rain almost every day, which makes the course play much longer, long hitters like Tiger get an edge. As if he really needed one.

So now we must think of not if Tiger will win, but how will he win?

Could it be a four-stroke victory

Turn to **Thomas**, page 10