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Best bet
NBA Playoffs:
Indiana vs. Miami
5 p.m., ESPN

Tuesday, May 18, 2004



Hank Hager
Behind the dish

Deserving athletes should be praised

As much as it felt hard to laugh at an Oregon basketball player, that's what most of the crowd at McArthur Court was doing Friday night during a charity wheelchair game called Rollin' for a Remedy.

Aaron Brooks still tried to use his patented behind-the-back passes, but alas, the members of the Eugene Express caught on too quick.

Carolyn Ganes thought she could out-wheel one of the Express members, but wow, they were fast. Ganes found that out before tipping over in her chair to the amusement of the fans.

"It was weird," Brooks said. "I'm not the strongest guy on the team. It's hard for me to get up shots (in a wheelchair)."

"I admire (the Express). They came out and kicked our butt."

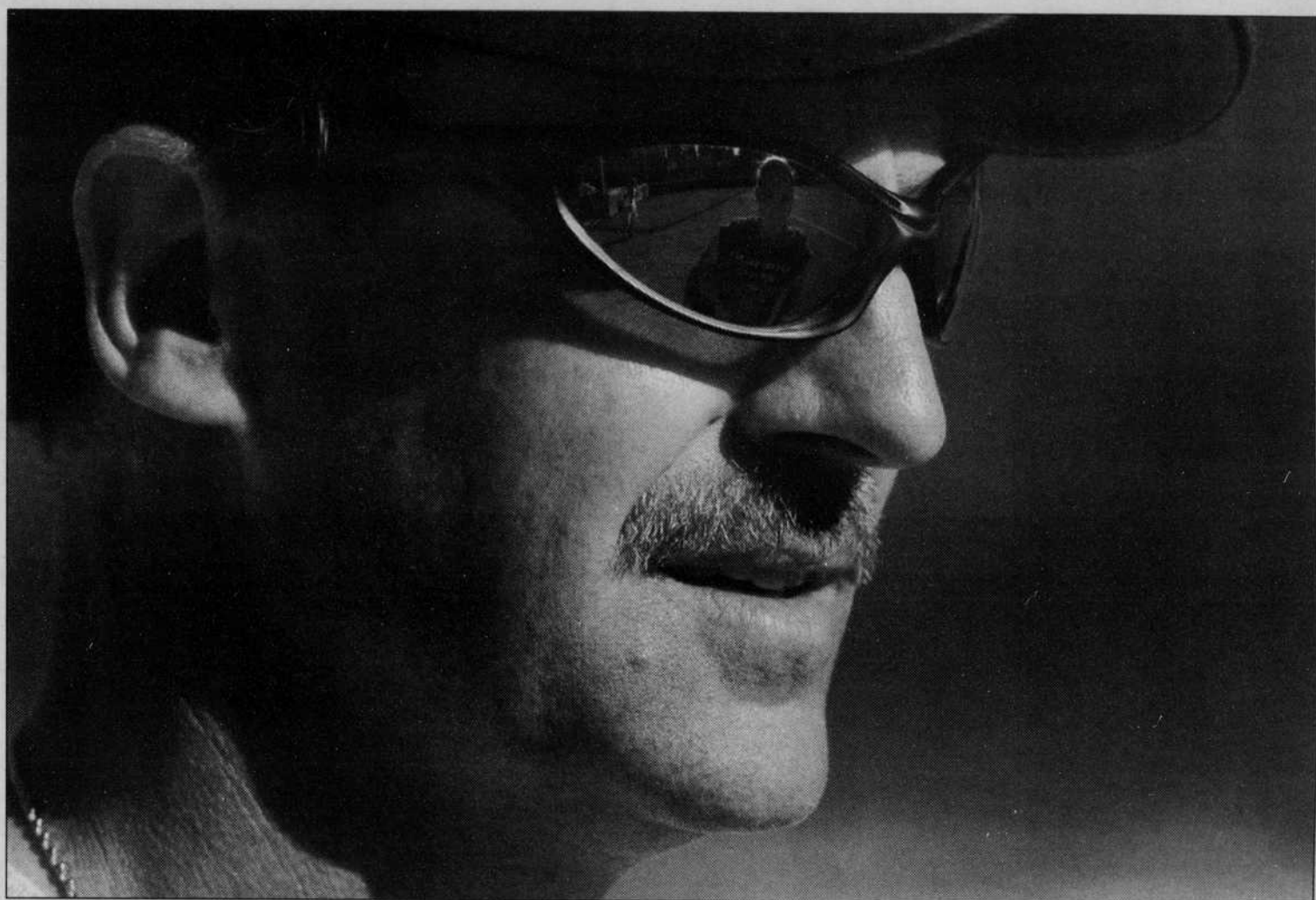
It was a hard game for the athletes involved, but it was important. Lauren Westendorf, the event's creator, and the 11 players on Oregon's side should be commended, no matter how much time was needed, for participating in a just cause.

That cause raised bone marrow transplant money for Davie Untz, a 3 1/2-year-old Eugene boy.

We've been so accustomed in this society to hearing about the bad. We almost begin to expect athletes to run amok with the law, almost forgetting they provide the community with positives.

The Associated Press stories run along the wire service, and ESPN.com picks them up.

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Emerald

Oregon assistant coach Mike White has more than 25 years of fastpitch softball pitching expertise helping him coach the Ducks' four pitchers.

Experience helps UO assistant teach

Oregon pitching coach Mike White has adapted more than 25 years of softball pitching experience into two years of coaching with the Ducks

By Mindi Rice
Senior Sports Reporter

Mike White is part of a rare breed of college coaches.

Most coaches and assistant coaches rarely coach at the same time that they actively participate in the same sport. But White, one of two Oregon softball assistant coaches, took a two-week absence from the team at the end of January to travel to New Zealand with the USA men's

fastpitch team to compete in the World Championships.

It was White's sixth world series. He won four medals when he played for New Zealand — gold in 1984 and 1996, and silver in 1988 and 1992. In 2000, the New Zealand native switched sides and earned a bronze with the USA team. In February, USA missed playing for a medal by one game while White was 2-0.

Those experiences — pitching against the best players in the world — have given White the background to coach Oregon's four pitchers through the ups and downs of each season.

"I think I've been in every situation you can have out on the mound," said White, who is in his second season at Oregon. "So I try to put myself in the pitchers' shoes and try to give them

some insight to some of the things that I've done to be successful and help them through those situations. It's tough out there in the middle — it's just you and the hitter. A lot of it is in your mind."

DUCK SOFTBALL

The mental game is one that every pitcher plays with themselves and with each batter. During winter break this year, Oregon's pitchers received letters

from White with tips to help them control the mental aspect of their game.

"He taught us it because he uses it," Ani Nyhus said.

Nyhus, a junior transfer, came to Oregon this

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World Series in store for Ducks

The Ducks beat Weber State, the defending national champions, to earn a berth in the NCBA World Series, starting May 26 in Bradenton, Fla.

By Kirsten McEwen
Freelance Reporter

Oregon's Club baseball team has clearly earned its trip to the 2004 National Club Baseball Association World Series in Bradenton, Fla.

The Ducks (21-10 overall, 16-6 Pacific Mountain Conference) — along with UC Santa Cruz, Weber State and Western Washington — traveled to Kaysville, Utah, to compete in the NCBA's Northern Pacific Regional Tournament.

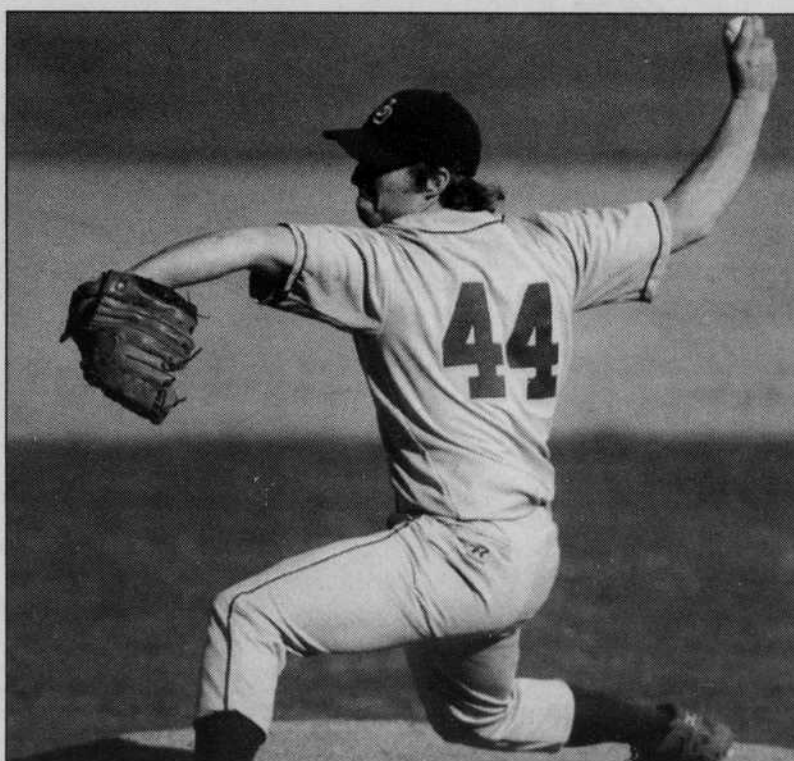
Club Sports

The tournament was held at Davis High School, and teams competed for a chance to secure a World Series berth.

Oregon began its trek to the World Series Saturday against Weber State (16-7 overall, 11-1 Western Mountain Conference), the 2003 NCBA National Champions.

After seven innings, the Ducks found themselves tied at six.

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Erik R. Bishoff Photographer

Freshman pitcher Jay Tlougan, seen here earlier this season, and the Ducks defeated Weber State to advance to the NCBA World Series.

Private plane for Hairston necessary, Kent says

Kent spoke highly of his recruiting class Monday but also defended the use of a private plane

By Hank Hager
Sports Editor

Oregon head coach Ernie Kent was in St. Louis at the National Association of Basketball Coaches board of directors meetings on Wednesday, checking his cell phone in between sessions, hoping for a message from Renaissance High School's Malik Hairston.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

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