

## SPORTS

Best bet  
NBA Playoffs:  
Dallas vs. Sacramento  
7:30 p.m., TNT

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Hank Hager  
Behind the dish

## Bring us back to our lost innocence

When we grow up, we all want to think they're superhuman.

We want to believe they can do no wrong, that when they step on the field they'll do it with grace and dignity.

We want to think when they step off the court, they're going to be model citizens. We want to believe they'll act in good behavior.

Then somewhere along the way, probably in between middle school and high school, reality begins to hit. Those articles our parents used to hide from us suddenly start to appear. When we watch ESPN's SportsCenter, our parents don't suddenly turn the channel anymore.

That's when innocence was lost. I know it was for me.

When innocence is lost, you start thinking they're no more than money-munching machines. The errors turn into curses, losses into full-blown tirades. They're not your heroes anymore, just statistical entities that can help win or lose fantasy leagues.

You care no more about the 108 stitches on a baseball. It doesn't matter that the puck isn't just made out of rubber; it's vulcanized rubber. That basketball doesn't have the same bounce anymore. The football just can't be thrown in a tight spiral.

It's just not going to happen.

Along the way, this all happened to us. It's a shame, a crying shame.

It is reality.

There's a way to get around it, a way to find the foundation of love that we all once had in our lives.

It's simple. It's easier than one might think.

Want to know? The answer won't cost you.

Allow yourself to be amazed. Go to a game, sit in the stands, order two — no three — hot dogs. Grab a soda, grab a beer. Spend too much money on a giant foam hand.

Go to batting practice. Watch as the players run out from the tunnel. Go

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Erik R. Bishoff Photographer

Erin Goodell, seen here earlier this season, hit a home run Friday against Washington and another Sunday in Oregon's loss to UCLA.

## Offensive improvement sparks Ducks

Second baseman Erin Goodell's two-home-run weekend is an example of Oregon's recent surge in offense

By **Mindi Rice**  
Senior Sports Reporter

Second baseman Erin Goodell rode a bit of an offensive streak through the weekend.

Friday, Goodell hit what ended up to be the game-winning hit, a home run over the left field wall in the top of the seventh inning. In Sunday's 10-inning loss to UCLA, Goodell provided Oregon's only offense, a two-run home run that tied

the game in the fifth.

On the weekend, Goodell went 3 for 10, totaling four RBIs, two runs and two home runs.

"I'm feeling really good and I'm seeing the ball really well," Goodell said. "It makes me confident. I've just been going in each game with a positive mentality. I think our whole team gives me that confidence, just knowing we can win each game has helped me individually."

The weekend added 12 points to Goodell's season batting average, raising it to .196, or 13

points higher than her average last season.

"(Erin) has been working with (assistant coach) J. Gaudreau on her hitting," Oregon head coach Kathy Arendsen said. "I like where she's at. She has confidence when she comes up to bat and you can tell."

"She hit a hit-and-run for a home run (Sunday). I wish I could say I called for a hit-and-run home run. It was a great hit."

Goodell's weekend is an example of the balanced offensive attack that Oregon has this year.

"We're a better all-around team in our offensive lineup than last year," Arendsen said. "Each

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## Focus falls on backups for week three

The Ducks will practice Tuesday and Thursday this week before their third scrimmage Friday

By **Hank Hager**  
Sports Editor

The Ducks got started just two days early. Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said Monday that the emphasis of the final two weeks of spring practice will be on the team's non-starters.

In other words, the No. 2 and No. 3 guys on the Ducks' depth chart

who will have valuable roles come the 2004 season as backups.

### DUCK FOOTBALL

"We need to get them as much reps as possible in the next two weeks,"

Bellotti said. "To me, we need to really evaluate and coach the newcomers. The guys that we perceive will be playing a large portion of the time for us next season, but don't have that backlog of experience."

In Oregon's second scrimmage of the spring, which took place

Saturday, that scenario unfolded.

Players such as Dan Kause, Aaron Gipson, Chris Vincent and Eddie Whitaker proved that during the scrimmage when they led Oregon on offense and defense.

In addition, Johnny DuRocher, slated to be Kellen Clemens' backup at quarterback, saw the most action behind center at the scrimmage. He completed six of 10 passes for 95 yards.

Dennis Dixon and Brady Leaf also will see more snaps.

"I think that we want to look at Johnny, Dennis and Brady," Bellotti

said. "As many as looks as (possible) under fire or live as we can make it to evaluate their game readiness."

"It's probably more visible at quarterback but it's probably the same at every position."

On defense, Bellotti held the same opinion Monday as Saturday: The Ducks need to tackle better, be more aggressive and come together stronger as a unit.

"I wasn't upset with the defense," he said. "I felt like we didn't tackle as well as we need to tackle. Our scheme, being a single gap control

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## New tournament opens up possibilities for Oregon golf

The coast's Bandon Dunes will be the home of a golf tournament Oregon and Northwestern agreed on

By **Brian Smith**  
Freelance Reporter

The Oregon men's golf team scored a major tournament victory Monday without even having to tee off.

The ink is now dry on a deal between Oregon and Northwestern, along with KemperSports, that will create what could possibly become the premiere collegiate golf event in

country: the Pacific-10 Conference/Big Ten Challenge.

The most impressive aspect of the tournament is not necessarily the teams that will participate but the venues hosting the new tournament.

Oregon's own Bandon Dunes Golf Resort — home to the second and third-ranked modern courses in America, according to Golfweek magazine — will begin hosting the tournament in 2004. The Bandon Dunes and Pacific Dunes courses are ranked No. 9 and No. 2 among the "Top 100 Courses You Can Play" in Golf Magazine.

"The impetus behind this event is strictly what an amazing golf facility

Bandon Dunes Golf Resort is," Northwestern head coach Pat Goss said. "The courses are the tournament. This will be the best and most special place college golf is played."

### DUCK GOLF

— the Double Eagle Club in Galena, Ohio — by Golfweek. In perspective, Pacific Dunes trails behind only the hallowed Pebble Beach Golf Course as best public course in the country.

The event will send six teams from each conference to face off against one another. The four top finishers from each conference's championship tournament of the previous season will be invited, along with one at-large team from each league, chosen by KemperSports. Northwestern and Oregon will be tournament co-hosts.

"This has the potential to develop into the most exciting and anticipated college golf tournament in the country," Oregon head coach Steve Nosler said. "We want this to be the most unique and best event in collegiate golf, the type of tournament college players look forward to playing in."

The 2004 event will take place Oct. 24 to 26 and then will shift to The Glen Club Course in Glenview, Ill., for 2005, after which the tournament will go into a three-year rotation between courses. KemperSports Management of Northbrook, Ill., owns the Glen Club and manages Bandon Dunes Golf Resort.

"Northwestern is fortunate to have a good relationship with KemperSports," Goss said. "Because they own the Glen Club, we were excited to be able to showcase the event in Chicago, too."

Brian Smith is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.