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How Cooley is that new arena? It's super Cooley

North Carolina has its Dean Dome, named after legendary hoops coach Dean Smith.

Let's give Oregon The Luke Dome.

So the dream of a new basketball arena became a reality Thursday. But with all the shuffling among focus groups, site choices and traffic concerns, the new arena committee forgot about naming rights. We know now that the old McArthur Court is sticking around until it crumbles from age (my only regret upon graduation is that I'll never be able to play intramural floor hockey on the hallowed floor of The Pit), and two Mac Courts would seem sillier than having a Duck as a mascot. So what to call the new arena?



Peter Hockaday
Two minutes for crosschecking

Phil, I love you like you were my own uncle, but let's not call the new place Nike Arena. And even if we raze Williams Bakery to build the new arena, let's not name it after a local business like Williams Pavilion or Romania Center.

Here's the plan: Let's use the naming rights as a mafia-like bribe. Tell Luke and Luke if they stay, we name the new place The Luke Dome. If they go to the NBA, fugheddaboutit. We name the new place after someone who *did* stay, like Freddie Jones Place. Or better yet, we name it for someone who stayed *and* did well in academics to, you know, send the message to the nation that we're an academics-oriented school.

Ladies and gents, welcome to The Ben Lindquist Events Center! Otherwise known as BLEC, as in, "Going to the blech for the game?" Stay in school, kiddies! It's the Lindquist way!

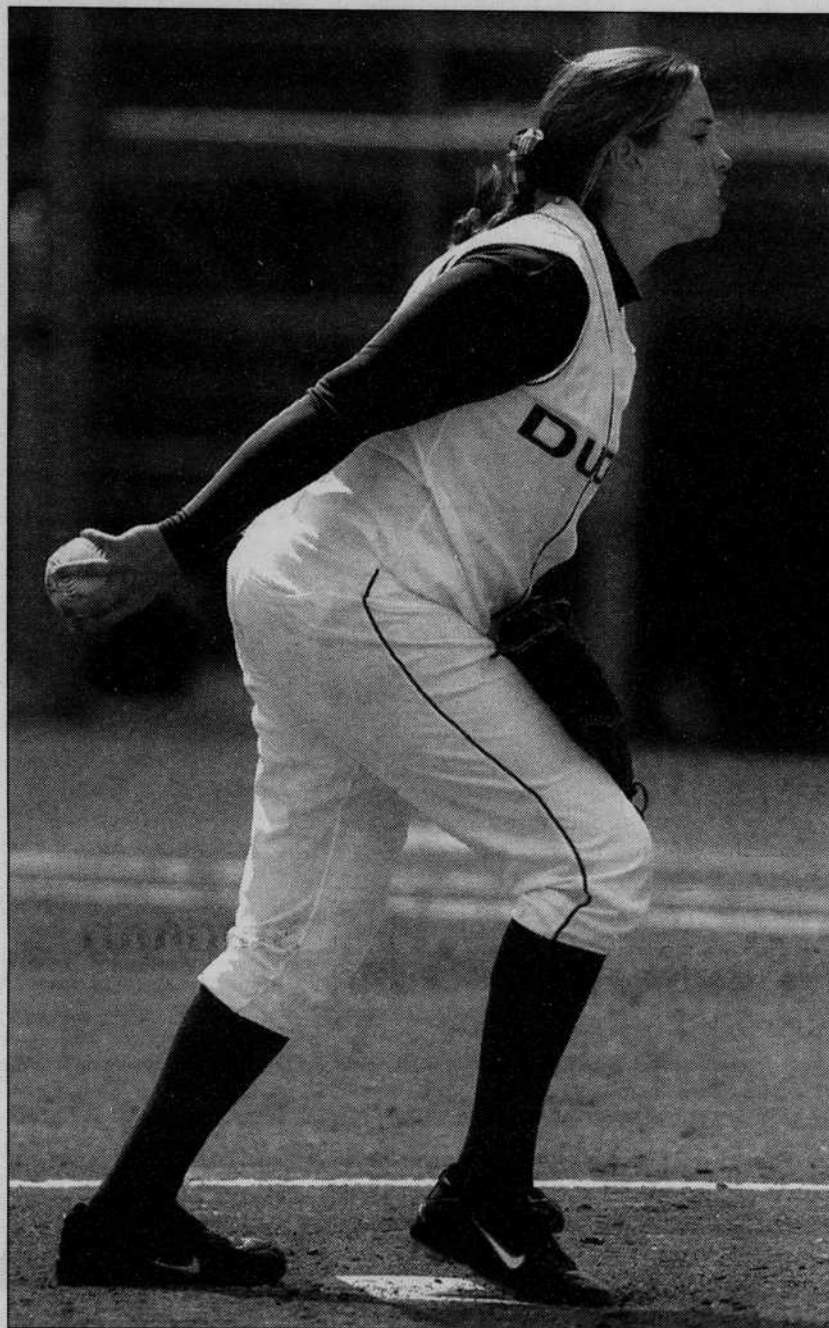
Of course, if we don't go corporate, we'll probably end up naming the building after some old basketball player who nobody's heard of. So why not make it a cool player like Larry Cooley (letterman from 1964-65). What recruit wouldn't want to play in the brand-new Cooley Center? Cool! Or Chet Noe (letterman from 1951-53). I can hear the chants now as opposing players take their free throws: "Noe way in the Noe Dome! Noe way Noe how!" Or we could have a suitable moniker to replace "The Pit" by naming the new arena after Greg Trapp (letterman from 1984-85). Welcome... to The Trapp!

Let's not make the unfortunate mistake made by the folks at Ohio State, who built a new basketball arena in 1998 and named it Value City Arena. So are we going to a basketball game or going bargain hunting? And let's certainly avoid following the footsteps of our Pacific-10 Conference foes, the Washington Huskies. When they remodeled Hec Edmundson Pavilion in 2000, the Huskies named the new court Bank of America Arena. So can I use my Wells Fargo check card there? Do ATMs appear out of nowhere during games, like in the commercials?

Seriously, a new arena is overdue like most of my library books, so it's good to see the Athletic Department take action. A good name should be at the top of the

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Pitcher perfect



Mark McCambridge Emerald

Amy Harris won three state titles at North Eugene before joining the Duck squad this year.

Freshman pitcher Amy Harris is making an early impact as she leads the No. 20 Ducks' pitching squad with her low ERA and high number of strikeouts

Softball

Mindi Rice

Sports Reporter

Jealousy isn't supposed to get you far in life.

For Amy Harris, jealousy started her pitching career — and her pitching is how she is making a name for herself.

"One day — we lived out in Veneta — and Jennie Cook, who pitched for the Ducks, her mom was holding pitching lessons in the Elmira gym," Harris said.

"So my sister for some reason got started up in that. I was kind of jealous, and I thought it would be fun, so I went one day and just got started. Just one day — one random weekend — I went with her to pitching lessons, and I realized that's what I wanted to do."

The freshman from Eugene has already made a place for herself on the Oregon squad — pitching 48 percent of Oregon's innings with a 1.20 ERA — after four stellar years at North Eugene High School.

As a Highlander, Harris led her squad to three state 4A Championship games — winning as a sophomore in 2000 — and had a career ERA of 0.31.

"There's a lot less stress in high school," Harris said. "We had team barbecues all the time and just kind of goofed around a lot."

North Eugene's championship season in 2000 was the last that Harris and her sister, Jennifer Harris, played together. Jennifer Harris, now a junior at Oregon Institute of Technology, is also a pitcher. The two were teammates on three different teams — when they played 10-and-under, for a few years in summer ball as well as two years at North Eugene.

"My sister's the reason that I pitch," Amy Harris said, referring to the weekend in the Elmira gym. "I miss my sister a lot. It was probably one of my best memories when we played together. It's real fun having her on the team."

Harris has played softball "ever since I could," and pitched since the third grade — when she learned how to pitch from Cook's mom.

Now at Oregon, Harris leads a pitching staff that is perhaps the strongest part of the Ducks' squad.

Her statistics after 26 appearances — including nine appearances against national-powerhouse Pacific-10

On tap

What: Softball vs. Oregon State

When: Today and Saturday, 2 p.m.

Where: Howe Field

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Track finally begins run-around at Mt. SAC

After some confusion, the track teams will begin competition today at the Pomona-Pitzer and Mt. San Antonio College meets

Track and field

Jesse Thomas

Sports Reporter

The Mt. San Antonio College Relays, one of the biggest regular-season meets of 2003, began Thursday in Walnut, Calif. But the Oregon men's and women's track team did not begin with it.

Four of the Duck women and two men were scheduled to compete in the field events with one event on the oval. Through confusion on an itinerary sent out earlier this week, seniors Amanda Brown, Georgette Moyle, Mary Etter and junior Jill Hoxmeier did not compete Thursday.

Rather, some of the Ducks will compete at Mt. SAC and the Pomona Pitzer Invitational, which begins today at Robert Strehle Track in Claremont, Calif.

Etter and Hoxmeier will compete in the

throwing events along with a group of other Ducks at Pomona. Other Oregon athletes will be competing at Mt. SAC.

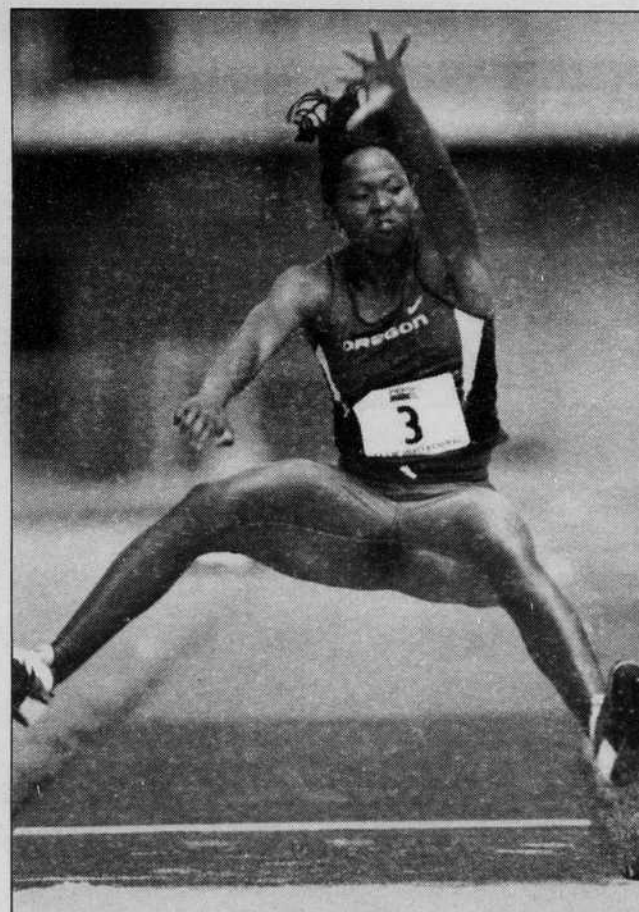
Etter, an All-American, improved her season best by nearly seven feet at last weekend's Pepsi Team Invitational to 176 feet in the discus. Hoxmeier has a season best of 143 feet thus far but is looking to change that today.

"I'm hoping to hit a Pac-10 and regional qualifying mark," Hoxmeier said. "It's going to be nice to finally have some warm weather and not be cold and wet."

The Aloha native will have to throw 150 feet for a regional mark and 150-11 to qualify for the conference meet.

Senior Jordan Sauvage will join the other two Ducks in the hammer event. Sauvage owns Oregon's best mark in the hammer at 191-4, about 20 feet more than the regional and Pac-10 qualifying marks.

Sophomore Hannah Moore will be Oregon's only competitor at Pomona in today's pole vault event and has a season best of 12 feet. Senior Carrie Zografos and junior Erinn Gulbrandsen will round out the women's competition in the 1,500

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Adam Amato Emerald

Amanda Brown is one Duck who will kick off competition today.