

Davis

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Her personal best set two weeks ago put her into fourth all-time at Oregon behind Grace Bakari (53.3), who set her record in 1981.

"She had 53 written on her fridge this fall," sophomore Michelle Donovan said. "At first you're just like, 'Oh my gosh, that's such a huge goal and so fast,' but she sets goals for herself and she can get past it. Now it's like she could push to 52 since she did run a 53 in the middle of the season."

Davis will have to push the 52-second barrier to make the podium in Southern California as the Pac-10's top three in the 400 have all run under 53 seconds this season.

But the Medford native has never failed at consistently improving on her times. She finished her 1999 final prep season as the 4A state champion in 56.99 seconds.

Davis improved slightly as a freshman, finishing the season second on the squad in 56.47. She broke the second barrier again as a sophomore and led the team at 55.50.

Last year, Davis was a Pac-10 scorer with a then-personal best of 54.31, which was good enough for seventh all-time at Oregon.

The road to Oregon's all-time list has not been easy. Out of high school, Davis thought becoming a Duck would be a last resort.

"To tell you the truth, I didn't want to stay in Oregon at all," she said. "I wanted to go to Southern California — anywhere was looking better than here."

After ignoring her parents' advice to make a visit, Davis finally made a stop in Eugene and fell in love. Assistant sprints coach Mark Stream knew that Davis was the type of individual he wanted on his team.

"I really like her gutsiness and she ran with heart," Stream said. "It's hard to tell somebody to do that; it's something you have or you don't."

Davis entered the squad amidst a large group of freshmen that will graduate 14 seniors this season. And with nine of last year's Pac-10 scorers also leaving, this weekend may be a last chance.

"This will be a meet with fabulous performances and we want to put good marks on the board," head coach Tom Heinonen said. "This is the kind of meet where good things happen."

Oregon may need luck to knock at its door as the squad has not won a team title since 1992.

But as a full-fledged senior, Davis has the potential to score even 10 points for a team that finished sixth last year. But to do that, she would have to overcome UCLA's Monique Henderson, who has run 52.23.



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Davis should have a shot to win a wide-open 400 race this weekend in Los Angeles.

Davis file

Born: Janette Elizabeth Martin on Jan. 16, 1981 in Klamath Falls.

Before Oregon: As a senior at South Medford High, won state 400-meter title and finished third in the 200. In 400, finished second as a junior and fifth as a sophomore.

Oregon: Recently moved into fourth all-time at Oregon in the 400 after entering senior season ranked seventh. Ranked second on the team in the 400 in her first two seasons, but took over as Ducks' best runner last year, taking sixth at Pac-10 meet in 2002. Enters this year's Pac-10 meet as the conference's fourth-ranked runner.



Davis

"It's been a huge adjustment for me to get to the place mentally where you feel that your good enough to compete with people like that," Davis said. "Finally, I think this year there came a point where I was just like, 'Why can't I run with them — why not?'"

That "Why not?" factor will be answered this weekend as Davis will toe the line on Sunday at 2:10 p.m.

against a field she knows and one that she can race with.

"Janette sees this as an opportunity to just go out and find out what she can do," Stream said. "She's willing to sort of press the limits a little bit and see where she can go. I'm excited to see what will happen."

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.

Softball

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this is not a big extended trip that we haven't been on in a while."

The Ducks are expecting a familiar fan base in Fullerton as six players grew up within a two-hour drive to the regional site.

"We're so excited to be close to home, and we're going to have probably all of our parents there," third baseman Lynsey Haij said. "California's familiar to all of us."

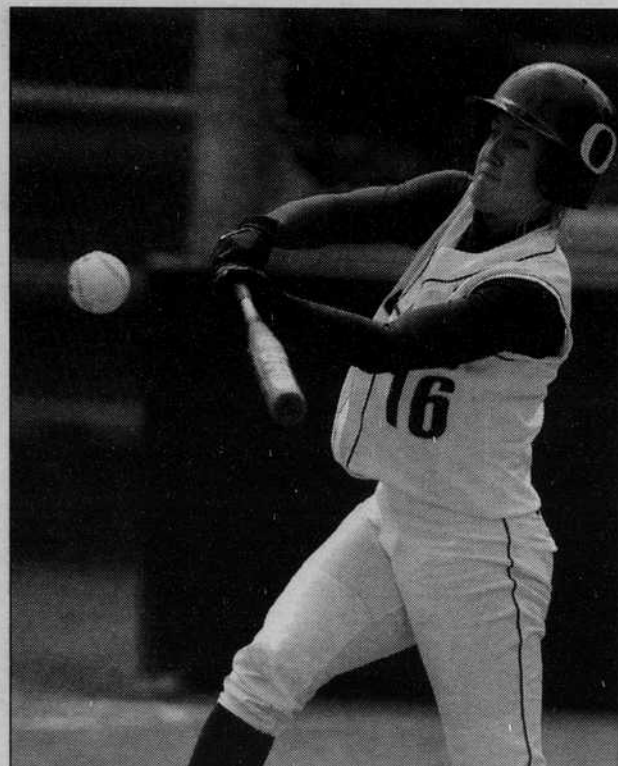
The Ducks join Cal State-Fullerton and San Diego State as the only West Coast schools in the Fullerton regional.

"Other than the Fullerton folks playing at home, I think we're going to be one of the favorites there, and people will be pulling for us," Arendsen said.

If Oregon wins its game against Penn State, the Ducks move on to play at 2 p.m. on Friday. A loss would land Oregon in the one-loss bracket of the double-elimination tournament, where the Ducks would play at 9 a.m. on Friday.

Whether the Ducks win or lose, they will face either No. 2-seed Oklahoma State or No. 7 Boston in their second game.

Contact the sports reporter at mindirice@dailyemerald.com.



Mark McCambridge Emerald

Lynsey Haij leads the Ducks into the NCAA tournament today.

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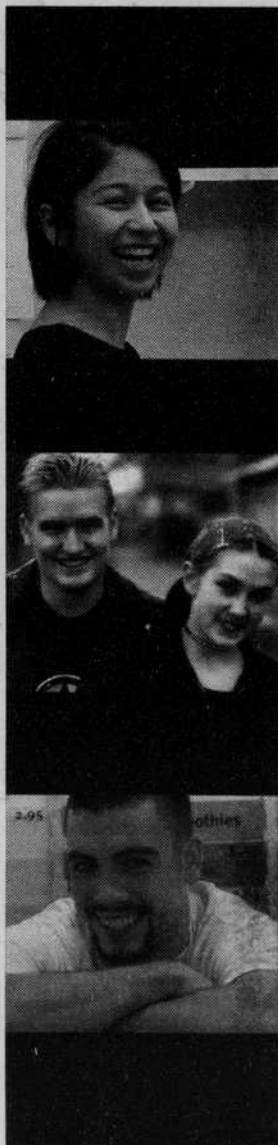
Patrick J. Deneen, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Politics, Princeton University

Thursday, May 15, 3:30 p.m.
177 Lawrence Hall

Dr. Deneen is the author of *The Odyssey of Political Theory: The Politics of Departure and Return*. He has also published on ancient and American political thought in *Political Theory*, *Social Research*, *Polity*, *Polis*, *Society*, and *Commonweal*.

This lecture is co-sponsored by The Christian Scholars Lecture Series funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts, UO Department of Political Science, Catholic Newman Center, Episcopal Campus Ministry, Presbyterian Campus Ministry, Wesley Foundation



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