

Tuesday, April 6, 2004

Huskies deny Yellow Jackets, take NCAA title

Emeka Okafor scores 24 and grabs 15 rebounds in Connecticut's national title victory on Monday

By Aditi Kinkhabwala
The Record (KRT)

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Thirty-seven minutes, three seconds into the game, Jim Calhoun was at it again.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

A whistle blew, the Connecticut coach turned to his bench and lashed out at assistant George Blaney. For three years Calhoun's

been yelling at Blaney, and now, 2:57 from his second national championship was no time to stop.

Not with the Huskies up by 12. Not with the Huskies playing with zeal and fervor, with passion and sheer dominance. No, he gave Blaney an evil eye 30 seconds later, had cross words for likely lottery pick Ben Gordon with 1:05 to go, and then again for Blaney with less than 43 seconds to play and the Alamodome crowd filing out.

Jim Calhoun didn't stop working Monday night. And neither did the Huskies. Not till they'd captured the national title they'd been picked to win back in October, not till Georgia Tech valiantly went down, 82-73.

"This is the best feeling in the

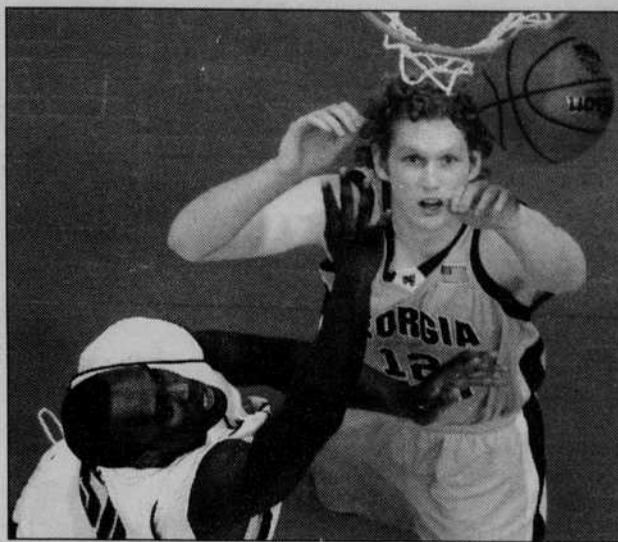
world," said star UConn guard Ben Gordon, who scored 21 points. "I just keep on telling myself that I would not be denied, and that I would not let my team lose no matter what."

All-America center Emeka Okafor had his say in the matter, leading the winners with 24 points and 15 rebounds.

Calhoun said of his players: "I fell in love with them."

Denham Brown came to the bench with a smile and a head slap for Charlie Villanueva with 30 seconds to go, two handfuls of former Connecticut stars — led by Ray Allen — filed behind the bench with 30 seconds to go, Alamodome

Turn to **TITLE**, page 8



Connecticut's Emeka Okafor and Georgia Tech's Luke Schenscher (12) battled for the ball during the Huskies' 82-73 victory in the national championship on Monday in San Antonio.

Patrick Schneider
Charlotte Observer

To the future

Oregon struggled through an inconsistent season but looks to right some wrongs next year

By Hank Hager
Sports Editor

Oregon's 78-53 loss to Michigan last week in the semifinals of the National Invitation Tournament didn't just end the Ducks' season.

It also ended the college careers of four seniors and an era unparalleled in Oregon's history.

Goodbye, Luke Jackson. See you later, James Davis. Hit the road, Jay Anderson. Don't look back, Andre Joseph.

Their careers are done. But in doing so, those legacies open the door for the future of Oregon basketball.

"Luke Jackson has had an incredible career," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said after the loss. "He's going to leave numbers, footprints and legacies that may never be matched again at Oregon. I can't say enough about what he's accomplished."

"With the other three seniors, for this team to go through the injuries and the adversity, we played some outstanding basketball our last six out

Turn to **FUTURE**, page 10



Hank Hager
Behind the dish

Bring in big-time baseball to Eugene

Portland opens up the 2004 Pacific Coast League Baseball season Thursday.

The Beavers are on the road for the start of the season, heading out to Las Vegas to take on the 51s, the Triple-A club of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

On April 16, the Beavers return to Portland to take on the 51s again. The

Turn to **HAGER**, page 10

Editor's note:
Sports Editor Hank Hager has interned and worked for the Portland Beavers and the Eugene Emeralds.



Adam Amato Senior Photographer

Aaron Brooks missed 10 games this season due to injury, but returned in an Oregon loss to Arizona. He returns for the 2004-05 season as a key component of an Oregon offense that will miss Luke Jackson, Andre Joseph and James Davis.

Club baseball comes out on short end in 3-game series

The Ducks won the first game of a three-game series against Western Washington

By Kirsten McEwen
Freelance Reporter

What a difference an inning makes.

Heading into the seventh and final inning on Sunday, Oregon's Club baseball team led Western Washington 11-4 at Eugene's Civic Stadium. The Ducks (12-3) were only three outs away from winning the series against one of their toughest opponents and securing first place in the National Club Baseball Association.

Club Sports

When the top of the seventh inning ended, Western Washington (2-1) had scored nine runs and taken the lead, 13-11. All nine runners came around to score before Oregon even secured an out. Western Washington took the series, 2-1.

"It's one thing when you lose, but it's another thing when you have the game in your hand and lose at the very end," Oregon center fielder Tory Caputo said.

A day earlier, the Ducks struggled against Western Washington from the start, finding themselves behind 9-0 heading into the fourth inning of the first game of a doubleheader. Oregon managed to score six runs in the fourth inning, and in its last inning at bat, the Ducks tied the game at 11. Catcher Jon Loomis' single brought the winning run home and the Ducks won their first home game, 12-11.

Then came game two.

"We thought we had tons of momentum going into our second game and we did. We jumped on them and got a 5-0 lead," first baseman Jeff Douglas said.

Third baseman Travis Chock hit a three-run home run in the bottom of the second inning to put the Ducks up early. In the fifth, Oregon gave up six runs and found itself behind, 11-6, going into the last

Turn to **SERIES**, page 9

Oregon catcher Jon Loomis was named the player of the week in the NCBA last week. He helped the Ducks to a win over Washington Saturday at Civic Stadium in Eugene.

Erik R. Bishoff
Photographer

