

Friday, May 21, 2004

Oregon gets past Wildcats in first game

Oregon's Ani Nyhus threw her 10th shutout of the season while breaking the single-season strikeout record on Thursday in Florida

By Mindi Rice
Senior Sports Reporter

Freshman Kayleen Hudson made an immediate impact for Oregon on Thursday.

After the Ducks missed their starting right fielder for a week of practice and the final three Pacific-10 Conference games of the season, Hudson rejoined the team in Tallahassee, Fla., for Oregon's NCAA Regional Tournament trip.

In her first at bat back, after a week at home in Northglenn, Colo., due to the passing of her grandfather, Hudson led off the bottom of the second inning with her first triple of the season, off the right-center field fence at Florida State's softball complex.

DUCK SOFTBALL

"When I was gone, I realized I had been trying too hard," Hudson said by phone after Thursday's win. "I was just up there to hit today. I was happy to be back with the girls."

After Hudson's triple gave the No. 2-seeded Ducks a runner on third for the second consecutive inning, designated player Ann Marie Topps hit a single to center field that scored Hudson for Oregon's lone run of the day.

Oregon shutout Bethune-Cookman, 1-0, in the first-round game. Today, the Ducks face No. 3-seeded South Florida in another 9:30 a.m. game, to be broadcast on KSCR (1320 AM) Radio.

Topps, who has started half the Ducks' games this season, was 2 for 2 on the day.

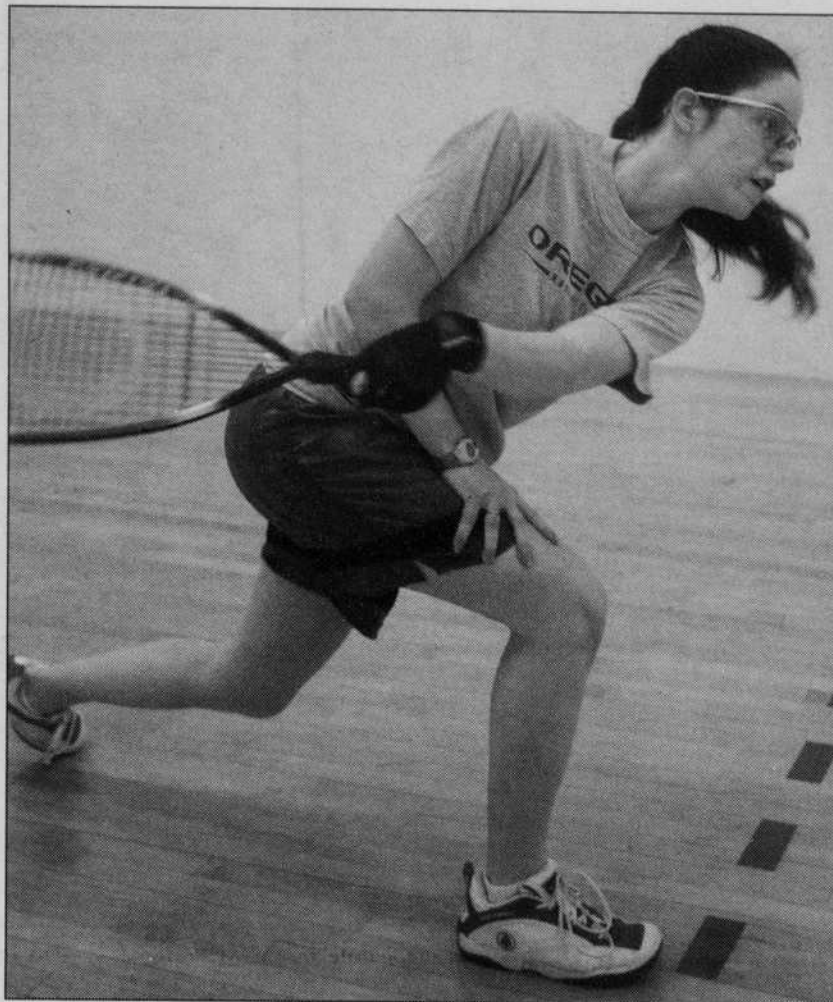
"I just got up there and I knew that we just needed to hit the ball," Topps said in the postgame press conference. "I did what I

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WHAT'S *the* RACQUET?

Racquetball coordinator Alexis Karlson-Martini has dedicated time to the genesis of the Club

By Kirsten McEwen
Freelance Reporter



Danielle Hickey Photo Editor

Alexis Karlson-Martini has helped the sport of racquetball at Oregon grow, even though she has had to make sacrifices along the way. She will soon leave the Club, which will get a new coordinator next year. Karlson-Martini has seen the good and the bad this year.

No one said it was going to be easy. Racquetball Club coordinator Alexis Karlson-Martini took on the daunting task of redeveloping a Club that has faltered in past years. After being introduced to the sport only three years ago, Karlson-Martini made a promise to herself that she would find a way to make the Club work, even after finding out that it had struggled to keep afloat in years past.

"This Club is a different racquetball Club than we have had in years," Club sports coordinator Sandy Vaughn said. "Before, the Club coordinators have been more focused on their own play, rather than creating a true team. Alexis had the goal of bringing in students who were interested in the sport and who had a wide range of abilities."

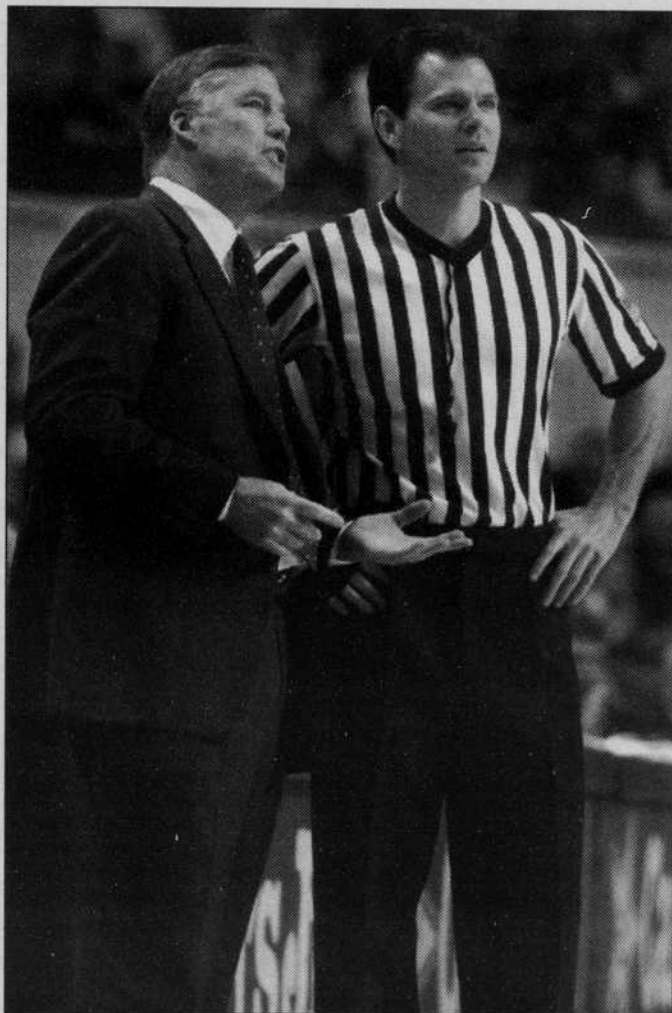
For Portland native Karlson-Martini, getting the Club back on its feet would require individuals who were more focused on the team's objective than personal achievements. She first had to recruit players who would be interested in being a part of a Club that was starting completely from scratch and who wanted to take on the responsibilities that come with being a part of a team.

Junior Karlson-Martini said that the individualized nature of racquetball presented the biggest challenge to carrying out her duty as Club coordinator.

"The first three months were really tough," she said. "The team had to realize that they had to show up on time, they had to come to practice because when you are on a team, those things affect other people."

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Montgomery reportedly headed to NBA



Emerald

Stanford head coach Mike Montgomery, seen here during the 2002-03 season, should be announced as head coach of the Golden State Warriors possibly as early as today. Montgomery has gone 393-167 with Stanford.

The Stanford head coach has gone 393-167 in regular season play with the Cardinal

By Hank Hager
Sports Editor

Just months after leading Stanford to a 30-2 record and a berth into the NCAA Tournament, Cardinal head coach Mike Montgomery is expected to bolt for the NBA as early as today, ESPN.com's Andy Katz reported Thursday.

Golden State relieved head coach Eric Musselman of his duties late Wednesday, opening the door for Montgomery, a 26-year veteran of the college ranks, to sign

with the Warriors, according to an anonymous Pacific-10 Conference source quoted by The Associated Press.

Katz reported that Montgomery is in negotiations with the Warriors for a four-year, multimillion dollar contract. His departure marks the end of an 18-year run at Stanford. Montgomery compiled a 393-167 overall record with the Cardinal, leading Stanford to 12 NCAA Tournament appearances, including an appearance in the Final Four in 1998 and Elite Eight in 2001.

Stanford has been to the NCAA Tournament the past 10 seasons and has been ranked No. 1 in the nation in three different seasons under Montgomery.

He also took the Cardinal to three

National Invitational Tournament appearances, winning the championship in 1991.

"We're still all gathering this in," Stanford junior Nick Robinson told the San Francisco Chronicle.

Montgomery led the Cardinal to 26 straight wins without a loss this past season, coming close to a perfect season. Stanford lost to Washington in the final Pac-10 regular season game, then swept through the Pac-10 Tournament before losing to Nevada in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Montgomery, who is set to be the Warriors' ninth coach since 1994 and 22nd in the team's history, replaces Musselman, who went 75-89 in two seasons at Golden State.

"It's been a great two years," Musselman told the AP late Wednesday. "The players have played their hearts out. The organization's headed in a great direction. ... I got an opportunity of a lifetime and will always be grateful to the Warriors for that."

When Montgomery is officially named head coach of the Warriors, it will leave open a high-profile position at one of the top academic institutions in the nation.

Maples Pavilion, Stanford's home court, is currently undergoing a \$30 million renovation and is expected to be ready for play at the start of the upcoming Pac-10 season.

According to the (San Jose) Mercury News, Stanford athletic director Ted Leland already has a contingency plan in place for Montgomery's

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Alex Tam
Holding court

This year's Team USA must be rescued

Team USA Basketball is in flux right now. Only 12 years and three Olympiads ago, the first Dream Team dominated the world stage in Barcelona.

With names such as Jordan, Bird and Magic, the 1992 squad defeated their opponents by an average of 44.5 points per game. It was the first time ever that NBA players took part in the world's largest sporting event.

At that point, the assumption was the United States would continue to stay atop the basketball world as long as NBA players played. There was no way countries from Europe or Asia would be able to compete with the Americans.

Many countries were simply defeated before they even stepped on the court. The aura surrounding the professional athletes who they watched on television was

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