## LPGA

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improved dramatically." Two years after turning profession-

al, Rizzo was back on the LPGA Tour and competed in three events, getting off to a solid start. She made the cut in one of her three tournaments and had a best finish of 76th, earning a total of \$2,182.

But in April, the car accident forced the 25-year-old into a rough spot.

"It's been a hard year for me," Rizzo said. "Its been frustrating but I've been working all year and trying to get back in competition. I appreciate golf a lot more every day now

The road back has not been easy for Rizzo this year, but she is playing more, feeling healthier and slowly regaining her touch.

"That is another perfect example of her personality," Baumgartner said. "When her back is against the wall, she is the type of person who will take 20 steps forward."

In 2003, Rizzo returned to the Futures Tour and has competed in six events. In competition, she has made five of six cuts including her 20th place finish this past weekend in a Connecticut event. After an opening round of 78, the former U.S. Women's Amateur champion bounced back with a 69 and a 68,

raising her confidence.

"Once I get into my rhythm and play every week, it will come," she said. "I've been playing solid and getting better."

Rizzo has displayed her game on the LPGA Tour once this year, in June, when she played in the Giant Eagle Classic. With opening rounds of 73 and 77, Rizzo missed the cut and left with no money.

But Rizzo will look to improve when she plays in her second LPGA Tour event, the Sybase Big Apple Classic in New Rochelle, New York, which begins Thursday.

"I'm excited to go to New York and tee it up where I belong," she said. "I know that I can play with them out there. That's your ultimate goal is to play out there.

So with a solid finish this past weekend and a chance to compete against the best in New York this week, Rizzo is placing herself in an opportunity to be as successful as she was during her days with Oregon.

"I'd like to have a career on the LPGA Tour," Rizzo said. "If I can keep building these next couple of years, I can get there. If I can make a living out there and travel with a family, that would be ideal.'

Contact the sports editor at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com. CAMPUS BUZZ

#### Tuesday

July 16-19: International archaeological film and video festival, McDonald Theater, doors open at 5:45 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and at 12:45 p.m. Saturday, \$25 for Wednesday through Saturday film package, \$6 for individual day passes, \$10 for Saturday pass. Tours cost \$45 plus festival ticket, children's program costs \$15, teacher's workshop costs \$45 and film symposium costs \$20.

### Thomas

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won't happen. Sorry Mavs fans. The Bad:

1. Picturing Malone finish out his career in anything but a Utah Jazz jersey is like Michael Jordan in anything but a Chicago Bulls uniform. Oh wait! Never mind.

2. The chance of Malone earning

the all-time scoring record could be in jeopardy. But he needs to average roughly 12 points a game for two full seasons to pass Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. If he is patient and stays healthy, it will come.

3. The Lakers pick up the new duo for a price less than half of Kobe's salary next year. Malone is taking a pay cut of almost \$18 million from what he earned last season. Payton

gets \$4.5 million after earning three times that last season. The Worse:

1. Having four future Hall of Famers in one starting lineup is like having Dick Vitale, Cuban, Rasheed Wallace and Mike Tyson in an enclosed space: just pure insanity. And no, it's not the Dream Team or an All-Star game.

2. Having to see Jack Nicholson with a newfound grin a la his Joker

days is rather repulsive. 3. Bottom line: It's just plain

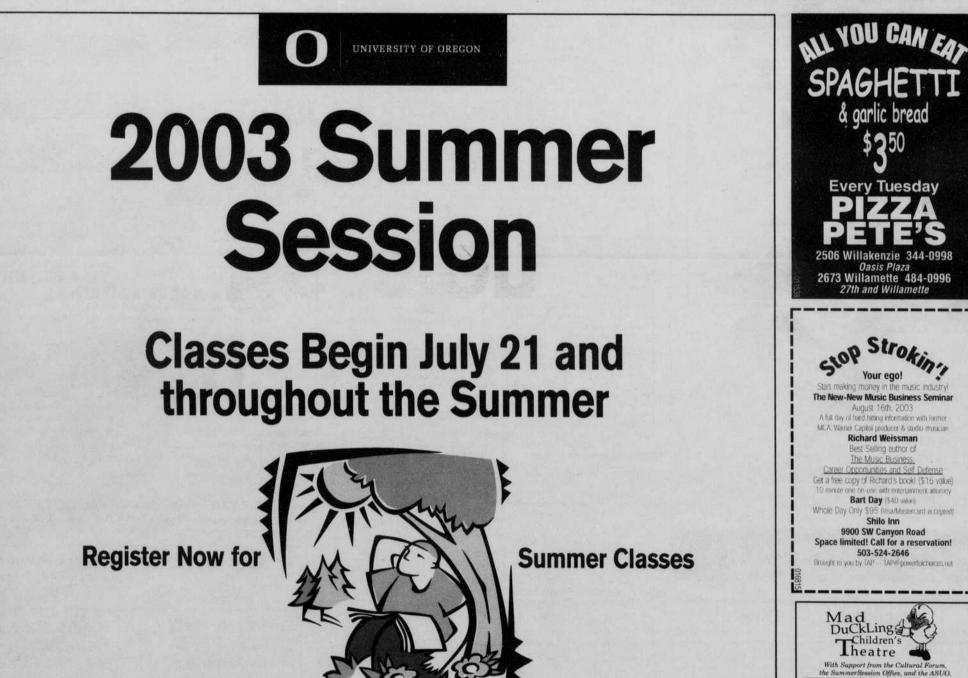
ridiculous and unfair.

But there really isn't much one can do except be happy for a team that will be considered one of the best ever. Because you can't stop it.

I've never been a Lakers fan, but I can't help but want to watch the possibilities of what this could entail. And it's good for the NBA as a whole. More madness, more greatness and more pizzazz all in one team.

So sit back, enjoy the ride and watch the drama unfold in the NBA's new reality series, "Real Sport: Lakers' Annihilation."

#### Contact the sports editor at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com. His opinions do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.



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