

Sports Editor:
Hank Hager
hankhager@dailyemerald.com

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

Monday, May 24, 2004



Hank Hager
Behind the dish

Oregon, Kent: The right fit at right time

There it was.

The first little hint of how Mike Montgomery's hiring at Golden State could affect Oregon.

It was placed so far down in the story it almost seemed like an afterthought in an article focused primarily on Montgomery's move to the NBA.

Oregon head coach Ernie Kent, a possible replacement for Montgomery at Stanford, so suggested The (San Jose) Mercury News on Friday.

In any other time, after any other recruiting class, that would seem like a plausible statement. But now, after a year where four Oregon signees are ranked among the top 75 in the nation by recruiting services, the statement almost borders on pure fallacy.

Kent has said he's not interested in the vacant Stanford head coaching position. Heck, it's not even on his radar. He was out on the golf course Thursday and Friday giving that exact impression. The position is available, but right now, the Cardinal would be better served by going with Nevada's Trent Johnson, who is rumored to be the top candidate for the job.

Even Gonzaga's Mark Few would be a better fit at this point in time, even though it seems he may be more interested in the job than Stanford is in him.

Either way, indications show that it's not going to be Kent. Even though he's got Stanford ties — the only head coach in the Pacific-10 Conference that does — it won't matter.

Even though Montgomery wants someone to fill the job who has ties to the program, that shouldn't make Kent a candidate.

However, it does, both in the eyes of media prognosticators and Stanford athletic director Ted Leland.

And when you think about why Kent could be a candidate, it begins to make sense.

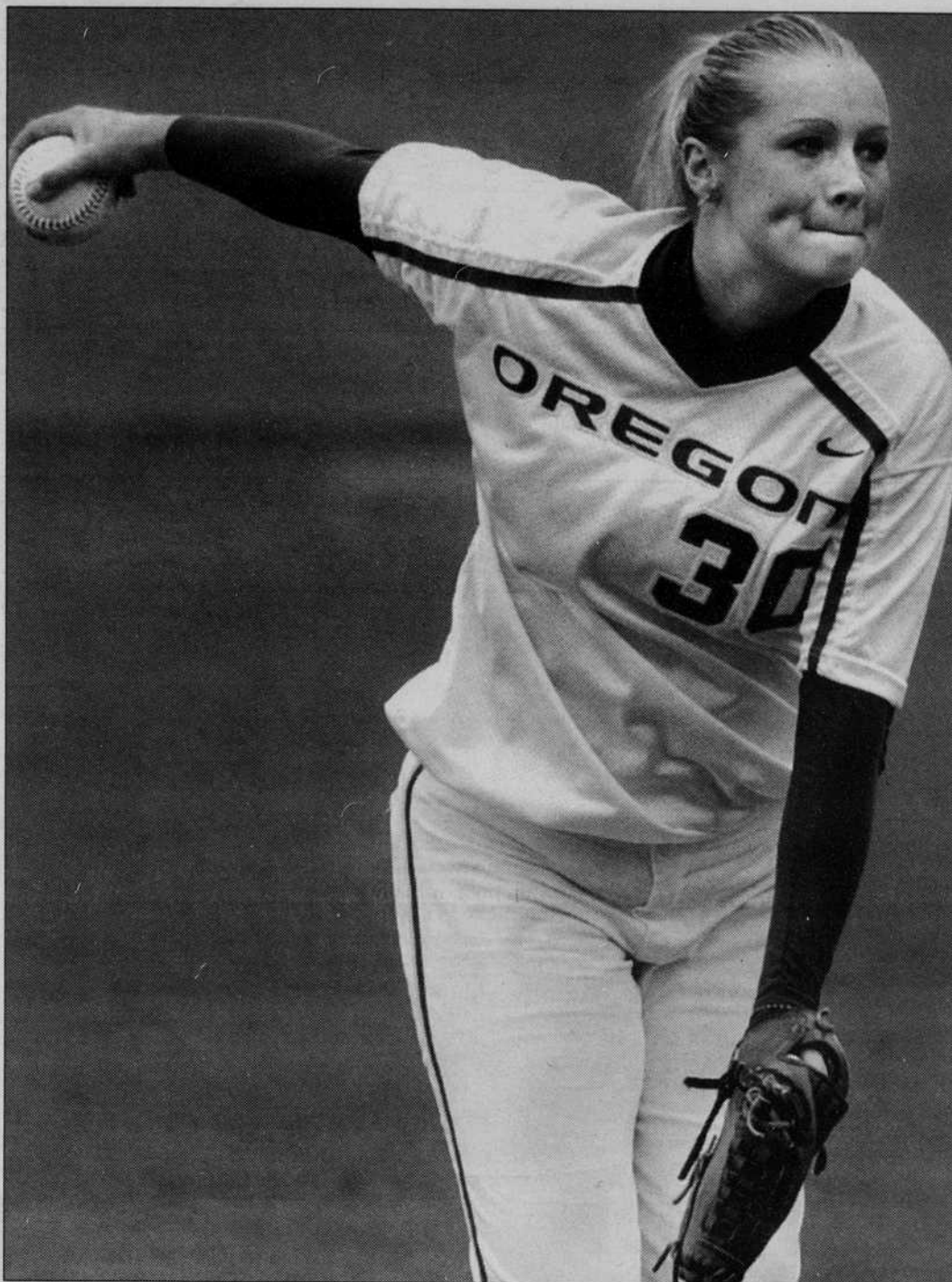
A little.

As much as a berth in the National Invitation Tournament was a step back for the Oregon program this year, Kent has brought the future into focus. He recruited a talented trio of players in October — Chamberlain Oguchi, Bryce Taylor and Maarty Leunen — then got a gap guy. A player, Kenny Love, who will fill a gap that Brandon Lincoln couldn't fill last season — backup point guard.

After that, well, we all seem to know what Malik Hairston brings to the table. Well, we don't actually know, but all the hype — fair or not — has him leading a mini-revival at Oregon. And as much as that is hype, there was no talk of that when Luke Jackson and Luke Ridnour came to the Ducks, nor when any of the current

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Softball misses World Series by one



Erik R. Bishoff Photographer

Oregon pitcher Ani Nyhus, shown here earlier this season, threw a four-hit shutout against Florida State on Sunday before allowing the winning run in the second game. The Ducks lost, 2-0, to Florida State in the regional title game.

Four Ducks are named to the All-Region team as Oregon bounces back from a Saturday loss to play two on Sunday

By Mindi Rice
Senior Sports Reporter

Two different seasons, two different NCAA Regional Tournament locations, two identical results.

Sunday in Tallahassee, Fla., the second-seeded Ducks took top-seeded Florida State to a tiebreaker game in the hunt for a Women's College World Series berth.

But Oregon's dreams ended with a two-hit shutout by Florida State's Jessica van der Linden, sending the host school to the World Series and the Ducks back to Eugene, one win away from Oklahoma City for the second time in as many years.

DUCK SOFTBALL

"It's frustrating to get so close," senior catcher Jenn Poore said in a release. "But at the same time, it's exciting to see where we've come as a program. Three years ago we weren't even in this situation."

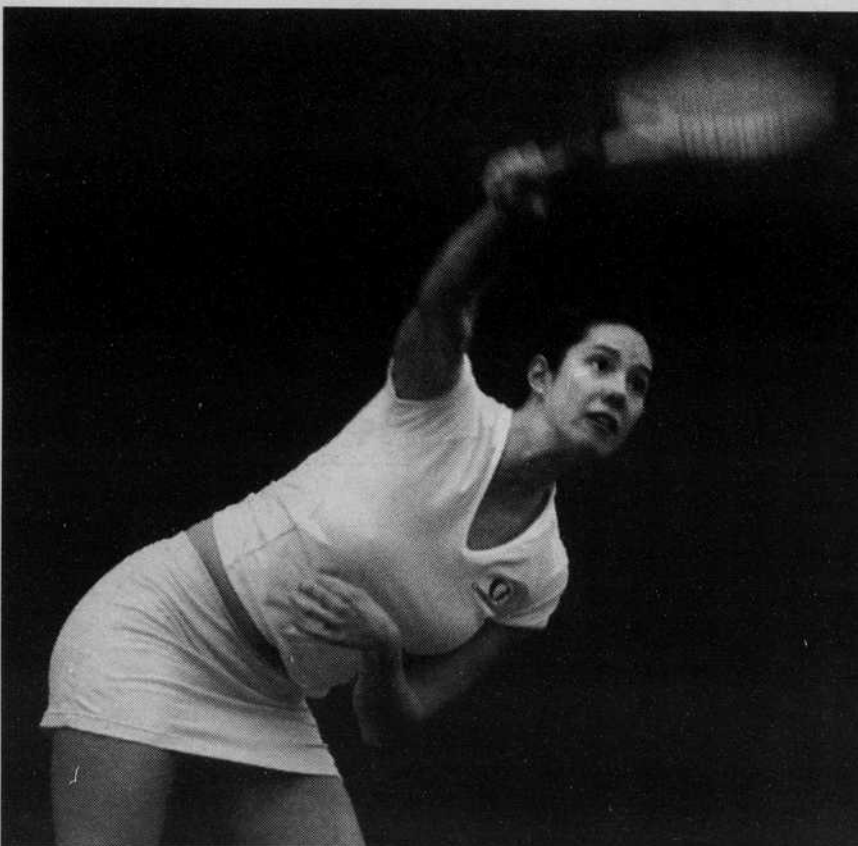
Oregon, which three years ago was 1-20 in Pacific-10 Conference play and finished the season 12 games below .500, was in the NCAA Regionals for the second time in Oregon head coach Kathy Arendsen's two-year tenure.

The Ducks kicked off their trek through the NCAA Regional Tournament with a 1-0 win against Bethune-Cookman on Thursday. Advancing in the winners' bracket, Oregon beat South Florida 12-0 in five innings Friday, finally finding the offensive firepower that the Ducks had been missing in the final weeks of their season.

Oregon first baseman Beth Boskovich was 3 for 3 with four RBIs in the game, and third baseman Ashley Richards was 1 for 2 with two RBIs.

"It's always fun to be able to hit in your teammates, but this is probably only my third time being lead-off hitter," Boskovich said in the post-game press conference. "I'm usually in the meat part of the lineup,

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Erik R. Bishoff Photographer

Dominika Dieskova starts play in the NCAA Individual Championships today in Athens, Ga.

Top Oregon duo to go to Georgia for NCAA singles

Daria Panova and Dominika Dieskova enter the NCAA Individual Championships with collegiate and international tennis experience

By Clayton Jones
Freelance Reporter

Although the Oregon women's team season ended in dramatic fashion at the hands of Washington this past week, junior Daria Panova's and freshman Dominika Dieskova's individual seasons continue at the 2004 NCAA Women's Individual Championships at Georgia beginning today.

Panova is competing in her second consecutive NCAA Tournament and will face Middle Tennessee State's top player, Manon Kruse, in a first-round match.

DUCK TENNIS

"My dream is to win this tournament and I want nothing less," Panova said. "I need to fight hard for every ball because at this level everybody is going to want it."

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