

Sports Editor:
Hank Hager
hankhager@dailymerald.com

Best bet
Soccer:
Manchester United vs. FC Porto
11:30 a.m., ESPN2

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Jackson misses out on Player of the Year award

Stanford's Josh Childress took home the Pac-10's top honor on Monday

By Hank Hager
Sports Editor

For all the things Luke Jackson did this season — from leading his team in points, rebounds and assists per game to the fashion in which he scored his final two points of his McArthur Court career — it wasn't enough to gain major recognition in the Pacific-10 Conference.

Just two days after sinking two free throws in the final 13 seconds of Oregon's 60-59 win over UCLA, Jackson was named to the All-Pac-10 team on Monday. The forward was figured by many as a candidate for Pac-10 Player of the Year honors.

But the conference's coaches didn't see it that way. The group instead gave the top honor to Stanford's Josh Childress.

Also winning major awards were California's Leon Powe, who took home the Freshman of the Year honors, and Stanford's Mike Montgomery, who earned Coach of the Year.

The conference nomination is the second in a row for Jackson, who averaged 21.6 points, 7.3 rebounds and 4.52 assists per game this season. He is the only player in the Pac-10 to place in the top 10 in all three categories.

Jackson did, however, earn Player of the Week honors Monday after scoring 41 points in two games against Southern California and UCLA last week. His two free throws effectively gave the Ducks a No. 5 seed in the Pac-10 Tournament next week. Had Oregon finished sixth in the

conference, it would have faced off against Arizona, a team that swept the Ducks this season. Instead, Oregon will play California.

"With Luke Jackson, he's going to be a first team All-American, he's still on the Wooden Award list and he's going to have an opportunity to get drafted," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said after Oregon's game against UCLA. "If that doesn't say enough for it, then so be it."

"Him staying another year was a positive for him. He's re-established himself in the record books and he has a chance to be an All-American."

Jackson is still a finalist for the Naismith and John R. Wooden awards, both given to the nation's best player. The Naismith award winner will be announced on April 9 and the Wooden will follow a day later.

Jackson was also named an

ESPN.com All-American on Friday. He joined St. Joseph's Jameer Nelson, Connecticut's Emeka Okafor, North Carolina State's Julius Hodge and Providence's Ryan Gomes.

Arizona and Stanford both placed two players on the All-Pac-10 list. In addition to Childress, the Cardinal had sophomore Chris Hernandez honored.

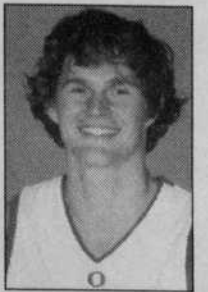
Sophomore Andre Iguodala and junior Channing Frye made it onto the list for Arizona, which finished the season in third place in the Pac-10. Washington, which took second, saw sophomore Nate Robinson voted as an All-Pac-10 player by the conference's coaches.

Powe was the only player to appear on both lists and is California's lone representative on the All-Pac-10 team. Arizona State's Ike Diogu — last season's Freshman of the Year — USC's Desmon Farmer and Oregon State's David Lucas round out the All-Pac-10 team.

Jackson was not the only Oregon player honored by the Pac-10 on Monday. Aaron Brooks was named to the Pac-10 All-Freshman team despite missing 10 conference games due to a broken bone in his right hand.

Sophomore Ian Crosswhite was named as an All-Pac-10 honorable mention selection and Mitch Platt made it onto the honorable mention list for freshmen.

Contact the sports editor at hankhager@dailymerald.com.



Luke Jackson
Oregon forward



Hank Hager
Behind the dish

Don't rush judgment on steroid allegations

Here's a little question to ponder: When was the last time a pill, a powder or a syringe was able to hit a home run?

Let that sink in for just a bit before answering. Think about it. Think of their most common uses, then decide for yourself their place in athletics.

If you've been paying attention to rumors surrounding Barry Bonds, Gary Sheffield and a handful of professional baseball players, then you know why a pill, a powder and a syringe are so prevalent in the media right now.

The thing is, I really don't get how they've been credited for the spike in home runs or improved performance on the field.

Yeah, I'll say steroids are bad. That's the easy way to analyze the issue. Used improperly, or illegally — remember, they do have some practical medical purposes — steroids become a concern.

Supposedly, steroids allow athletes to get bigger in a shorter period of time. But does bigger necessarily mean better when talking about baseball?

Can steroids hit a baseball? Do steroids enable a player to make a backhanded stab at third base and rifle the ball across the diamond before fans can blink?

There's been no medical proof to show that steroids improve hand-eye coordination, which is the basis for almost everything a baseball player has to do on the field. Granted, steroids may allow for that first baseman to hit the ball 10 more feet.

Really, though, is that enough to improve a player's season by 10 home runs, or even five for that matter?

It has been said that the hardest thing for a baseball player to do is hit a baseball. In fact, that may be the hardest thing to do in sports.

Well, some players have been known to get their eyes surgically fixed, a procedure

Turn to **HAGER**, page 6

UO Club volleyball goes 6-1 in tourney

The Ducks narrowly missed the championship match

By Kirsten McEwen
Freelance Reporter

For a team that has struggled to establish a solid lead in the first minutes of previous matches, Oregon men's Club volleyball showed promising signs of kicking the habit Saturday.

Club Sports

The Ducks hosted the Second Annual Northwest Volleyball Classic at the Student Recreation Center, placing third overall in the semifinals to Western Washington.

The Ducks started the day with pool play to determine how each team would be seeded in the tournament. Oregon won all three games in its division, defeating Humboldt State, Idaho and Washington State, putting the Ducks in a good position to begin their first game in bracket play.

"We played the best volleyball our team has ever played in the morning," volleyball coordinator Kyle Sinner said.

Hoping to build on their momentum from earlier wins, the Ducks finished with

an overall record of 6-1 on the day and lost to the 14th-ranked team in the nation, Western Washington. The Ducks forced the match into three games as Western Washington won the first set, 25-23, and Oregon won the second, 25-22.

Despite strong performances from middle blockers Steve Jang and Derek Olson, Oregon lost its final game, 15-11, and missed its chance to compete in the championship game. Western Washington went on to play Simon Fraser — the eventual tournament champion — in the final match.

Although Oregon fell short of competing in the championship, the Ducks captured third place after beating a Seattle Club team. The Ducks ended the match with a 25-20 win to solidify a day of strong performances both on an individual and team level.

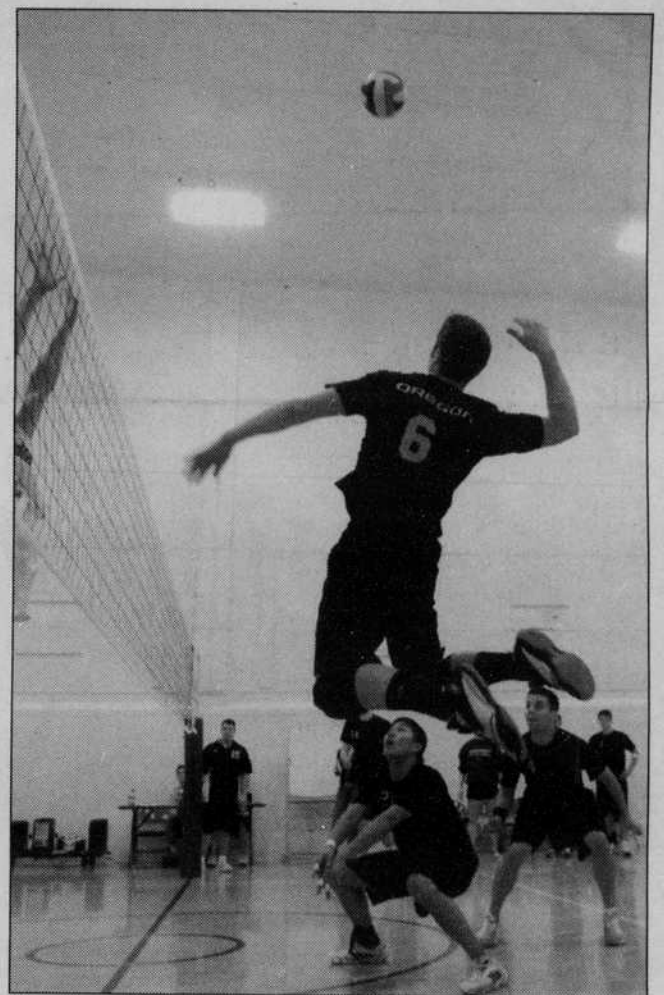
Representing the Ducks on the All-Tournament Team was setter Judson Mead and outside hitter Toshihisa Chiba.

"Both of these players did an outstanding job for us all day long," Sinner said.

Oregon's success on Saturday, Sinner said, can be attributed to the team's ability to serve the ball consistently.

"Our serving was immaculate," Sinner said. "It was one of the main reasons we

Turn to **CLUB**, page 6



Erik R. Bishoff Photographer

Kyle Sinner (6) and the Ducks won six matches on Saturday.

UO women lead first day

Six of Oregon's golfers finished in the top 15 after a second round charge on Monday

By Brian Smith
Freelance Reporter

The Oregon women's golf team felt right at home Monday.

Having been slighted by Mother Nature last week in North Carolina, the Ducks took full advantage of the fact that they opened their spring season at home by jumping out to an opening day lead at the

2004 Duck Invitational. Underneath clear blue skies and 60-degree temperatures, four of Oregon's competitors finished in the top 10 on the 5,968-yard, par-72 Eugene Country Club course.

The Ducks showed a little rustiness in

the morning round. In spite of the fact, the Ducks were in second after a first-round 315, seven strokes back of Washington State, confident that they could make a second-round charge.

"After I saw the first-round scores, I knew our second round would be better," Oregon head coach Shannon Rouillard said. "We had a little hiccup in the first round and I guess I expected that because of some rust and nervousness, but I think playing 36 holes was a great advantage for us today, because we are a physically tough and mentally tough team."

The advantage did indeed favor the Ducks as they fired the low round of the tournament's first day, a 298 in the second round; a 17-stroke improvement from the morning. The Ducks used that momentum to jump ahead of Washington State to take the team lead at the end of day one.

Sophomore Therese Wenslow

Turn to **GOLF**, page 6



Tim Bobosky Photographer

Jess Carylton finished with a two-round score of 158 to tie for 13th on Monday.