TENNIS

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think people realize what a big event this is with the winner heading to the National Indoor Championships. I know we're all very excited to play here and hopefully we get some people out there to support us."

Having the tournament at home will be an advantage for the six Ducks. It will be the first event this season in Eugene. The players are excited about the prospect of not having to travel.

"Playing at home makes it a lot easier," Kost said. "We get to be in our own home, sleep in our own place and it's a lot more comfortable."

Freshman Vladimir Pino will be the first Duck to compete when he faces California's Jake Leivent at 8 a.m. today. The newcomer impressed his coaches after being narrowly defeated in his first collegiate match last weekend at the Bulldog Classic in Fresno, Calif. Pino is excited to be competing in his first ever tournament in Eugene as a Duck.

"I've heard a lot about the previous games played here at home," Pino said. "I'm pretty excited about it. I'm just going to play my game and do my best."

Many of the top tennis players from the West Coast will be participating this weekend, headed by No. 23 KC Corkery of Stanford and California's Conor Niland, ranked 25th nationally according to the ITA preseason polls. These two inherit the top two seeds in the tournament.

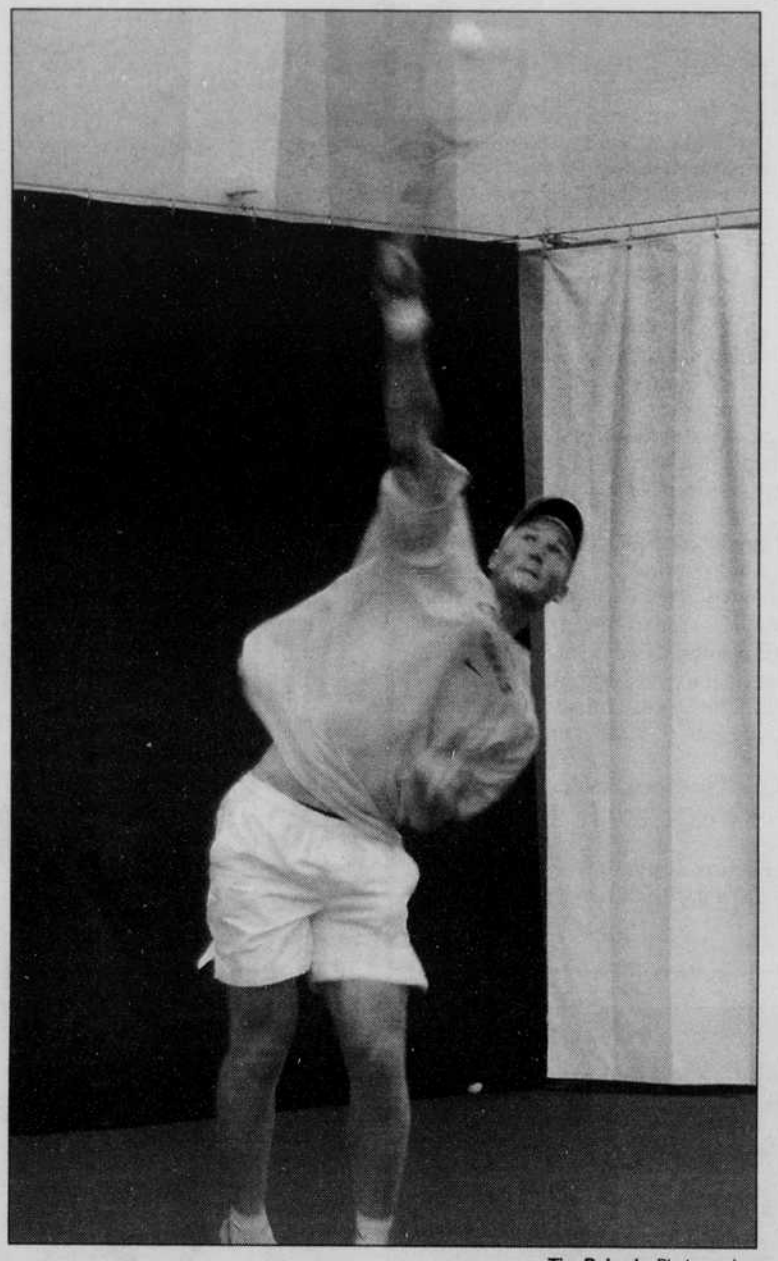
Perhaps the best chance for the Ducks will be the Swiss native, Kost. He will face Stanford's Chris Rasmussen in the first round at 9:15 a.m. today. There are high hopes for the third-year player as he enters this season at the highest ranking of his college career.

"It will be nice for him to live up to his seeding," Russell said. "He's part of the nucleus that we have been trying to set for this program."

Kost has already set goals for his participation in the tournament.

"I want to win the tournament," he said.

The ITA Regionals will conclude Monday at the Student Tennis Center.



Tim Bobosky Photographer

The Oregon men host the ITA Regionals this weekend in Eugene. The winner of the tournament will head to the National Indoor Championships.

Alex Tam is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

Boone, New York off to World Series

The Yankees defeat Boston in the 11th Thursday night in New York to go to its sixth World Series in eight years

By Philip Hersh
Chicago Tribune (KRT)

NEW YORK — This time, the Boston Red Sox cannot blame failure on the sale of Babe Ruth, or the ground ball that went through Bill Buckner's legs, or Johnny Pesky holding the ball.

This time, Boston lost Game 7 of the American League Championship Series — 6-5 to the New York Yankees — on Aaron Boone's first-pitch home run in the bottom of the 11th inning Thursday night; there was no doubt who would get the blame.

Manager Grady Little.

Little's inexplicable decision not to take starter Pedro Martinez out of the game in the eighth inning before he could give up three game-tying runs and leave the potential leading run on second base will go forever into the Red Sox's chamber of horrors.

Boone launched Tim Wakefield's first knuckleball in the bottom of the 11th over the left-field wall, just inside the foul pole. Wakefield, who won Games 1 and 4 for the Red Sox, had entered in the 10th. Mariano Rivera fended off two Red Sox scoring chances in pitching the final three innings to pick up the win.

Martinez is the Boston ace, but he had pitched more than seven innings only five times in his 33 previous starts.

He had been in trouble during the seventh inning, giving up Jason Giambi's second homer of the game, cutting the Boston lead to 4-2, and two more hits before striking out Alfonso Soriano for the fourth straight time.

Boston's third homer of the game, by David Ortiz, made the margin an apparently more comfortable 5-2. It figured Little would open the eighth with Mike Timlin, who had retired 25 of the 26 batters he had faced in the postseason.

But Martinez still pitched, getting Nick Johnson to pop up for the first out.

Derek Jeter doubled. Martinez still pitched.

Bernie Williams singled to drive in Jeter. Martinez still pitched.

Hideki Matsui doubled, sending Williams to third. Martinez still pitched.

Jorge Posada hit a bloop double to center, scoring Williams and Matsui, trying the game 5-5. Martinez was relieved by Alan Embree.

"The largest factor with our ballclub is they just don't quit," Little said before the game."

Grinding and bopping. The Red Sox bats came back to life in Game 6, and they wound up with 11 home runs against the Yankees, a record for an American League Championship Series. They hit two off Roger Clemens, by Trot Nixon, his third of the series, and Kevin Millar, and the last by David Ortiz off Game 5 winner David Wells.

Between the trillion-decibel volume of the sound system and the stunningly loud noise coming from the 56,879 Yankee Stadium spectators on almost every Clemens pitch in the first inning, it was fandemonium in the South Bronx.

The Red Sox rocked Clemens in the second inning, beginning with Ortiz's liner to center for the first out. That was followed by Millar's long single to center, Nixon's homer deep to right-center field and Jason Varitek's double to right.

Varitek scored when third baseman Enrique Wilson made a wild throw on a routine grounder. Wilson, in the lineup because he had past success against Martinez, made three errors in Game 7 of the 2001 World Series.

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