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SPORTS

Best bet
NBA Finals:
New Jersey at San Antonio, Game 1
5:30 p.m., ABC

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Wyden's bill could lessen agents' power

The Oregon senator proposes a bill that would hold sports agents accountable in their dealings with NCAA athletes

Peter Hockaday
Sports Editor

Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., introduced a bill to the U.S. Senate on Tuesday that could change the way collegiate athletes interact with sports agents.

The Sports Agent Responsibility and Trust Act, if passed, would force agents to have full disclosure when dealing with NCAA athletes.

Agents in pursuit of contracts with NCAA athletes would be required to notify, in writing, those athletes of the dangers of leaving school early. Agents would not be allowed to postdate contracts and would face more restrictions in discussions with athletes' friends and family members.

"By creating a national requirement for sports agent conduct, the bill will send a message to agents that there is no place left in America that is a safe haven for taking advantage of student-athletes," Wyden said in a release.

Wyden's bill has the support of NCAA President Myles Brand, University President Dave Frohnmayer and Oregon Athletic Director Bill Moos, among others. The bill has already been introduced into

the U.S. House of Representatives by Rep. Bart Gordon, D-Tenn., and has at least 75 co-signers.

"I applaud Sen. Wyden for introducing this bill into the senate," Moos said on Tuesday. "I've long been concerned about athletes with collegiate eligibility being enticed into making decisions they may not be ready to make."

The bill could play into Brand's master plan to curb the number of student-athletes who leave school

early. Brand, the former Oregon and Indiana president who now sits atop the NCAA, has a long-range "strategic planning process," as he calls it, for restoring credibility to the collegiate governing body. Part of that process is bolstering graduation rates, which would certainly improve if more sports agents were held accountable for their actions.

"It is important that agents be Turn to **Agents**, page 12

Ducks turn pigskin to gold

Twenty-three Ducks play on professional football rosters, led by six who were drafted in 2002

Where are they now?

Mindi Rice
Sports Reporter

Among the National Football League, the Arena Football League and the Canadian Football League, 23 former Oregon football players appear on professional rosters.

From the most recent, like Justin Peele or 2003 draftee Keenan Howry, to guys from almost 10 years ago, like Alex Molden and Kenny Wheaton, Ducks are continuing Oregon's football success on the professional level.

Five quarterbacks lead the recognizable names of former Ducks in the NFL. Detroit Lion Joey Harrington and Philadelphia Eagle A.J. Feely both became the unexpected starters for their teams during the 2002 season.

After four years of high expectations in Cincinnati, Akili Smith was cut by the Bengals on Monday.

"It felt good that Jon (Kitna) and (Corey Dillon) called me," Smith told the Bengals' Web site Monday. "They basically said it was the best thing for me and that I was going to hook on with somebody and get a fresh start."

Smith was the third pick overall by the Bengals in the 1999 draft. He was

given the task of resurrecting Cincinnati's program with little NFL experience. Kitna and Dillon were teammates with Smith in Cincinnati and called him on Monday. He also received calls from four NFL programs interested in him.

"Those things were probably true, but as a quarterback, you can't say that," Kitna said. "You have to bear the brunt, and he didn't have anybody here to teach him that. I would have loved to have been here for him then."

The best year for Oregon football players seems to be 2002. Seven Ducks were chosen during the 2002 NFL Draft following Oregon's No. 2-national finish in January.

Harrington, the No. 3 overall pick in 2002, led the Ducks in the draft. Maurice Morris went to Seattle, Rashad Bauman went to Washington and Peele was drafted by San Diego.

Wesley Mallard earned a ticket to the New York Giants and Steve Smith went to Jacksonville. All six remain with the team that drafted them.

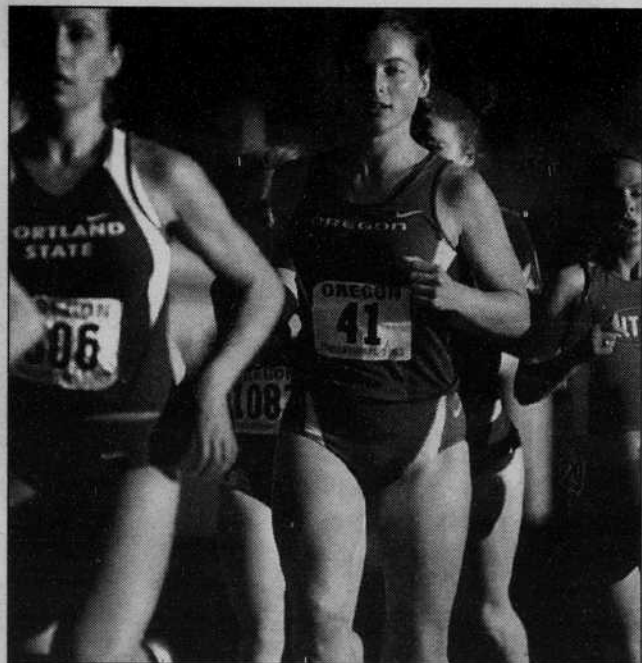
Harrington was taken off the field in Detroit's Dec. 15 game against Tampa

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Emerald

Akili Smith was cut by the Cincinnati Bengals on Monday and is now in search of another NFL team to quarterback.



Carrie Zografos (41) was one of several Oregon runners who missed the NCAA Championships this season. Emerald

Duck runners fall behind, fail to make NCAA meet

All seven Oregon runners who made the trip to the West Regionals failed to make the NCAA Championships

Women's track and field notes

Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

With eight field athletes traveling to Sacramento on June 11 for the NCAA Championships and no runners making the journey, the "track" in Track Town USA is beginning to fade.

Seven runners traveled to Cobb Track and Angell Field on Friday in hopes of a nationals bid and all walked away empty-handed.

For some, their careers ended that day in Stan-

ford, Calif., and for others, careers began.

Redshirt senior Carrie Zografos ended her Duck career in the 5,000 meters, finishing 13th in 17 minutes, 4 seconds. That time was nearly 15 seconds off her season best.

"I just had higher hopes of going for it and getting in the top five," Zografos said. "I'm disappointed that the season is over and it being my senior season. But when you get injured you get injured, and in athletics that's the name of the game."

Freshman Nicole Feest never even expected to race in regionals, where she took 17th in 17:41.31, but she gained valuable experience to help her in future endeavors.

"Now I have a better idea of what I need to do next year and how to prepare better for the right time of

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