

**SPORTS BRIEFS**

**Hoz de Vila to represent Bolivia**

Oregon freshman Monica Hoz de Vila was named to the Bolivian National Tennis Team on Tuesday in preparation for the 2004 Fed Cup, set to take place April 23 through 26 in Campinas, Brazil.

Hoz de Vila, a La Paz native, and Bolivia will play against Chile, Jamaica, Bermuda and Trinidad and Tobago in the Americas Zone Group II. The winner advances to the Americas Zone Group I.

"It is a great honor for Monica to represent the Oregon program and (an) even bigger honor for her to represent her country," Oregon head coach Nils Schyllander said. "This will help her development as a tennis player and give her a chance to play quality competition."

Hoz de Vila is 11-6 overall this season and 4-1 in duals. She also holds a 4-1 record in doubles play.

The Fed Cup is the female version of the Davis Cup, "the largest international team competition in world sport," according to the tournament's Web site, [www.daviscup.com](http://www.daviscup.com).

— Hank Hager

**Oregon gets first Pac-10 honor**

The Pacific-10 Conference named Oregon junior Sofie Abildtrup as the Women's Track Athlete of the Week on Tuesday.

Abildtrup helped Oregon win the Pepsi Team Invitational on Saturday at Hayward Field. The Fredericksberg, Denmark native won the 400-meter race in 54.49 seconds, which gave her a Pac-10 and regional qualifying mark. The time also placed her ninth in Oregon history in the event.

After Abildtrup heard about the

honor, given to one athlete on the track side and one to the field events section, she said she did not know how to react at first.

"I didn't even know (the Pac-10) did that," said Abildtrup, who is a first-year Duck.

However, Abildtrup later realized the importance of earning the award personally and for her team.

"There are, as far as I know, pretty good athletes in the Pac-10," Abildtrup said. "So I'm pretty honored to get that title." Abildtrup won the 200-meters this past Saturday with a time of 23.94, taking the event by 0.71 seconds.

Ending the afternoon, the junior ran the final leg of the women's 4x400 relay team, leading the Ducks to the victory. Abildtrup also anchored the team's 4x100 relay team, which placed third.

After the Pepsi Invitational meet, the Oregon coaches told their rising star they were proud of the way she competed in all of her events.

"My coaches told me that they were pleased that I did so well," Abildtrup said. "They were just very optimistic (about my performance)."

Abildtrup becomes the sixth Oregon track and field athlete to take home conference honors in the past three seasons. She joins Santiago Lorenzo (decathlon, 2003), Brett Holts (steeplechase, 2003), Adam Jenkins (javelin, 2003), Trevor Woods (pole vault, 2002) and Sarah Malone (javelin, 2001).

Also honored Tuesday by the Pac-10 were UCLA's Dan Ames (men's field), Arizona State's Domenik Peterson (men's track) and the Bruins' Sheena Gordon (women's field).

— Hank Hager and Alex Tam

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**BUMPS**

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me. We hold each other accountable."

In the outfield, players have a few more seconds for reaction time, although they often have more ground to cover. Infielders can't depend on each other to back them up — if an infielder misses a ball, the next closest player is likely an outfielder.

The errors that have plagued Oregon recently have ended up in key situations — a missed throw that would have ended an inning or a misplayed bunt that would have saved a run — giving the errors a more direct effect on the game.

"You try not to (be waiting for the next one), but sometimes that's just the way it goes," Goodell said. "We all know that we all have the potential to be the best defensive team there is — we have the talent and we have the potential — but sometimes you just get in that mode where it goes back to the confidence thing. When one thing goes wrong, you start to question your ability even though you know you have the ability."

As a team, Oregon's fielding percentage is .955. Opponents are fielding .966 against the Ducks.

**Sharing the burden**

Oregon's success this season has come behind the bats of the team rather than a select group of hard-hitters.

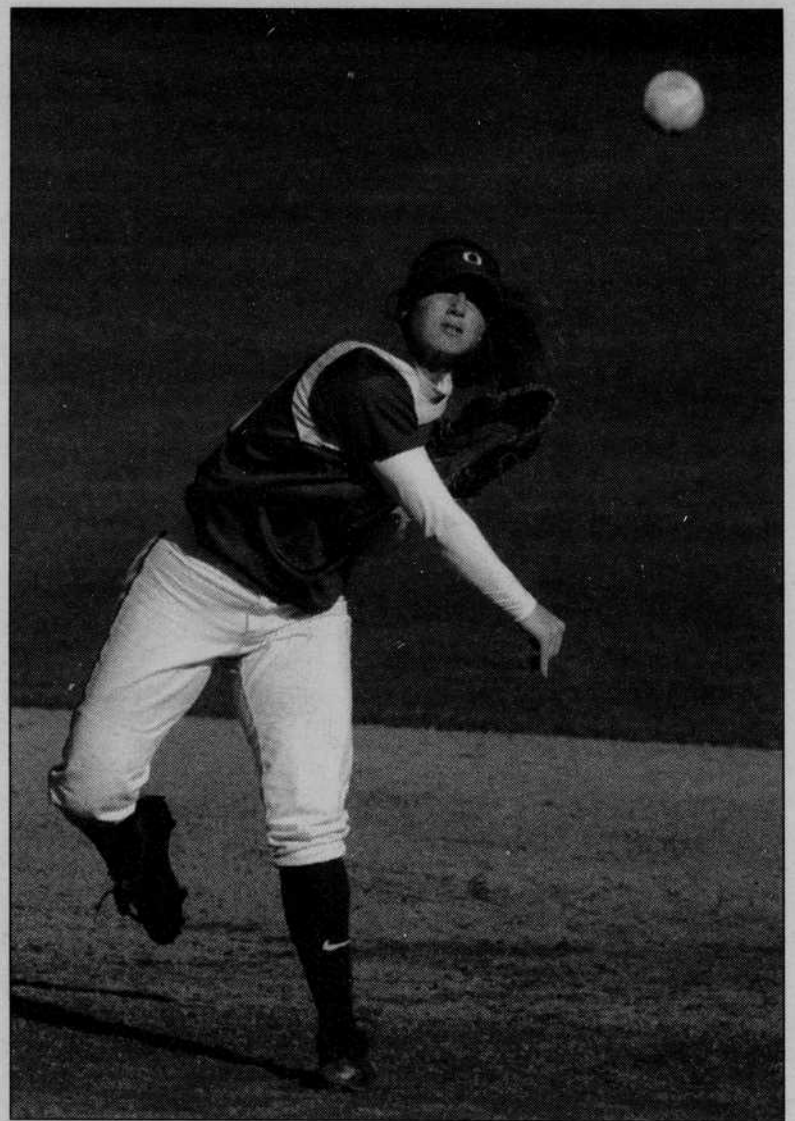
The Ducks' top three hitters — Poore, Ashley Richards and Kayleen Hudson — are each 4 for 45 in Oregon's past five games. Despite the slump for the Ducks' leading hitters, Oregon went 3-2 in those five games.

"They're frustrated probably more than I am," Oregon head coach Kathy Arendsen said. "That's part of the game, that you go up and down. They had some hot streaks where the ball must have looked like a beach ball to them, and right now it probably looks like a golf ball."

This season, Poore leads the Ducks with a .339 average. Richards is second, hitting .336 and Hudson is hitting .323, rounding out the top three.

**Still climbing the hill**

Oregon finished its first Pac-10 series of



Adam Amato Senior Photographer

Shortstop Breanne Sabol is one of three players who returned to starting positions in the infield. Both the first and third basemen are new starters this season.

the season Saturday when the Ducks wrapped up the three-game battle with Oregon State with a 2-1 record.

"Oregon State is a very good ball-club," Arendsen said. "We're very thrilled about (the series win). It was one of the goals we set this year."

Although the Ducks have finished one conference series, most of Pac-10

play remains ahead. Oregon opens its series against Washington on Friday and UCLA on Saturday. The following weekend, the Ducks face Arizona and Arizona State for the first time this season to hit the halfway mark of the Pac-10 season.

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