

## HAGER

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members of the team signed their National Letters of Intent.

Players seem to respond to Kent. They love his style of play. It may not always produce the desired results in the standings, but it sure gets his players ready for the NBA. Fred Jones, member of NBA Eastern Conference finalist Indiana, is example No. 1 of that trend.

Then Ridnour went to Seattle in the first round. And now, Jackson is expected to make it three first rounders in three years when he goes through the upcoming June NBA Draft.

Kent has that track record working for him, something that was no doubt noticed a few years back when Notre Dame came calling for his services. He turned that school down and would be expected to turn down Leland if he were to ask about Kent's availability.

Stanford is a prime job that many coaches across the nation would love to have. Stanford has some of the strongest and most rigorous academic regulations among Division I programs in the nation, but that didn't stop the Cardinal from going 30-2 this past season.

Its players are smart and its fan base rabid and well-educated, both in the real world and athletically-speaking.

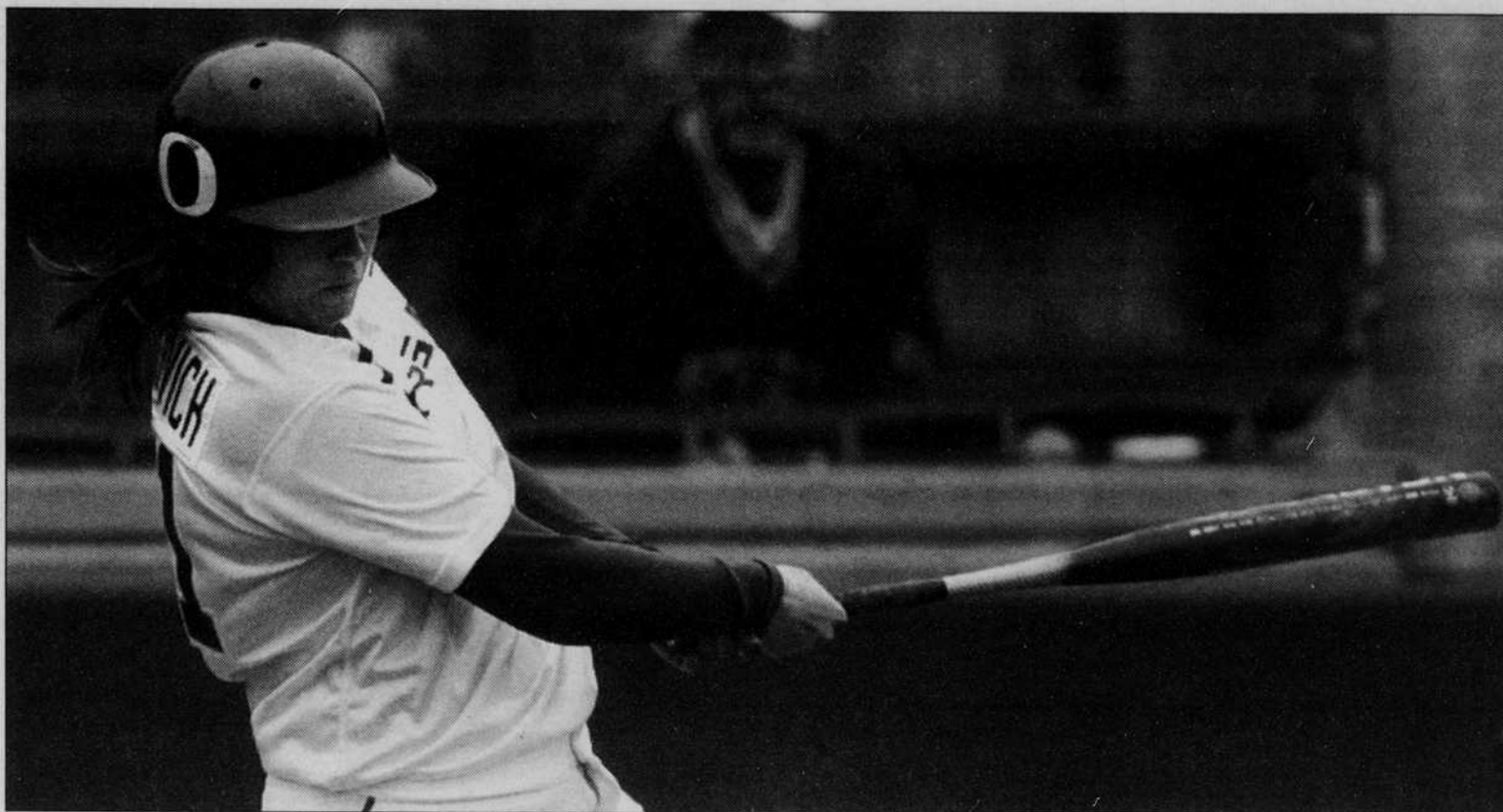
The Stanford gig could be a one-in-a-lifetime opportunity for a number of coaches across the nation.

But Kent loves Oregon. He loves his players. He loves his recruiting class. He loves the Pit Crew and the thousands of fans that pack McArthur Court game in and game out.

He has said that time after time.

Not even Stanford can contend with that.

Contact the sports editor at [hankhager@dailyemerald.com](mailto:hankhager@dailyemerald.com). His opinions do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.



Erik R. Bishoff Photographer

Oregon's Beth Boskovich, shown here earlier this season, was one of four Ducks named to the all-region team at the team's regional tournament in Tallahassee, Fla.

## MISSES

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which is nice so I have background hitting people in. I like trying to get on base first because it pumps up the team."

The next day, the Ducks lost a 5-4, 12-inning, 4-hour 30-minute marathon heartbreaker to Florida State. Oregon had a 4-1 lead after the third inning, but Florida State scored three runs in the bottom of the sixth to tie the game.

"We are obviously very disappointed," Arendsen said in the post-game press conference. "Especially when you get out to a lead, you never assume you're going to win, never ever. We know better than that, but you certainly feel like it's going

to be your day.

**"I'm really proud of our effort (Saturday). I thought we rebounded well. It was an incredibly difficult loss this afternoon, very disappointing."**

**Kathy Arendsen**  
Oregon head coach

"To me it was an epic battle that one team was going to win, and it was going to be a disappointment to the other team."

Two hours later, Oregon took a 2-1

victory against South Florida to give the Ducks a second chance at Florida State on Championship Sunday. Oregon scored two runs in the bottom of the first, and pitcher Ani Nyhus allowed one run in the seventh.

"I'm really proud of our effort tonight," Arendsen said after the victory. "I thought we rebounded well. It was an incredibly difficult loss this afternoon, very disappointing. Our players stepped up."

On Championship Sunday, the Ducks took the first game from Florida State, 1-0, to give both teams one loss in the double-elimination tournament.

In the deciding game, Oregon managed just two hits as All-American van der Linden shut down the Ducks in a 2-0 Florida State victory. Last season, Oregon lost to

Louisiana-Lafayette in Fullerton, Calif., in the second Sunday game.

"I'm extremely proud of this group and the way we have played," Arendsen said in a release Sunday. "We didn't lose because of any lack of effort. They put everything on the line, and I'm just sorry for the players that they won't have this experience this season."

Four Ducks were named to the all-region team: Nyhus, Richards, Boskovich and Poore, who had eight hits during the weekend. Richards led the regional tournament with three doubles, and Boskovich had four RBIs.

Nyhus went 4-1 in the tournament, allowing two runs in five games while striking out 29 batters.

Contact the senior sports reporter at [mindirice@dailyemerald.com](mailto:mindirice@dailyemerald.com).

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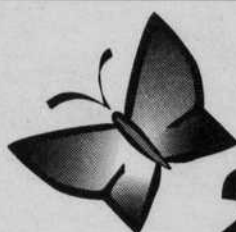
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