

## SPORTS BRIEFS

Track and field earns  
NCAA marks

The men's and women's track and field teams raked in plenty of NCAA provisional qualifying marks during the weekend at their respective meets.

The men finished with seven NCAA marks in the Iowa State Classic at the Lied Recreation Athletic Center. The women earned two NCAA provisional marks in the Pacific-10 Conference Invitational at the University of Washington.

Sophomore Matt Scherer finished with a personal best of 46.40 seconds for third in the 400 meters. Sherer's time earned him an NCAA provisional mark, and he was a quarter-second shy of the automatic mark (46.15).

Scherer also anchored the 4x400-meter relay team to an overall school record (third, 3:06.54) that was a half-second under the NCAA automatic mark.

Eric Mitchum, a 2003 NCAA veteran, ran 7.85 in the 60-meter hurdles to finish second for an NCAA provisional standard. Sophomore Ryan Flaherty ran 1:50.14 in the 800 meters for an NCAA provisional mark.

In the high jump, sophomore Jeff Lindsey earned the men's only win of the day at 7 feet 1 1/2 inches to equal the NCAA provisional standard.

Also earning provisional marks in Friday's competition were Jason Hartmann (5,000 meters, fourth, 14:01.95) and Leonidas Watson (long jump, first, 25-5 1/2).

On the women's side, redshirt junior Magdalena Sandoval stole the show. Sandoval ran a 41-second personal best in the 5,000 meters, finishing fourth at 16:04.40.

Sandoval easily met the NCAA automatic standard of 16:15.00. Sandoval had a breakthrough cross country season in the fall earning Pac-10

First-Team honors with a fifth-place league finish.

Redshirt junior Eri Macdonald ran a four-second indoor personal best in the 800 meters, finishing seventh overall in 2:08.12. She barely ran under the NCAA provisional mark of 2:09.00.

In the shot put, redshirt junior Bree Fuqua matched the NCAA provisional standard, finishing third at 51 feet. It was a one-foot, seven-inch season best for Fuqua and was less than three inches shy of personal best from her Wisconsin career (51-2 3/4).

—Jesse Thomas

Softball wraps up  
tournament with victory

The No. 20 Oregon women's softball team had a second rollercoaster weekend in tournament play.

At the Arizona State-hosted Fiesta Bowl Tournament, the Ducks (5-4) opened Friday with a 10-1 win against No. 13 Cal State Fullerton.

After ending the Titans' season last May, Oregon was prepared for Fullerton State to come out fighting, but didn't give the Titans a chance. In the top of the first inning, the Ducks scored six runs en route to their five-inning victory.

Sophomore Beth Boskovich hit her second home run of the season in the winning effort. Junior transfer Ani Nyhus picked up her third win of the season.

"This was a great way for us to come out and start the tournament," head coach Kathy Arendsen said. "We put together great pitching and great offense. I'm pleased with how we played throughout the game; we never let up."

Oregon ran out of steam Friday afternoon against No. 15 Texas A&M, dropping an 8-3 decision. Junior Ashley Richards was 3-for-4 with her first home run of the season, but the

Ducks left eight runners on base and couldn't come up with a victory.

For the first time this season, Oregon lost two games in a row when they started Saturday with a 3-1 loss to Ohio State.

The Ducks took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the sixth on an error. The Buckeyes responded in the top of the seventh with a three-run home run for the victory. Freshman Amy Harris took the loss in her first decision this season.

Oregon ended its losing streak with a 6-1 victory Saturday afternoon against Cal State Northridge. Richards hit her second home run of the season to give Oregon a 1-0 lead in the fourth. Harris earned her second decision of the day to even out her record at 1-1.

"I thought we responded really well against Northridge after missing quite a few opportunities against Ohio State," Arendsen said. "We needed to find a spark to complement our pitching and defense and we did a nice job of that."

The Ducks closed the tournament with a 4-1 win against No. 10 Texas. The game started almost an hour and a half later than it was supposed to, then was called after five innings so that Oregon could make it to the airport for the team's flight back to Eugene.

Nyhus picked up a win to improve her record to 4-2. Boskovich hit her third home run of the season, a two-run shot to center field, to end an 0-for-10 streak in the tournament.

"This was a good win for us," Arendsen said. "Our pitching was strong and our offense stepped up and gave Ani the support she needed."

Oregon continues play with a third pre-season tournament, the Campbell-Cartier Classic in San Diego starting Friday. The Ducks open against Hawaii.

—Mindi Rice

## GUARD

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Mendiola started her scoring run with 10:37 remaining in the second half when her three-pointer from the right wing gave Washington a 47-40 lead.

Oregon pulled to within two at the 8:29 mark when a three-pointer by Brandi Davis made the score 49-47. Mendiola answered with eight straight points and the Huskies led by at least five the rest of the way.

The 5-foot-11 guard finished with 22 points on 8 of 17 shooting.

"My teammates rely on me to score so I just tried to bring it," Mendiola said. "I just started taking my time, relaxing and not forcing things."

Oregon (12-12 overall, 4-10 Pac-10) entered Saturday's game hoping to avenge its 95-50 loss — the third worst in school history — to Washington (14-10, 7-8) on Jan. 15 in Seattle. The Ducks stayed within shouting distance of the Huskies the entire game but couldn't find an answer for Mendiola in the second half.

It was the second time in three contests that Oregon allowed an opposing player to dictate the outcome of a game. Oregon State's Brina Chaney scored 31 against the Ducks in a Feb. 7 loss to the Beavers in Corvallis.

"I think (Mendiola) is a great

player," Davis said. "She found her rhythm. As a defense, we have to learn to slow her down."

Davis helped keep the Ducks close down the stretch, scoring 14 of her team-high 19 points in the second half. Her three three-pointers moved her into fifth place all-time on the Oregon career list with 91.

Eleanor Haring struggled offensively for the Ducks two nights after scoring a career-high 16 points against Washington State. The freshman forward had no problem creating open shots for herself, but ran into trouble knocking them down. Haring missed her first six shots en route to eight points on 3 of 13 shooting.

"I think she just missed some good shots," Oregon head coach Bev Smith said. "It's too bad because I think if she had gotten off to a better start, it certainly would have given them some different defensive problems."

Oregon opened the game on a 7-2 run, but cooled quickly, scoring only six points during the next eight minutes. The teams exchanged blows until a three-point play by Washington guard Cameo Hicks with 18:06 remaining in the second half gave the Huskies a 30-27 lead they didn't relinquish.

Along with Mendiola's performance, Washington received a big second half from center Andrea Lalum. The 6-foot-4 senior scored 12 of her 16 points

after halftime, including eight consecutive during a 90-second stretch.

Lalum's 16 points came despite a 2 of 8 first-half shooting performance. The former Montana High School Girls Player of the Year said she focused on rebounding — grabbing eight total — to help her overcome her slow start.

"It seems to be that way the last couple games where I start off cold and shots aren't falling," Lalum said. "Rebounds are something I can control, so I just try to pick it up on the defensive end, get some rebounds and try to help my team out."

Gioconda Mendiola finished with nine points for the Huskies, while Hicks added nine and grabbed seven rebounds.

Andrea Bills notched her second consecutive double double for Oregon, scoring 10 points and grabbing 10 rebounds. Chelsea Wagner added nine points on 3 of 8 shooting.

Washington head coach June Daugherty said the Huskies needed the win as they prepare for the Pac-10 Tournament.

"The kids are definitely stepping up and playing to their potential," Daugherty said. "I'd like a little more breathing room than what we had but we'll take it — especially at Mac Court."

Contact the sports reporter at jonroetman@dailyemerald.com.

## SLUGGISH

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Oklahoma finished fourth and fifth with team totals of 850 and 852, respectively.

Individual honors went to Anthony Kim of Oklahoma, who finished with a

11-under par 205. Kim was the third different leader in the three day event. Second-round leader Scott Gordon finished in fourth place after carding a final-round 72. Hawaii-Hilo's Nick Mason and Arizona State's Chez Reavie tied for second at 9-under par 207.

The Ducks will return to action March 1 and 2 at the Cleveland Golf Classic, held at the North Ranch Country Club in Westlake, Calif.

Brian Smith is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

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