

Sports Editor:
Peter Hockaday
peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com

SPORTS

Best bet
NHL Playoffs:
Minnesota at Vancouver, Game 7
7 p.m., ESPN2

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Head strong

Andrea Vidlund is a star for Oregon softball with a team-leading .351 batting average and eight saves in the pitchers' circle

Softball

Mindi Rice

Sports Reporter

*Back off, I'll take you on
Headstrong to take on anyone
I know that you are wrong
Headstrong, we're headstrong*

— Trapt

"Headstrong" by Trapt is Andrea Vidlund's at-bat song. It warns the opposing team — Vidlund isn't afraid of you, even in the competitive Pac-10 Conference.

In a sport in which most athletes must choose between pitching or hitting, Vidlund is able to do both — and excel in both.

"When I'm not pitching, I wish I was," Vidlund said. "I think my heart is in pitching. I've done it all my life. I really missed it last year when I didn't pitch."

During the 2002 season, Vidlund started all but two of Oregon's 54 games, primarily at first base.

Then-head coach Brent Rincon split the Ducks'

innings pitched between a freshman, a sophomore and a senior. Vidlund was given a spot in the field to utilize her offensive power.

The Hayward, Calif., native made the most of her offensive stint. She led Oregon in seven offensive categories and cut her strikeouts almost in half.

This season, Vidlund leads the fourth-place Ducks with a .351 batting average and eight saves.

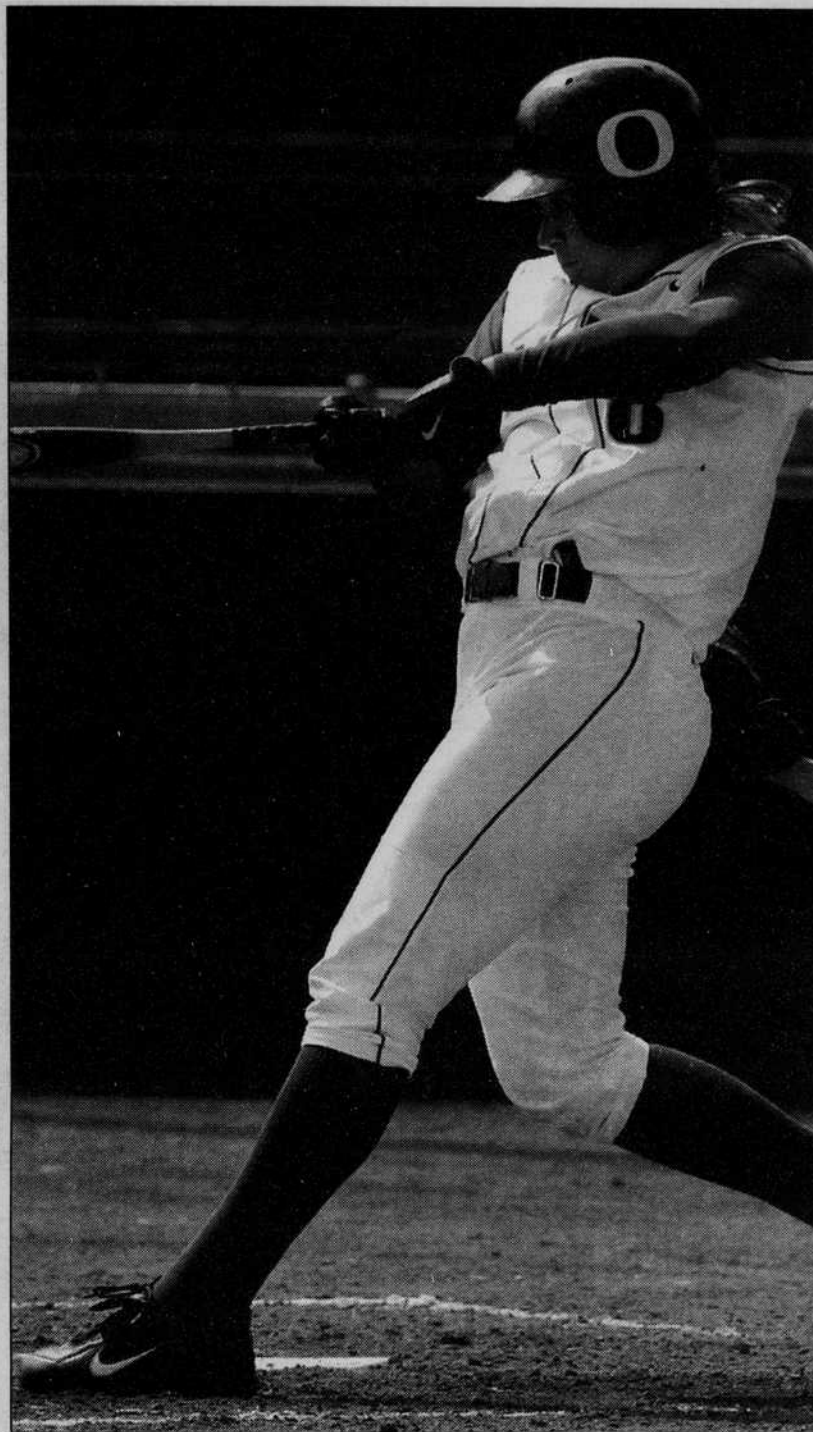
After shoulder surgery in June 2002, Vidlund missed fall practice and came back slowly at the beginning of the season.

"I felt like it set me back a little bit in the beginning, but overall I think it turned out to be ok," Vidlund said.

Since she began playing regularly this season, Vidlund has started 38 games but none in the pitching circle. However, Vidlund is head coach Kathy Arendsen's go-to pitcher when the Ducks have a one- or two-run lead and need someone to stop the other team.

"There's no such thing as an easy inning with Vid," Arendsen said after Vidlund picked up the Pac-10 single-season record for saves. "I think there's part of her, that little mischievous side of her, that just wants to trick all of us. She's totally in control the whole time."

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Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Andrea Vidlund (8) has led the Ducks in batting for two years, and this year she's gotten the opportunity to pitch as well. She has a .351 batting average and leads the Pac-10 with eight saves for the Ducks, who are now 8-10 in conference play this season.



Sites for new arena offer varied options

The seven potential sites for McArthur Court's replacement are scattered around Eugene and Springfield

Hank Hager

Sports Reporter

The days of McArthur Court as the signature Oregon facility may be quickly coming to a close.

A proposed \$100-\$150 million arena, announced by the athletic department on April 17, may replace the venerable facility soon. So far, word that a new building is in the works is the only official announcement that the University has offered.

With it, though, comes details on the type of facility planned and just where it is going to be.

Oregon officials have presented information on the latter detail. It is a site list that includes Downtown Eugene, campus and the Glenwood area between Eugene and Springfield.

"We looked at every possibility," said Dan Williams, vice president for administration at Oregon. "If anybody had an idea about a site, it got on the list."

Williams added that he hopes to have a decision in the summer from University president David Frohnmayer about going ahead with the project. At that point, Oregon would whittle away from the list of seven sites presented by the consulting firm CSL International.

In the report prepared by the firm, 11 sites were presented as comparable to the Oregon project. Two buildings, the Cintas Center in Cincinnati and Cox Arena in San Diego, are in similar situations as to what Oregon is looking at.

The Cintas Center, built in 2000, is located on the Xavier University campus, near the school's residence halls. According to Kelly Leon, director for external relations for Xavier, the arena has been adopted by the city as something of its own despite being on campus.

That, and the entertainment possibilities it brings to the heart of the city, where the campus is located, are invaluable.

"We didn't think it was the best use of our resources to build just a basketball arena,"

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Emerald

McArthur Court may soon be used only for intramural sports as the University considers building a new basketball complex. Seven sites are currently under review, and they range from Springfield to William's Bakery.