

SPORTS

Best bet

NBA Playoffs: San Antonio
at L.A. Lakers, Game 6
5 p.m., ABCSports Editor:
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Thursday, May 15, 2003

UO softball
faces PSU
in regional
showdownOregon opens NCAA Regional
tournament play at 2 p.m. today
against No. 6-seed Penn State

Softball

Mindi Rice
Sports ReporterThe No. 17 Ducks take another step
up today with their first game in the
2003 NCAA Regionals.No. 3-seeded Oregon faces off against
No. 6-seed Penn State at 2 p.m. on the
California State-Fullerton field."When you go to regionals, any team
can beat any team," head coach Kathy
Arendsen said. "It's who wants it more
and who has the confidence to say 'why
not us?' I believe we're going to go there
and we're going to play our hearts out."The Ducks (32-17 overall, 10-11 Pacif-
ic-10 Conference) finished an outstand-
ing year with their weekend homestand
against California and Stanford. Five
Oregon seniors ended their days at Howe
Field with two wins in three games.Oregon's 10 Pac-10 wins are an
achievement for the senior class. Dur-
ing their first three years at Oregon, the
Ducks won a combined nine confer-
ence games.The Ducks won 11 of their last 15
games to end the regular season. All four
losses were to Pac-10 teams, including a
4-3 loss at No. 2 UCLA and an 8-0 loss
against No. 1 Arizona."We're playing well at the right time,"
Arendsen said. "We have a shot. This
team knows how to win and handles it-
self well in crucial pressure situations."Penn State (30-21, 9-9 Big Ten Confer-
ence) finished the season with six wins
in its final 10 games, missing the Big Ten
Tournament by one game.The story of the Nittany Lions' season
was their junior pitching ace, Marisa
Hanson. Hanson led the team with a 1.27
ERA and 149 innings pitched despite a
line drive that broke her jaw during an
April 19 game against Michigan State.Hanson returned to the pitching circle
the next weekend and pitched one in-
ning in the Nittany Lions' 2-1 loss to
Akron. She has since worked her way
back into the regular rotation.Penn State senior Gina Bianchini
broke a school career record with her
46th hit of the season, giving her 230 car-
eer hits. Bianchini, who played in every
Penn State game this season, ended the
regular season with 50 hits and led the
team with a .338 batting average."They're a solid ballclub and well-
coached," Arendsen said. "They have to
come to the Pacific time zone, so now
they have to adjust."The Fullerton, Calif., regional is Ore-
gon's first since 2000, when the Ducks
went 2-2 in the New Orleans, La., re-
gional. After losing its first game, Ore-
gon bounced back to win two games be-
fore losing to Southern Mississippi to
end its season."We just have to go and take care of
our business and play ball," Arendsen
said. "We'll be in a familiar area — we
go to L.A. a couple times a year — soTurn to **Softball**, page 13

Mark McCambridge Emerald

Janette Davis (right) elbows a Minnesota competitor at the Pepsi Invitational earlier this season. Her coach said Davis has 'gutsiness' and runs with heart.

Just a name game

Senior Janette Davis will take
on a competitive 400-meter field
this weekend in hopes of finishing
in the top three in Los Angeles

Women's track and field

Jesse Thomas
Sports ReporterAs Janette Davis toed the line for her first
400-meter race on the traveling squad, she
awaited the announcements before the start.It was the 2000 Stanford Invitational. Davis
was still a freshman and new to collegiate track
and field.The introductions came and although some
names were unfamiliar, one was a shock.
Christy Ganes, 1996 Olympic 4x100 meter
gold medalist and three-time World Champs
4x100 meter gold medalist, happened to be in
her heat of the 400 meters."That was the big introduction to Pac-10
and Division I," said Davis, now a senior on the
Oregon women's track team. "Just being fresh-
men and just not really knowing what was go-
ing on, we look back and kind of laugh because
now it's all over and we're seniors."Fast forward to this weekend's Pacific-10
Conference Championships and Davis knows
her competition. After four seasons of making
a name of her own, the crowd might know who
she is, as well.Davis' personal best of
53.87 seconds, set at the
Oregon Invitational on
April 26, puts her fourth
in conference rankings
and sixth in the region.The 22-year-old senior
is back in a competitive
400-meter field that is any-
body's race, after a sixth-
place finish last year.

Yet none of it is good enough.

Davis' goals have remained the same all
year: Finish top three at Pac-10s, finish top five
at regionals, advance to nationals and become
top three all-time at Oregon.Turn to **Davis**, page 13

On tap

What: Pac-10
Track and Field
Championships
When: Saturday
and Sunday
Where:
Cromwell Field,
Los Angeles

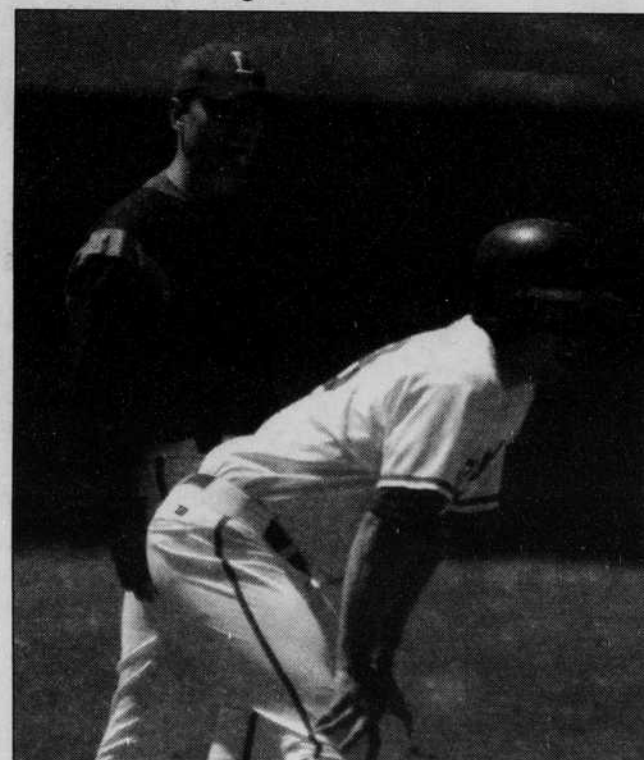
Despite history, UO baseball stays dormant

It's been 22 years since Oregon
fielded a baseball team, and it
doesn't look like it will soon

Baseball in Oregon

Hank Hager
Sports ReporterOn May 7, 1981, baseball in Eugene
got the ultimate ax.University administration — headed
by then-Vice President Ray Hawk —
brandished the knife that severed the
sport's affiliation with Oregon. Men's
gymnastics, women's golf and women's
soccer also got the ax, but it was base-
ball that had tradition. It was baseball
that was imposing on the school's ath-
letic budget, then close to \$4.43 million.It has been 22 years since baseball
was played at Oregon. In that time,
Lane Community College filled that
baseball void, but even the Titans' bats
have been silenced recently. They've
got only one more season in Eugene
before the program will be disbanded."I can't understand how that can hap-
pen," Oregon State volunteer assistant
Marty Lees said. "And without Oregon
having a baseball club, (Eugene) players

Part 2 of 2

Wednesday: Oregon State
baseballToday: Baseball in Oregon, past
and futurewill have to go to farther places to play.
Now, 25 to 30 baseball players aren't go-
ing to have a place to play."Oregon's decision in 1981 came be-
cause of two reasons. First, Title IX,
part of legislation passed in 1972,
forced college programs to rethink the
way they did business. Second, Oregon
baseball was not bringing in enough
money and was too expensive to fund."For people that actually partici-
pated, it was devastating," said former
player and Oregon Hall of Fame member
Larry Hanson. "They dropped the
sport for all the wrong reasons."Had the Ducks finished better than 2-
14 in the Pacific-8 Conference in 1981,
the program may have been saved,
then-head coach Mel Krause believed."We just never got in the door to re-
cruit the blue-chip athletes in

Mark McCambridge Emerald

Lane head coach Donny Harrel (standing) guided the Titans to a 30-10
record this year. The Lane program will be cut next year.Turn to **Baseball**, page 12