Oregon Daily Emerald

SPORTS

Sports Editor:
Hank Hager
hankhager@dailyemerald.com

Best bet
MLB:
Houston vs. Chicago Cubs
11:20 a.m., ESPN

Wednesday, June 2, 2004

Alex Tam
Holding court

The ABC's at the UO, this year and next

I present you with the ABC's of Oregon athletics — as I see them — for this past year and the upcoming year.

Aaron Brooks takes charge in his first full year as the starting point guard and becomes the general of an exciting, high-octane offense. Hopefully, though, no more punches to inanimate objects.

Bill Moos fortunately stays as Oregon's athletic director, having recently and politely declined the Washington job opening.

Colorado's basketball team witnessed firsthand the impact of the crowd at McArthur Court and Luke Jackson's 29 straight points in an NIT first round loss in March.

Daria Panova wins her third consecutive Pacific-10 Conference women's singles title and returns next year as the best tennis player in Oregon history.

Emily Enders, women's pole vaulter, earns an automatic bid to the NCAA Championships after besting her teammate, Kirsten Larwin, in a jump-off at the NCAA West Regional.

Foreign-born players play key roles on various Oregon sports teams this year: Australian Ian Crosswhite, Canadian softball pitcher Ani Nyhus and Swedish golfer Therese Wenslow, to name a few.

Gladstone native Adam Jenkins, a senior javelin thrower, is poised to make his first-ever trip to the NCAA Championships on June 9.

Haloti Ngata makes his comeback and will be a force on Oregon's defensive line next season after injuring his left knee in the very first game of the season last year.

The women's lacrosse team's inaugural season kicks off next season with two high school All-Americans and a three-time Maryland state champion joining a sport that keeps on growing.

Jordan Kent decides to move away from his storied track and field career to concentrate on basketball.

Kellen Clemens continues Oregon's lineage of potential NFL quarterbacks. Hey, if Jason Fife can earn a spot, then I'm sure Clemens could.

Luke Jackson.

McArthur Court, Best Damn Sports Arena, Period.

No squirrel fishing as a club sport next year. That is not a sport.

Oklahoma is Oregon's first opponent on the road next season. The Ducks will need to bring their best to just compete against the national powerhouse Sooners.

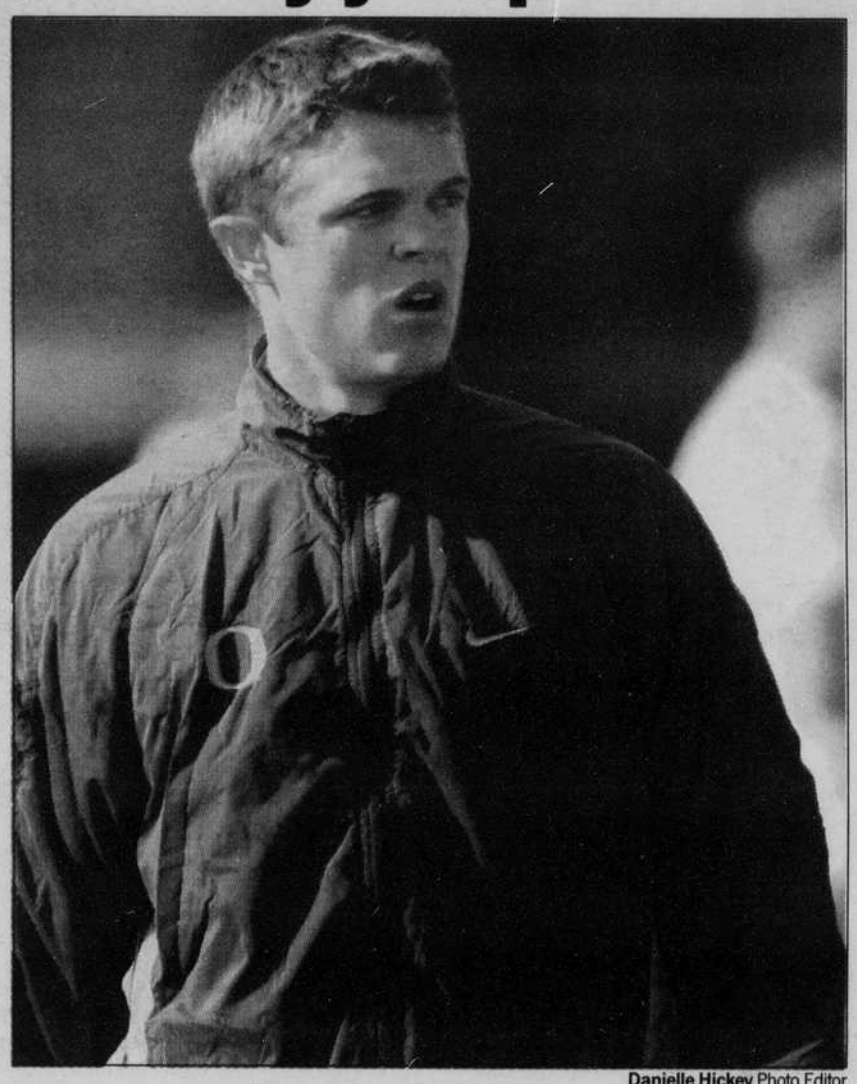
Pit Crew continues to show why they are one of the nation's elite college sports fans, with their support and creativity.

Quinn Dorsey, former Oregon defensive lineman, signs a contract with Super Bowl champion New England and will compete for a spot as linebacker.

Ryan Gilliam, a two-sport athlete in football and track, ran the 100-meter dash in a blistering 10.72 seconds at the Pepsi Team Invitational meet this year.

Turn to **TAM**, page 8

Lindsey jumps at chance to go home



Danielle Hickey Photo Editor
Jeff Lindsey qualified for nationals with a third-place finish at the NCAA West Regional on Friday.

Sophomore high jumper Jeff Lindsey will get to return to his home state of Texas for the NCAA Championships, held in Austin in two weeks

By Jon Roetman
Sports Reporter

Jeff Lindsey will be going home a week earlier than he planned.

The sophomore high jumper from Mansfield, Texas, finished in a tie for third during Friday's NCAA West Regional Qualifier in Northridge, Calif., assuring himself a trip to Austin, Texas, for the NCAA Championships June 9-12.

Lindsey cleared 7 feet, 1 inch on his third try to advance to NCAAs, an achievement that was made even better by the fact the sophomore missed out on nationals by half an inch during the indoor campaign.

MEN'S TRACK

"What a way to make up for indoors," Lindsey said. "I was going home to Texas the week after classes, but my family and friends will be stoked to see me a week earlier for nationals."

Battling back pain, Lindsey cleared 6-9 on his first attempt, but needed all three attempts at 6-11 and 7-1 to qualify for third. He had the bar moved up to 7-2 1/4 but failed to clear.

It was the third time he had cleared 7 feet during the outdoor season.

"My back was bothering me a little coming in," Lindsey said, "so I was a little nervous. I still smoked 6-9, but then cut it close on the next two bars ... My attempts at 7-2 1/4 were pretty good — better than everybody else other than (California's) Teak (Wilburn). Overall, the conditions weren't bad — it wasn't hot or cold and there was a little headwind. The surface wasn't nearly as fast as Hayward Field, so I had to give it everything I had speedwise."

Along with the chance to go home early, Lindsey will get to travel with a friend since teammate Teddy Davis also qualified for nationals, finishing in a third-place tie with Lindsey.

Davis cleared both 6-9 and 6-11 on second attempts, but like Lindsey he needed all three tries to clear 7-1. The final clearance was a 3/4-inch personal best for the sophomore from White

Turn to **HOME**, page 10

Jackson estimates first-round selection

Former Oregon forward Luke Jackson has worked out for a number of teams in preparation for the NBA Draft

By Hank Hager
Sports Editor

Luke Jackson is a basketball player.

Forget the belief among many that Jackson is considered a tweener — not a small forward, but not a guard. Think of the overall package.

That's the view Jackson and his agent, Mark Bartelstein of Priority Sports & Entertainment, are taking when it comes to the 2004 NBA Draft.

Jackson, who is expected to be a first-round pick, at the very least, has been impressive in recent workouts, according to most accounts.

"He's doing terrific," Bartelstein said. "He's surprising people with his athleticism."

Jackson has visited Chicago, Portland, Sacramento, the Los Angeles Lakers, Golden State, Atlanta, New Jersey, Cleveland and Tuesday, Boston.

The common denominator among those teams? Nothing, really.

The Warriors, Blazers, Bulls, Hawks and Cavaliers are all in the lottery, choosing their first-round selection in the first 14 picks. Boston, the Lakers, Kings and Nets all made the NBA playoffs, with Los Angeles advancing to the NBA Finals earlier this week.

Turn to **JACKSON**, page 9

Women's tennis inching closer to the elite

Oregon improves by seven wins from 2002-03 and earns berth for the NCAA team tournament along the way; it loses just one player next season

By Clayton Jones
Freelance Reporter

A team on the verge may be an old cliché in the world of sports, but this year's Oregon women's tennis team personified that phrase.

A program that was once destined for the cellar of the Pacific-10 Conference has risen from the floor to find itself inching closer to great things, not only in the Pac-10 but across the nation.

The Ducks were on the verge of beating rival Washington in the NCAA team tournament regional finals, but fell one heart-breaking point away in the seventh and deciding match. Washington, ranked 10th in the nation, moved on and ended the season one win away from the final four.

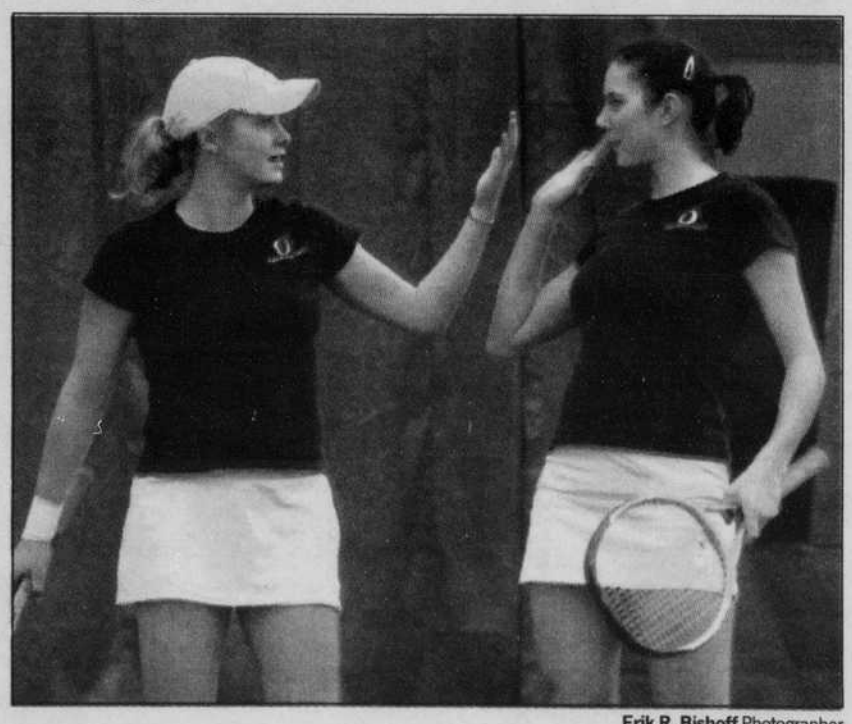
WOMEN'S TENNIS

"With our last match coming down to two match points, you can't even imagine the emotions that our team was going through unless you were there," head coach Nils Schyllander said. "The energy was awesome and we can use it as a carrot in front of us for next year."

Junior Ester Bak believes it was a defining moment for the program.

"We were so close to victory," Bak said. "But it will help us for next

Turn to **CLOSER**, page 8



Erik R. Bishoff Photographer
Anna Leksinska (left) and Dominika Dieskova went 20-10 in doubles this season, ranking them second all-time for victories in a single season at Oregon. The pair returns next season.