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# SPORTS

Online exclusive  
Golf and tennis are in action  
this weekend. Read about it at  
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## Huskies, Bruins open UO home Pac-10 season

Oregon hosts Washington and UCLA for three games at Howe Field, where the Ducks are 2-1-1 against the two schools in the last five seasons

### Softball

Mindi Rice  
Sports Reporter

The Ducks face their most difficult weekend of the season as No. 3 Washington and No. 2 UCLA open No. 20 Oregon's home conference season.

The Ducks battle the Huskies at 2 p.m. today. UCLA and Oregon play at 2 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday.

"These are big games," head coach Kathy Arendsen said. "Both are well-rounded teams and excellent in every area."

Both teams lost to No. 1 Arizona over the weekend — Washington, 3-0, and UCLA, 3-0 and 5-1.

The Huskies (34-5-1 overall, 3-3 Pacific-10 Conference) rebounded, taking two games from No. 12 Arizona State — 2-1 and 1-0 — after losing their home opener. The wins were low-scoring for normally offense-heavy Washington.

Washington was scheduled to play a doubleheader at Portland State on Thursday, but the games were canceled because of rain.

UCLA and Washington have dominated the Ducks over the past four years. The two schools have a combined record of 24-2 against Oregon from 1999 to 2002.

The Bruins (32-4, 4-2) took a win from Arizona State — a 6-0 shutout on Friday — before losing to the Wildcats.

Three UCLA players are in the running for the Amateur Softball Association's 2003 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year. Senior Natasha Watley and junior Keira Goerl were included in the 25 finalists for the 2002 award. Senior Tairia Mims is a finalist for the first time.

The three Bruins are joined by Husky sophomore Kristen Rivera on the finalist list. The award will be announced May 21.

Oregon (20-11, 2-5) hosted a doubleheader against Portland State on Wednesday, sweeping the Vikings, 7-2 and 3-2.

The Ducks' offense came out in the sun during the first game, as Oregon posted five runs in the bottom of the first inning.

Sophomore Ashley Richards drove in sophomore Erin Goodell with a single for the first run. Two batters later, senior Alyssa Laux hit a sacrifice fly to score freshman Beth Boskovich.

Junior Jenn Poore followed with her third home run of the Turn to **Softball**, page 6

## Ducks set for scrimmage

The Oregon secondary and wide receivers are ready to duke it out at the first scheduled scrimmage Saturday

### Spring football

Hank Hager  
Sports Reporter

The scene of an opposing player sneaking past the Oregon secondary was a familiar one last season.

So far, after an almost week-long schedule of spring practices for the Ducks, that scene has not changed much. But the group will have an opportunity Saturday to make amends when Oregon holds its first scheduled scrimmage.

"So far, the offense has been having its way with us, but I think we're going to be all right," Keith Lewis said. "I'm definitely looking forward to Saturday's scrimmage. It's another chance to go out and play football."

Head coach Mike Bellotti said the scrimmage is expected to last anywhere from 45 to 60 plays and won't be a major portion of Saturday's practice.

Still, he is looking for young players to step up and last year's backups to play for a starting spot.

"What I want to see is that backup last year that may be a starter this year, the guy that didn't play last year that's going to be a backup, or the guy called on to really step in and play at certain times," he said. "See how they handle the opportunities that they get."

The secondary, much maligned last year during Oregon's 7-6 season, will step into the spotlight at the scrimmage. With Lewis returning at a safety spot and Steven Moore at cornerback, the Ducks will have senior leadership in the defensive backfield.

But how that translates to the field is still to be seen, especially against their teammates. Saturday, the Duck receiving core — the secondary's primary opponents — will lack Samie Parker's big-play capabilities when he runs at the Pepsi Team Invitational at Hayward Field.

With Parker out, the Ducks will trot out a young group of receivers. Juniors Keith Allen and Kellen Taylor are expected to step up, as is sophomore Demetrius Williams.

"We looked pretty good for the first day in pads," Taylor said regarding Oregon's practice Tuesday.



Danielle Hickey Emerald

Stevie Moore (4), Keith Lewis and the secondary will be a focus at the scrimmage.

Turn to **Football**, page 8

## Track teams ready for team-based Pepsi Invitational

MEN: Duck fans get their first glance at Jordan Kent and Samie Parker in this weekend's meet

### Men's track and field

Peter Hockaday  
Sports Editor

Take an average dual meet, add a little corporate sponsorship, throw in two extra top-flight track teams and — voilà! — you have the recipe for a big-time track meet.

What was last year's Washington Dual is now the Pepsi Team Invitational, and for the Oregon men's track and field squad, the individual ingredients will be key Saturday against Minnesota, Colorado and Washington. Saturday's first event is scheduled for noon at Hayward Field, while the first track event is scheduled for 2:40 p.m.

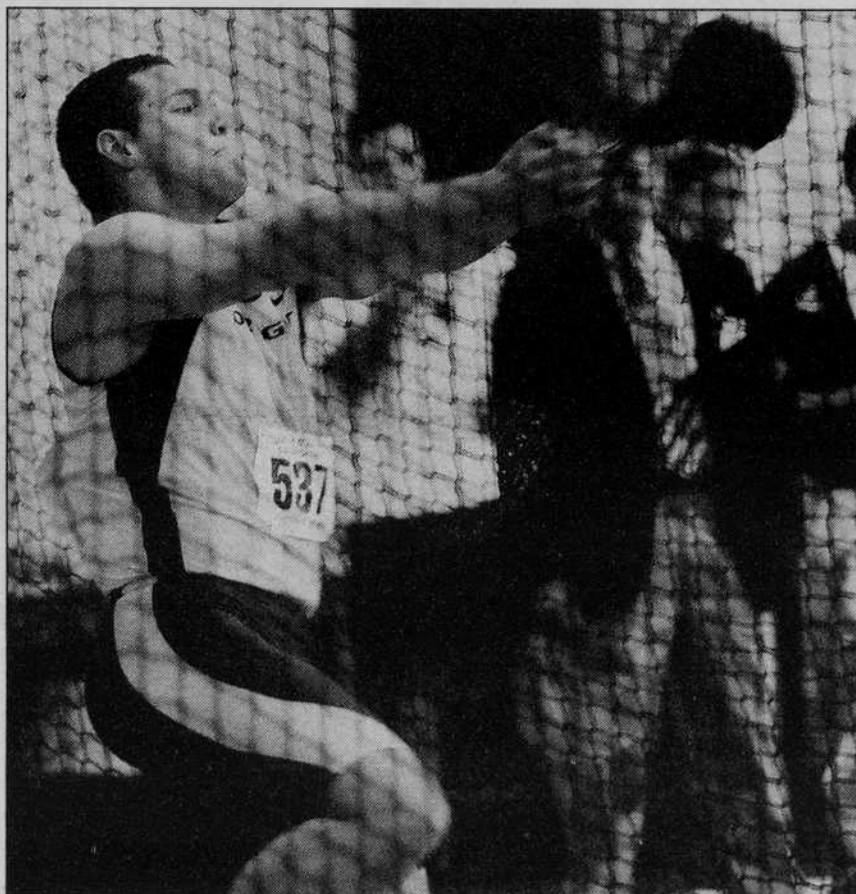
With a pinch of Jordan Kent, a heaping of John Stiegeler, a tablespoon of Adam Kriz and a smidgen of Samie Parker, Oregon head coach (and head chef?) Martin Smith is trying to brew a Pacific-10 Conference champion in Eugene. Saturday's meet is the first outdoor chance the Ducks will get to score as a team, like they will at the Pac-10s and NCAA Championships.

"One of the things we're looking for from the team this weekend is being energized about the home meet and the head-on competition," Smith said. "How we handle that will give us a sense of where we're at right now."

The athletes also see Saturday's meet as a chance to solidify as a team and send a message to the rest of the conference.

"We want to show the Pac-10 what we're made of this year," triple jumper Derek Strubel said. "We return a lot of points; we want to win the whole thing. We want to have fun

Turn to **Men's**, page 6



Geoff Thumer Oregon Media Services

The men will be led by Adam Kriz and other stars this weekend at Hayward Field.

WOMEN: Oregon will face steep head-to-head battle this weekend as Colorado, Minnesota and Washington come to town

### Women's track and field

Jesse Thomas  
Sports Reporter

Hayward Field, the site of nine NCAA Championships and three Olympic Trials, will again host a list of top-caliber athletes from around the country Saturday in the Pepsi Team Invitational.

In the 14th edition of the invitational, but first since 1999, the Oregon women's track team will compete in team scoring as it goes head to head with Colorado, Minnesota and Washington.

"This is a chance for the team to do something that's inherently important," Oregon head coach Tom Heinonen said. "All you've got to do is add points and it just changes everything completely from 'I'm doing it for me' to 'I'm doing it for the team.'"

In the last edition of the Pepsi Invitational in 1999, Nebraska took home both the men's and women's crowns, followed by the Huskies. Oregon finished in third.

Four years later, Heinonen will be taken back in history, as his alma mater

Turn to **Women's**, page 8