

## SPORTS BRIEFS

**Pac-10 preseason soccer poll favors Stanford**

Defending Conference Champion Stanford has been voted as the favorite to win this year's Pacific-10 women's soccer title, according to the Pac-10 preseason coaches' poll.

The Cardinal received six of 10 first-place votes, just edging UCLA which garnered the four remaining first-place votes.

After finishing seventh last year during the regular season, Arizona State bounded into the projected third spot for 2003, followed by a pack of three teams separated by six points in USC, California and Washington.

Oregon fell in at No. 10, receiving only 13 points.

Last year Stanford advanced to the NCAA quarterfinals, losing 4-2 in an overtime shoot-out to last season's champion Portland. Stanford compiled a league best 27-9-0 overall record, and went 21-2-0 against conference rivals. UCLA finished second in the conference.

**Yellow marketing effort**

When the Oregon football team opens its 2003 home season Sept. 6 against Nevada, the Ducks' marketing department is envisioning a wave of yellow-clad fanatics greeting the football team as it runs out of Autzen Stadium's west tunnel.

To aid such a cause, the Moshofsky's Center's Duck Shop has stocked more than 9,000 yellow "Lightning Strikes" T-shirts, selling for \$7 each, with one dollar from each sale contributing to the funding for the Oregon Marching Band and the Ducks cheerleaders.

The color-coordinated effort is designed to heighten enthusiasm in a venue that has acquired the reputation as one of the toughest places for opponents to play.

Oregon accumulated a 23-game winning streak from 1997 through 2001. And the Ducks remain unbeaten in 18 non-conference games in Autzen Stadium during Mike Bellotti's eight-year Oregon head coaching tenure.

The lightning yellow shirts also can be purchased via the Internet at [www.goducks.com](http://www.goducks.com).

**Track and Fields completes staff**

Dan Steele, a two-year volunteer coach with the Oregon track and field team, was hired as a full-time assistant coach Tuesday.

Steele, who has assisted with the hurdlers and javelin throwers while a volunteer coach at Oregon, will now coach the sprinters, hurdlers, jumpers and heptathletes in the women's program.

Steele was a two-time All-American in the 400-meter hurdles at Eastern Illinois as well as a nine-time Mid-Continent Conference Champion. In 2001, he was inducted into Eastern Illinois' Hall of Fame.

In 2002 Steele competed in the Winter Olympics, earning a bronze medal with the U.S. bobsled team. He also was a silver medal decathlete in the 1999 Pan American Games and placed fifth at the Olympic team trials in 2000.

— Jesse Thomas



Freshman wide receiver Brian Paysinger (center) gets tackled by freshman cornerback Ryan Gilliam (9) in Saturday's scrimmage. Jessica Waters Emerald

**Football**

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good plays," sophomore cornerback Aaron Gipson said.

Gipson's position is one of a few on the team that still remain up for grabs as Oregon is whittling down the numbers and defining the depth chart. Senior cornerback Steven Moore is solid at the corner position, but Gipson is fighting for the other spot as freshman Ryan Gilliam and junior transfer Rodney

Woods are also laying claim.

The coaches "said if the season started right now, I'd be starting along with Steven," Gipson said. "I just don't want to get complacent, (I want to) go out there and work hard all the time."

Gilliam led all tacklers in the scrimmage and was credited with six unassisted tackles and three assisted.

Oregon's running game is also shaky with spots undetermined after netting only 94 yards among 15 ball carriers on Saturday, and averaging only 2.1 yards per carry.

"Our offensive line can be very efficient and there is still a battle at the tailback position," Bellotti said. "Once those things are somewhat settled then the offense will tend to gel where you are playing a lot of people."

Oregon plans to continue to pare down the number of players on both sides of the ball throughout the course of this week before the second scrimmage Friday.

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his body while having his entire body cryogenically frozen?"

Don't be surprised if that happens. But the sports world is what it is and the media sadly blow such incidents out of proportion, overshadowing what were great careers of some of the world's finest athletes ever.

But to make a final switch, we can look at what good has happened in the golf world. Firstly, Tiger Woods is no longer considered God, and thank God for that.

Not that I didn't enjoy the greatness of golf's resident deity, but rooting for the underdog is so much better. Shaun Micheel and Ben Curtis — who had ever heard of them before two months ago?

Now golf has been given new life because it doesn't matter if you are ranked first or No. 500 — clearly, anybody can come out of the woodwork to win a major. As it should be in golf, it comes down to who is their best on Sunday — and that crowns a champion.

The sports world has its paradoxes, nobody would deny that. Let's just hope that Superman heals quickly, golf feels comfortable betting on people ranked lower than No. 300, and people don't forget that Rose and Williams did play some baseball in their careers.

Contact the sports editor at [jessethomas@dailyemerald.com](mailto:jessethomas@dailyemerald.com). His opinions do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

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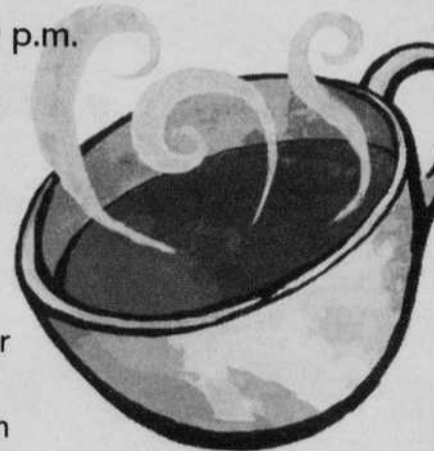
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