

## SPORTS

Best bet  
NCAA World Series softball:  
California vs. UCLA  
6:30 p.m., ESPN2

Thursday, May 22, 2003

## UO doubles rolls into NCAA Elite Eight

Ducks Courtney Nagle and Daria Panova advance to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Women's Tennis Championships

## Tennis

Ryan Heath  
Sports Freelancer

And just like that, the Oregon singles tennis season is over. Just as Duck sophomore Daria Panova was beginning to look unbeat-

able in tournament play and fellow Duck Manuel Kost was entering first round play in the men's NCAA Championships, they've just as quickly been ousted.

Despite the disappointment of the singles loss, Panova teamed up with Courtney Nagle to continue their season and advance to the Elite Eight of the national tournament.

No. 15 Panova, ending an 11-match tournament-winning streak and her singles season, fell to No. 8 Jewel Peterson of Southern California, 6-2, 6-3.

"I didn't play that well, and she played real-

ly well," Panova said in an interview with gatorzone.com. "She made more good plays, and I couldn't keep up. She deserved to win."

It was the second time this year that Peterson has beaten Panova, and she had nothing but compliments for the Ducks' No. 1 player.

"She is a great competitor, and we have always had tough matches," Peterson said. "It's good to play against familiar competition (in the NAAs) because it shows that our conference is a great conference."

The Pacific-10 Conference is represented by three of eight players in the quarterfinals

of the national championship.

Panova finishes this singles season as the Pac-10 Indoor and Outdoor Champion as well as Pac-10 Player of the Year and the Oregon single-season victories record-holder.

Doubles went better for the Ducks, despite the fact they went down early.

No. 33 Nagle and Panova defeated the Florida duo of Alexis Gordon and Julia Scaringe, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, on the Gators' home court.

"We got some balls to go our way, which really gave us a lift," Nagle said. "We got on fire, and

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## American idol

Duck star Becky Holliday looks up to world record-holder Stacy Dragila, who will return once again for the Pre Classic on Saturday

## Prefontaine Classic

Jesse Thomas  
Sports Reporter

When Becky Holliday hears the name Stacy Dragila, her eyes expand. A smile drifts across her face and she pauses, thinking of what to say.

As the thought fades in her mind that one day that could be her, she begins.

"I just look at her, and it's almost like I don't know what to say about her," the Oregon senior said. "She's so amazing, I don't know if there's good enough words."

Another pause, and she tries to explain.

"I think of this woman as the most awesome woman pole vaulter ever. I love watching her vault and I hope that I can accomplish half of what she has."

Stacy Dragila holds the world record in the women's pole vault.

Dragila is Holliday's idol. Holliday is second in the world rankings to Dragila.

"I'm very flattered," Dragila, the 1997 World Indoor Champion, said. "It's fun to watch her, and she's very determined out there. I think she's done some great things at UO, and I think she has a great future."

After clearing a personal record 14 feet, 6 inches at the Pacific-10 Conference Championships, Holliday moved to eighth all-time in America and earned the second-highest mark in the world this season.

Dragila's list of accomplishments is longer than the 15-foot pole she uses to earn them. As the first-ever Olympic Gold Medalist in 2000, the Pocatello, Idaho, native is a four-time U.S. outdoor champion and six-time U.S. indoor champion.

Holliday figures that Dragila is accustomed to being on top.

"She's so focused out there, and she's got this look

in her eye like she's so confident, and she knows she's going to win," Holliday said.

Dragila will attempt a third-straight victory in the Prefontaine Classic this weekend. The Idaho State graduate returns undefeated at Hayward field.

"UO has always had a huge impact on me," Dragila, said. "It's fun to see a sold-out crowd. People know who you are. And you're going to get to go home by signing autographs afterwards."

In 2001, the first edition of the women's pole vault, Dragila finished eight inches above the runner-up, clearing 15-01 1/2. Last year, she upped it to 15-05 3/4, the current Hayward Field and Pre Classic record, finishing 3/4 of an inch better than second place.

Pre Classic meet Director Tom Jordan thinks her world record of 15-9 1/4 could be re-written Saturday.

"The thing with Stacey being the current world record holder is she could set a new one," Jordan said of the 1999 World Champion. "It would be great. It would be one of those memorable moments."

The field remains unchanged from 2002, including Mary Sauer (2nd), Mel Mueller (3rd), Jill Schwartz, Kellie Suttle and newcomer Thory Edda Elisdottr from Iceland.

The one name not on that list is Holliday. Fans must await the Holliday-Dragila battle as the 23-year-old Duck is saving her energy for the NCAA's West Regional Qualifier and NCAA Championships.

In one month, the two could match up at the USA Outdoor Championships in Palo Alto, Calif.

"If she ever thought of me as a competitor, that would just mean I'm achieving my goals," Holliday said.

Dragila's pole vaulting career didn't begin until her college days. In high school, the 2000 Jesse Owens Award winner was a 400-meter hurdler. Holliday's career began at 16, earning awards such as the Nevada State prep title in 1998.

Although seemingly opposed, the duo's mentality is spot on.

"Obviously you can tell she might be one of the hardest working people out there, and that's what I

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Emerald

Stacy Dragila won the first and only Olympic gold medal in the women's pole vault.

## Devers returns to Pre, Montgomery withdraws

Gail Devers headlines a deep and talented 100-meter hurdle crowd that includes many of the same athletes as last year's Pre Classic

## Prefontaine Classic notes

Peter Hockaday  
Sports Editor

The fields of the 2003 Prefontaine Classic are starting to shape up, and it looks like at least one field will be all about long nails and curly hair Saturday at Hayward Field.

Gail Devers is back to headline an impressive women's 100-meter hurdle field that includes eight of the world's top 10 hurdlers.

Devers is undoubtedly the queen of the hurdles. She has two Olympic gold medals in the 100-meter dash and seven national titles in the 100 hurdles. Three

children's books are even written about her. She holds the American and Hayward Field records, and easily won the Pre hurdles last year by .22 seconds.

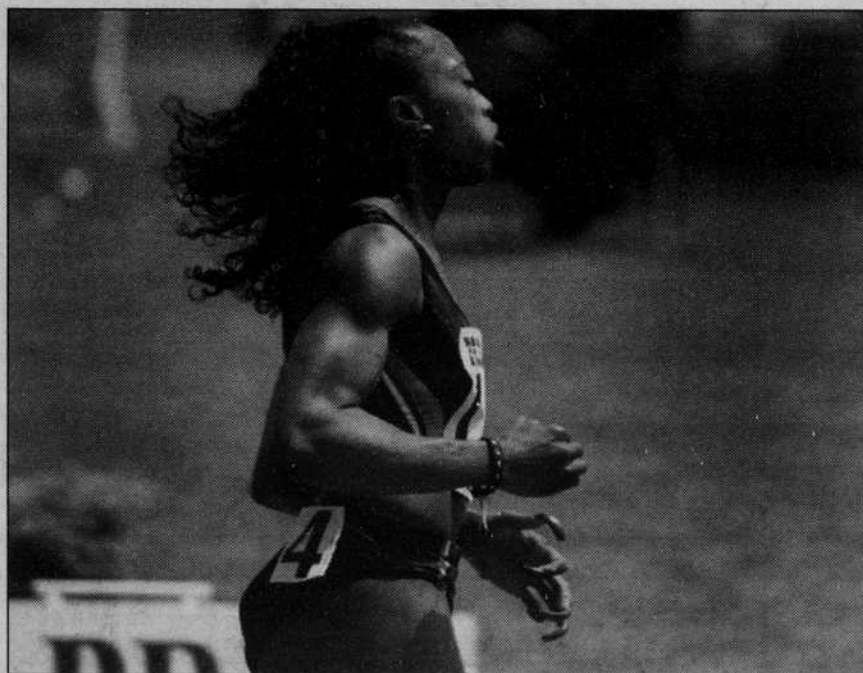
She'll be challenged by some of the same hurdlers this year. Miesha McKelvy, who finished second at the Pre last year, will be back. So will Lacena Golding-Clarke, who finished third, and Jenny Adams, who finished fourth. The main addition this year is Brigitte Foster, who finished second in the world last season.

## Montgomery out

Tim Montgomery, "The World's Fastest Man," announced Wednesday that he will not run at this year's Pre Classic. Montgomery, who broke the 100-meter dash world record at the 2002 World Championships, is recovering from Achilles tendinitis and wouldn't be able to run this weekend without worsening his injury.

Montgomery will miss the chance to battle

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Emerald

Gail Devers' trademark nails and hair will be back at the Pre — along with her top form.