

NATIONALS

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but after a 10-2 win over Willamette and a 10-5 victory over No. 2 Whitman in the semifinals, the Ducks found themselves in the championship game. Pitted against Washington — the Northwest region's defending champion — Oregon beat the tournament's top-seeded team, 10-9, to earn the title of Northwest Women's Lacrosse Division Intercollegiate Associates Champions and a trip to Nationals.

"Our team really has no weaknesses," White said. "We have a good core of seniors who display great leadership and we just have great team chemistry both on and off the field."

For Oregon, traveling to St. Louis has been a dream that was cultivated a long time ago. Co-Coordinator Traci Geist said the team's success at regionals can be directly attributed to the team's work ethic.

"Everyone decided to get better," Geist said. "We were sick of losing. Every year our team had such a big turnover of girls, but this year we have a core group that has really stuck together."

When Oregon takes the field today, Geist admits the team members are not quite sure what they are getting themselves into. The

Ducks have never played a team from outside the West Coast area and have been able to do little scouting on the Aggies.

"We know they have an All-American, but that's about it," Geist said. "We are a very quick team so we will try to take advantage of that."

Although this is Oregon's first time competing against nationally ranked teams at such a high profile event, the Ducks still have high expectations.

"We would really like to win some games," senior Mary Beebe said. "We want to know how West Coast teams compare."

Men eliminated

The No. 8 Oregon men's lacrosse Club team stuck to its winning ways on Tuesday, defeating No. 9 Boston College, 14-10, at the U.S. Lacrosse Men's Intercollegiate Associates National Championships, also in St. Louis.

The Eagles took a 4-3 lead, but the Ducks regained control just before halftime. From then on, Oregon took control for good and won the opening match of the tournament, 14-10.

The Ducks advanced to the quarterfinals, where they fell to No. 1 UC Santa Barbara, 12-5, on Wednesday.

Kirsten McEwen is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

HAIRSTON

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portunity to start and contribute right away. He is already rumored as a potential replacement for Luke Jackson.

With Aaron Brooks returning at the point guard spot and fellow recruits Chamberlain Oguchi and Bryce Taylor — both of whom are ranked in Rivals' top 75 — the Ducks have the potential for a young, fast and talented backcourt.

But the Ducks may not have Hairston's services for long. His father, Richard Hairston, told the Detroit Free Press Wednesday he does not expect Malik to stay for a full four years. That alone may have lessened the likelihood he would sign with Michigan, because the Wolverines lose just one player from a team that won the National Invitation Tournament.

"What we were looking for was something specific in terms of playing time and how he would fit in," Richard Hairston told the paper. "As a part of (Michigan head coach) Tommy Amaker's thing, he's not willing to talk about that, and I understand that. He has ballplayers that have performed well for him. So my child says to me, 'Dad, I want to go into a situation where I can develop and have the opportunity to leave college in two years.'"

Hairston, Oguchi and Taylor join Maarty Leunen — 60th best in the nation according to Rivals — and recently signed point guard Kenny Love to make up the 2004 recruiting class. That group was ranked as 17th best in the nation according to <http://www.CollegeSports.com> before Hairston's signing, and is expected to improve.

Contact the sports editor at hankhager@dailyemerald.com.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Stewart not headed to 49ers, for now

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Leigh Steinberg, the agent for Kordell Stewart, said Wednesday that the 49ers have not inquired about the veteran quarterback and said he suspects they are leaning toward using his other client, youngster Ken Dorsey.

"Ken shows the promise of being a future starting quarterback," Steinberg said. "The process of maturation takes time, but I'm certainly confident — and I would bet the 49ers are confident — that he has what it takes to become a starter in the NFL."

The 49ers lost their top quarterback last week when Tim Rattay suffered a groin injury that will sideline him for three to four months. General Manager Terry Donahue said the 49ers would discuss adding a veteran quarterback but also said the team might turn things over to Dorsey, the 49ers' seventh-round draft pick a year ago.

"We have not made any decisions, nor have we invited anyone to visit us at this time," Donahue said in a statement released by the team. "We will continue to evaluate the situation and will make decisions based on what is best for the team."

Stewart, who started seven games for Chicago last season, has been without a team since the Bears released him March 1. He is one of several experienced quarterbacks looking for work, including discount options such as Damon Huard and Steve Beuerlein.

— Daniel Brown
Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

Orlando's McGrady may not go to Athens

ORLANDO, Fla. — Orlando Magic star Tracy McGrady, who had said rep-

resenting his country in the Olympics was a childhood dream, now is leaning toward pulling out of the Summer Games in Athens, Greece.

Sources close to McGrady told The Orlando Sentinel that security concerns in Athens have caused McGrady to waver.

Last week, 100 days before the Games start, three bombs exploded outside a police station in Athens. The Greek government downplayed the blasts and blamed them on home-grown extremists, ruling out a connection between terrorists and the world's largest sporting event.

McGrady declined to comment Wednesday but indicated he would announce his decision soon.

"Tracy is worried about security, no question," said a source. "He's going to have his family over there with him."

— Brian Schmitz
The Orlando Sentinel (KRT)

Powe speaks about surgery

BERKELEY, Calif. — Cal forward Leon Powe spoke publicly Wednesday for the first time since undergoing the first of a two-part surgical procedure on his left knee last month, and he made it clear that the only timeline he'll use for his return to the court will be his own.

"I'm going to play it by what I think, not by what somebody else wants me to do," said Powe, last season's Pac-10 Freshman of the Year. "I'm going to take my time. This is no time to be tough."

Powe underwent a bone graft procedure by Dr. Richard Steadman on April 21. Steadman will perform reconstructive surgery on Powe's anterior cruciate ligament in July.

— Jonathan Okanes
Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

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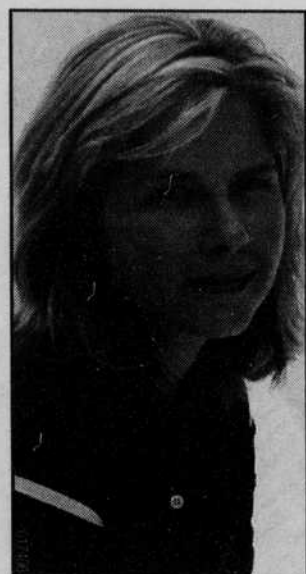
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