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Thursday, May 6, 2004

Oregon tennis teams earn NCAA invitations

Both Duck teams believe they hold a distinct advantage in the first round of the NCAA Tournament next weekend

By Clayton Jones
Freelance Reporter

The Oregon men's tennis team's season was resurrected as the tennis gods shed light upon their darkened hopes for a postseason berth when the NCAA committee announced Wednesday the Ducks are worthy of an invitation to this year's NCAA Tournament.

The invitation was a relief for the team, according to head coach Chris Russell, and it gives the players new life.

"It's like we've been reincarnated,"

Russell said. "At the same time we put ourselves in this situation and we're responsible for that."

The announcement marks the third time in the program's history the Ducks will be participating in the NCAA Tournament.

DUCK TENNIS

"We haven't been able to do this in four years, so this is a big step in the right direction for our program," Russell said.

Oregon will travel to Oxford, Miss., where it will face No. 22 Vanderbilt, the 2003 NCAA Tournament runner-up, in the first round on May 15.

The Ducks won't go in without any NCAA Tournament experience: Sophomore transfer Markus Schiller played at

Auburn University last year and participated in the NCAA Tournament.

"I went to Mississippi last year with Auburn and I know it is a very hostile place," Schiller said. "But the NCAA Tournament is a fun atmosphere."

"He knows the environment and he knows the players, so it should be an advantage," Russell said.

Russell believes his team will face new challenges in Mississippi.

"That's tennis country and the heart of the (Southeastern Conference)," he said. "Not only will we be representing Oregon, we will be fighting for the bragging rights of the Pac-10."

Also announced Wednesday was the Pacific-10 all-conference teams. Junior Sven Swinnen earned first-team honors and junior Manuel Kost garnered second-team honors for the

second consecutive year.

Women open at Washington

The Oregon women's tennis team got its wish and received a berth from the NCAA committee as well, which will take the Ducks to Washington.

"We're really excited to stay close to home and hopefully some of our fans can make the trip up," head coach Nils Schyllander said.

The No. 32 Ducks (16-8) will face 31st-ranked New Mexico (20-4) in their first-round match May 15.

Though Schyllander says they aren't looking ahead, the Ducks are excited to be in this bracket because it gives them the best chance to advance to the round of 16 in Athens, Ga.

"I think our best chance to win is in this bracket instead of having to go to

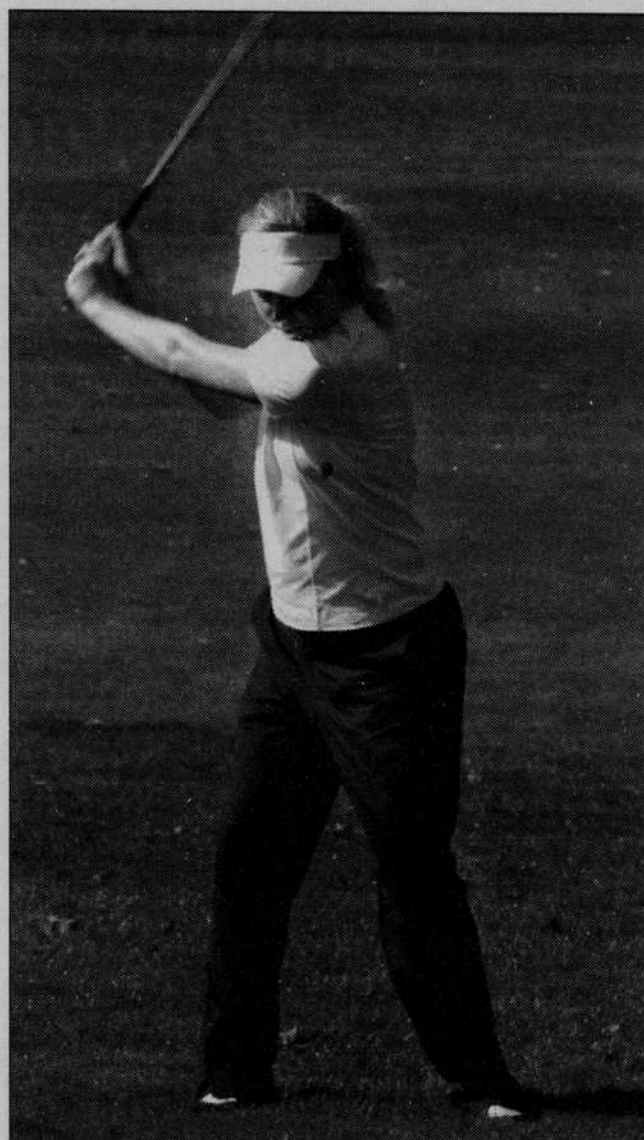
Stanford or Cal," Schyllander said.

Schyllander believes the team has been rewarded for a great season by being placed in the Washington bracket and earning a first-round match-up against a team with a similar record.

"We're very excited to have a chance to possibly play Washington again," Schyllander said. "But first we have a very tough match against New Mexico. We have a lot of respect for their program."

Individually, junior Daria Panova was honored by the Pac-10 Wednesday with a first-team all-conference selection. This is the second year in a row the Moscow, Idaho, native has earned this honor.

Clayton Jones is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.



Tim Bobosky Photographer

Therese Wenslow looks to get her strong play back on track at the NCAA Regionals, which begin today and are hosted by Stanford.

a STYLE all her own

Sophomore Therese Wenslow looks to help the Ducks advance past the NCAA West Regional for the first time since 2000

By Brian Smith
Freelance Reporter

Imagine being a member of the women's golf team heading to the Eugene Country Club for a practice round, driving down Country Club Road and seeing a golf bag on wheels.

A golf bag on a bike.

More specifically, a golf bag on the shoulders of a player riding a bike.

Pulling up alongside, and seeing that she is a teammate, an offer for a ride is made. The girl on the bike politely says no and continues on. Another offer is made and still she refuses. Persistence does not persuade and the overwhelming thought is, "That's Therese for you."

Sophomore Therese Wenslow is described by teammates in a number of ways, but the consensus seems to be that "determined" and "focused" are the best adjectives to label the native of Bunkeflostrand, Sweden.

"She's very focused in her game," teammate Michelle Timpani said. "She's always walking fast and doing her own thing. She is also very calm. I've never see her get mad and throw a club or display poor sportsmanship. Therese is a very hard worker. She's always the first one here and last one to leave."

Head coach Shannon Rouillard agrees.

"Her dedication and her work ethic, her strive for excellence, to be the best she can be at whatever she does, plays a part on this team," Rouillard said. "It has helped take this team to the next level. I know it has forced Michelle and Kim (McCreedy) and Erin (Andrews and Johnna (Nealy to get out there and practice and not just sit home."

Much of the dogged determination and discipline can be attributed to the three years Wenslow spent at the prestigious Swedish Golf High School in Klippan, where at 16 she lived with three other students in an apartment, taking classes early in the day and playing golf in the afternoon.

"It was a great way to learn to take care of myself," Wenslow said. "After coming here, I knew it wouldn't be that hard. I knew that I was independent and capable of doing those basic things when you live on your own."

Independence wasn't the only reason Wenslow decided on the golf school.

"It was more like I had access to more golf courses, since the school was in the south and I was from the north," Wenslow said. "In the south, you have a longer time of the year to play golf. That was the main reason I went."

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UO senior prepared to defend javelin title

Adam Jenkins knows last weekend's winning mark won't cut it at the Pac-10 Championships next week

By Jon Roetman
Sports Reporter

Adam Jenkins has been working hard during the past couple weeks to prepare himself for the Pacific-10 Conference Championships in mid-May.

So it was no surprise when the defending Pac-10 javelin champion showed up to last weekend's Oregon Invitational physically drained from nearing the end of his training cycle. Along with the difficulty of battling back from a shoulder injury suffered earlier in the year, the senior simply wanted his efforts at Hayward Field on Saturday to produce a respectable mark.

"From the moment I stepped on the track, I didn't feel very good," Jenkins said after the event. "I'm coming off some training and my body is real tired."

When all was said and done, the

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Oregon takes two from Portland State

Oregon's Ani Nyhus was named to the Canadian Olympic team before the Ducks swept Portland State on Wednesday at Howe

By Mindi Rice
Senior Sports Reporter

Even when she pitches less than an inning, Oregon's Ani Nyhus tops the news.

Nyhus, who earned her second save of the season in Oregon's 1-0 win Wednesday against Portland State, was also named to Team Canada Wednesday, the club that will represent Canada in the 2004 Olympics.

The junior faced four batters to close out the Ducks' victory in the first game of a

doubleheader at Howe Field.

Sophomore pitcher Amy Harris started the game for No. 10 Oregon (37-14 overall, 9-6 Pacific-10 Conference), facing 20 batters in 6 1/3 innings. She struck out four and allowed none to reach base via hits.

The Ducks' lone run came on a home run by left fielder Dani Baird down the left field line in the bottom of the third inning. Oregon managed just three hits aside from the home run.

"We came out a little flat today," Harris said. "I think all of us were kind of hurting for some energy."

Senior pitcher Anissa Meashintubby pitched a complete game shutout in the second game of the doubleheader, improving her record to 11-2 on the season.

Meashintubby struck out seven batters and gave up three hits.

In the second game, the Ducks again scored one run in the bottom of the third, this time when left fielder Julie Jaime scored on an error by Portland State.

It looked to be another 1-0 game until the bottom of the sixth, when the Ducks broke out of an offensive slump.

"We started off kind of slow, but by the end of the second game we picked it up a little bit," Oregon catcher Jenn Poore said.

After third baseman Ashley Richards

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Tim Kupsick Photographer

Amy Harris threw 6 1/3 hitless innings Wednesday in the first game of a doubleheader against Portland State. Oregon swept the Vikings this season and now heads south to take on Arizona and Arizona this weekend to finish its 2004 Pac-10 road schedule.