

## SPORTS

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**Best bet**  
Stanley Cup Finals:  
Anaheim at New Jersey, Game 7  
5 p.m., ABC

Monday, June 9, 2003

# The year AFTER

The Emerald hands out its annual awards for the 2002-03 year in athletics

**Peter Hockaday**  
Sports Editor

Unless you're talking about "Lord of the Rings," the sequel is always disappointing.

In 2001-02, we had the "Year of the Duck." Oregon won Pacific-10 Conference championships in football and men's basketball, a near-Pac-10 title in men's track and a WNIT championship in women's hoops.

In 2002-03, we got the sequel. The football team went from Mr. Hyde (first half of the season) to Dr. Jekyll (second half). The men's basketball team lost a heartbreaker to Utah and took an early exit from the NCAA Tournament.

But there were still plenty of highlights from the sequel. The softball team made an eye-popping run through the Pac-10 season. The men's and women's track teams still have a chance to do some damage at NCAAs.

In the spirit of those highlights, we present our 4th annual Emmie Awards. Word has it that Oregon athletes fight and claw for these awards all year (all awards are voted on by the Emerald sports staff).

**Most Entertaining Female:** Andrea Vidlund. The Queen of the Diamond rocked Howe Field more than any other Duck softball player because she did it all. This year, she set Oregon single-season records for home runs and saves. Think about that for a second.

Against UCLA (the eventual national champion) in April, Vidlund single-handedly won the game at Howe with her bat and pitching arm. In the bottom of the fourth, she hit a two-run dinger to put Oregon ahead 5-1. In the bottom of the seventh, she came on and held the Bruins to two runs, earning the Ducks a 5-4 win. Entertaining indeed.

**Most Entertaining Male:** Samie Parker. When Pac-10 cornerbacks dream at night, they have nightmares. They see a green jersey with a lightning-yellow No. 1 speeding down the sideline, ball in hand, heading for the end zone.

Between the football field and the track, Parker left so many people in the dust that he should start a support group. He heads into this week's NCAA Track and Field Championships ranked sixth in the nation in the 100-meter dash, and that speed helps him most at his true home, Autzen Stadium. In Oregon's first four football games last season, he had 18 catches for 350 yards (an average of 19.4 yards per catch) and four touchdowns.

## INSIDE

Our writers pick out their favorite moments from the year.

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**Biggest Heart:** Cathrine Kraayeveld. Every member of the women's basketball team faced a landslide of adversity this season, but none more than Kraayeveld.

The senior went down with a staph infection in her knee midway through the season. The medical outlook was bleak, and it looked like Kraayeveld would be out for the year. But, amazingly, she came back and played in the season's last six games, helping the Ducks win three of those contests.

**Best Interview:** Andre Joseph. We interact with hundreds of athletes throughout the year and always notice their interviewing style. Some are boring. Some are outlandish.

Some — well, only one, actually — make up their own words. That person is Andre Joseph, who had a way with words that can only be illustrated with quotes.

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Adam Amato Emerald

Luke Ridnour drives past Kansas' Kirk Hinrich in November. Ridnour earned Emmie male MVP honors.

## Duck track squads set to make noise at NCAAs

**MEN:** A total of 13 Ducks will try to put Oregon back into the top 10 at the national meet

### Men's track and field

**Peter Hockaday**  
Sports Editor

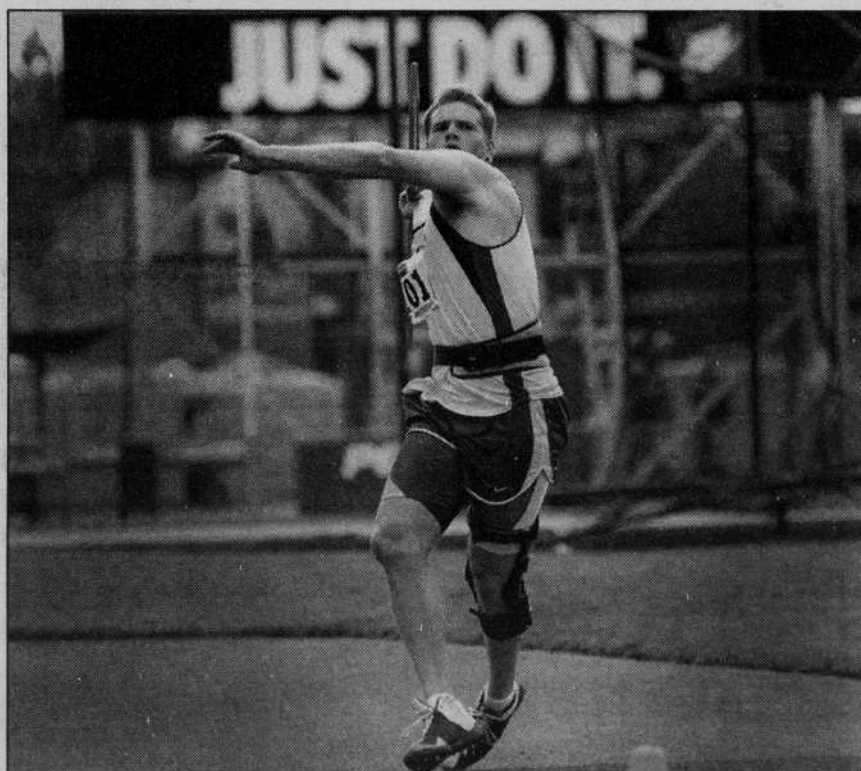
Two years ago, all it took was two national champions and a little help from a supporting cast to propel Oregon to a top-10 finish at the NCAA Championships.

Those champions are back, and now the question is, can they do it again?

The Ducks send 13 men to Sacramento, Calif., this week for the NCAA finale. The Oregon spotlight will be squarely on decathlete Santiago Lorenzo and javelin thrower John Stiegeler as they defend their 2001 titles. The remainder of the light will fall on the 11 other Ducks, from veterans like Jason Hartmann to rookies like Eric Mitchum. No matter what Lorenzo and Stiegeler do, the supporting cast may make or break the Ducks' chances for their second top-10 placing in three years.

The Duck entries vary across the

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Adam Amato Emerald

John Stiegeler will try to win his second NCAA title this week in Sacramento, Calif.

**WOMEN:** Oregon sends a mixed crowd of field-event veterans and rookies to the NCAA Championships

### Women's track and field

**Jesse Thomas**  
Sports Reporter

Redshirt senior Niki McEwen has a statistic that no other athlete on the Oregon women's track and field team can claim.

Out of eight chances to make the NCAA Championships, McEwen will make her seventh-straight appearance at the NCAAs, being held at Sacramento's Hornet Stadium on Thursday.

For the pole vaulter who only missed nationals her freshman indoor season, it isn't a big deal anymore.

"I must say when I was younger I would get a lot more excited," said McEwen, who will go for her fourth All-American honor. "I couldn't sleep at night before, and now I get there and it's like 'yeah, it's another meet; I hope I do good.'"

Redshirt junior Abby Andrus has a different perspective.

As a junior-college transfer, Andrus is finishing her first season in Division I athletics and will make her first NCAA Championships appearance.

"I'm really looking forward to the opportunity," said Andrus, the national junior college heptathlon runner-up in 2002. "This is like the biggest meet of my life."

Oregon has a split field of veterans and rookies entering Wednesday's competition. Along with McEwen, redshirt senior

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