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COSTUME RENTALS



When being someone
else matters!

JINX

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It couldn't happen, but it did.

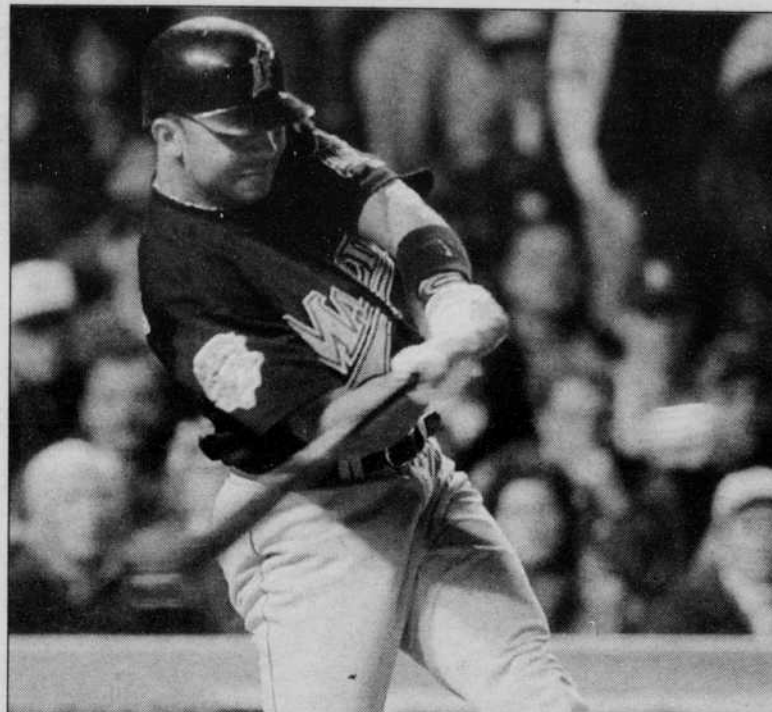
Prior's meltdown came after the infamous Bartman ball in Game 6. But there were Cubs fans who refused to worry. "We've got Wood" T-shirts could be seen all over Chicago in the last month, and there was a belief that Wood was unbeatable.

He hadn't lost since Sept. 2, and his ERA over the past month was 0.86. Then he went 2-0 against the Braves in the NLDS, winning the decisive Game 5 with a five-hitter.

And when Wood hit a two-run homer in the second to knot the score at 3-3 on Wednesday night, there was no doubt this would be different. Then Alou hit a two-run shot and the Cubs led 5-3 after three innings.

Then came the collapse. Wood was knocked out in the sixth, giving up seven runs on seven hits. He had allowed more than five runs only twice in 33 starts, and one of those was in thin-air Colorado.

"I said all along if they could beat our best — Prior and Wood — then they would deserve to go to the Series," Baker said. "And they did



Walter Michot South Florida Sun-Sentinel

Florida's Alex Gonzalez drove in two runs in the seventh inning in the Marlins' win.

beat our best."

Baker closed out his interview with 4-year-old son Darren on his lap, and Darren looked up at the media and said: "The Cubs are go-

ing to win next year."

That's right, Darren. Next year.

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VOLLEYBALL

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After competing with five of the top-15 teams in the nation, Ferreira said Oregon has had a habit of pressing for a victory when it plays an unranked opponent. Ferreira added that the Ducks need to ignore the Wildcats' record and play as if they were facing one of the nation's elite.

"We play very, very well at times against these nationally ranked teams, but we don't get the outcome we want," Ferreira said. "Then you try to play too hard against (unranked teams), and you don't just relax and play."

This will be the first time Oregon has traveled since classes began on Sept. 29. For the nine freshmen on the team, this will be another learning experience.

"It's our first year in college, and

we've never had to travel like this," defensive specialist Allyson Leavitt said. "This will be a lot different trip because we'll have to study on the road."

Leavitt, a 2002 graduate of Thurston High School in Springfield, has made the transition to defensive specialist after being an attacker for the duration of her high school and club career. She is routinely in the Oregon starting lineup and has contributed 53 digs and five service aces.

"Ally is a very good player," Ferreira said. "She's responded well in a lot of very critical moments. (She has) great feet and good eye-hand coordination. I'm not surprised at all that she's contributing to the level she's contributed."

Sarah Mason is another freshman who expects to play a major role against Arizona. The outside hitter from Hilo, Hawaii leads Oregon in

kills per game (3.62), hitting percentage (.245) and points per game (3.9) during conference play.

Oregon assistant Keith Rubio wants to win tonight's match as much, if not more than anyone. The second-year coach will have to put family love aside tonight because his brother, Dave Rubio, is the Arizona head coach.

Keith Rubio has seven years of coaching experience, including two years as a volunteer assistant for USC. Dave Rubio is in his 12th year as the Arizona head coach and has guided the Wildcats to four consecutive sweet 16's.

After tonight's game, the Ducks will travel to Tempe to play Arizona State on Friday.

Contact the sports reporter
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write for the
Oregon Daily Emerald
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RICE

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and a quarterback-by-committee system, the Ducks say they stand strong and seek to stay above .500.

Head north about 300 miles on Interstate-5 and the Huskies have fallen from grace under new head coach Keith Gilbertson. With slick Rick Neuheisel coaching gangsters — sorry, quarterbacks — at Seattle's Rainier Beach High School, Gilby was left to fend off the Cougars and a pack of wolves from Nevada.

The Apple Cup, Washington's toughest game after traveling to Corvallis on Saturday and hosting USC on Oct. 25, is still five weeks away. By

then, the Huskies should hope their heads are above water.

What has the Pac-10 come to?

Just a few years ago, Oregon won back-to-back conference championships in 2000 and 2001, sharing the first with Washington and Oregon State.

Now the Beavers and Cougars are scratching and clawing their way through the pack while the Huskies are tied for fifth and the Ducks tied for seventh in league standings.

On second glance, those look awful big to be pigs flying — it must be Beavers and Cougars.

Contact the senior sports reporter
at mindirice@dailyemerald.com.
Her opinions do not necessarily
represent those of the Emerald.

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