

# Softball

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Vidlund may be most comfortable with the Arendsen-led squad, despite the new leadership coming in for her last season. She has the opportunity to pitch, albeit less than she might like, as well as a consistent place in the batting lineup.

Arendsen was also handed a tight-knit senior class to lead her squad.

"I think that's basically why our class is so close, because we didn't really have a stable coaching staff," Vidlund said. "Basically we just had to cling together for the incoming classes to let them know that the players, at least, have a stable foundation."

Vidlund and four other seniors have made their way through four

seasons with three head coaches. In the 2000 and 2001 seasons, Rick Gamez led the Ducks. After turmoil, Rincon, who was an assistant coach to Gamez, took over head coaching duties for 2002.

After a disappointing 2-19 record in 2002 Pac-10 play, the Ducks are 30-16 overall and 8-10 in the Pac-10. They haven't won eight conference games since before Vidlund was at Oregon.

Vidlund's senior leadership and passion for softball and the close-knit senior class may have something to do with the 2003 success.

"What she's done for our ballclub — offensively, defensively and on the mound — has been nothing short of remarkable," Arendsen said. "I'm very proud that I've had the opportunity to coach her."

Arendsen says Vidlund's resiliency and contagious confidence are key parts of her success.

"She's gotten a lot more focused (since freshman year)," teammate Janell Bergstrom said. "When she got here she was just complete raw talent, she worked really hard to get back (from surgery) and proved her real serious love for the game. That's what I admire the most about her."

Bergstrom and Vidlund were dubbed sisters by their freshman-year pitching staff because they looked somewhat alike and became fast friends once they arrived at Oregon.

"(Vidlund) doesn't have the ego of a big player, but she is one for us," Arendsen said. "She's an incredibly gifted player."

Vidlund and her fellow seniors

## Vidlund file

**Born:** Andrea Vidlund on Nov. 24, 1981 in Hayward, Calif.

**Before Oregon:** Voted All-State and second team All-American in senior year at Orangevale High School in California. Led high school squad to CIF Championships from 1997-99.

**Oregon:** Immediately impacted pitching staff as a starter, leading team with 17 wins and notching a no-hitter freshman year. Started every game in 2001 and led team with 11 homeruns. Led team in seven offensive categories last season and hit for .320 average.



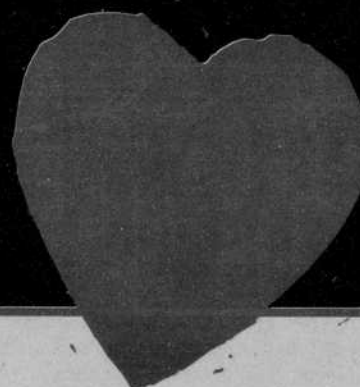
Vidlund

will play their last home games at Howe Field on Friday and Saturday. Sunday they discover their destination for NCAA Regionals

"It's an awesome feeling (to be going to regionals), considering we

were hoping for just four wins in the Pac-10 and we doubled it," Vidlund said. "I can't wait to get there and see how well we do."

Contact the sports reporter at [mindirice@dailymerald.com](mailto:mindirice@dailymerald.com).



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(no tires or appliances please)

Saturday May 10, 2003  
10:00-3:00 PM

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President Dave Frohnmayer and Mayor Jim Torrey  
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- Headquarters, refreshments and dumpsters at Central Presbyterian Church
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- Tools available for raking and planting

Contact for more information about the Clean-Up or to become involved with creating a West University Neighborhood Organization: Richie Weinman at the City of Eugene, 682-5533 or [richie.d.weinman@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:richie.d.weinman@ci.eugene.or.us)

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