

*"While he was running up and down ...
I was laying on the beach drinking a
fruity drink with an umbrella."*

Toronto's Jalen Rose on why he outplayed New Jersey's Vince Carter in a matchup two days after the All-Star Game

■ Duck wrestling

Three Ducks take home championship titles

Joey Bracamonte, Shane Webster and Scott Barker led the Oregon team to a third place finish at the Pac-10 Conference finals Monday

BY CLAYTON JONES
SPORTS EDITOR

Three Oregon wrestlers competed in the Pacific-10 Conference Championship finals, and all three took home titles in their respective weight divisions Monday night at Cal Poly's Mott Gym in San Luis Obispo, Calif.

Oregon's Joey Bracamonte, Shane Webster and Scott Barker all won by decision over their respective opponents.

With the three wins, Oregon garnered enough points to leap-frog into a third place team finish, its highest placing since taking second in 2002. Arizona State won the team title, its 15th overall

and third in the past five years.

"We wrestled great in three out of the four sessions," Oregon head coach Chuck Kearney said. "We slipped a bit (Monday) morning, but we dominated each finals match."

Bracamonte won his match against Oregon State's Matt Ellis to capture the 165-pound title in a 6-5 decision. The Albuquerque, N.M., native finished third last season at the 157-pound class and is currently 27-3 this season.

In the 184-pound championship match, Oregon's Webster dominated Arizona State's C.B. Hollaway 15-5 and improved his record to 21-3 on the season.

In Oregon's final championship match, Barker (197) defeated two-time defending Pac-10 champion Ryan Bader of Arizona State 3-0 to improve his record to an impressive 31-5.

Barker's victory made him the first Oregon wrestler in this weight division to win a Pac-10 title since Ryan Kelly took home the honor in 1981.

"Our three champs did an excellent job managing each match," Kearney said. "With everyone but Barker returning from our tournament squad, this experience is going to help us."

With appearances in the finals of their respective weight classes, Bracamonte, Webster and Barker have assured themselves a berth into the NCAA Championships this month. It will be the second consecutive appearance for Bracamonte and Webster, and the third for Barker (his first two were with Missouri).

In the consolation matches, all Oregon wrestlers lost in the semifinals.

Oregon's Cody Parker won fifth place in the heavyweight class when he pinned Eric Parker of Cal State Bakersfield at the 1:16 mark of the first round.

In the 133-pound division, Oregon's Martin Mitchell defeated John Espinoza of Arizona State in a 5-3 decision.

Two Oregon wrestlers took sixth place in the tournament. Sophomore Skyler Woods fell in the fifth-place match to Roberto Vargas of Cal State Bakersfield in the 141-pound weight class, and junior Chet McBee lost a decision to Arizona State's Rick Renzi in the 174-pound division.

claytonjones@dailyemerald.com

■ Duck softball

18th-ranked Oregon tops Florida Atlantic, SD State

Alicia Cook pitched a two-hitter and struck out seven in the Ducks' victory against San Diego State, improving her season record to 4-2

BY CLAYTON JONES
SPORTS EDITOR

The 18th-ranked Oregon softball team salvaged two wins Saturday after dropping two games Friday at the 10th-annual NFCA Classic in Columbus, Ga.

Behind the strength of pitchers Amy Harris and Alicia Cook, the Ducks (8-6 overall) beat Florida Atlantic, 5-0, in extra innings and San Diego State, 3-1.

The Ducks stumbled the day before, falling to No. 7 Alabama, 3-0, and Creighton, 4-1, during the opening day of the tournament.

Against Florida Atlantic, Harris held the Owls scoreless, but the Oregon offense could not get anything going until the top of the ninth inning.

Sophomore Ann Marie Topps got Oregon moving with an RBI double to give the Ducks a 1-0 advantage. Consecutive RBI hits by Erin Goodell and Suzie Barnes upped the score to 3-0.

Freshman lead-off hitter Lovena Chaput stepped up next and blasted a ball over the right-field fence for a two-run homer, extending the lead to 5-0. The Tualatin native went 3 for 4 with a double to go along with her home run.

Harris finished the Owls off in the bottom of the ninth for her third win of the season. The junior struck out nine and gave up five hits in her nine innings of work.

Oregon head coach Kathy Arendsen said she was proud of the way her team hung in the game.

"I thought we kept battling and continued to play strong defense," Arendsen said. "And when we needed it, our offense came through in a big way. I thought Amy (Harris) threw a tremendous game for us."

In the night game, Cook pitched a two-hitter and struck out seven for the Ducks as they defeated San Diego State.

The freshman from Elmira improved her record to 4-2 on the season and dropped her ERA to a team-leading 1.91 — .03 better than Harris'.

Leading the offensive charge for the Ducks was freshman Kristi Jorgensen. The Tigard native went 3 for 3 with a double, a run scored and an RBI.

Oregon jumped on top with a two-run fourth inning, sparked by an Ashley

Richards RBI single. Jorgensen scored Richards on a double, giving the Ducks the 2-0 lead.

The Aztecs cut the lead to one when pinch hitter Megan McDonald hit an RBI single in the fifth inning, which turned out to be their last hit of the game.

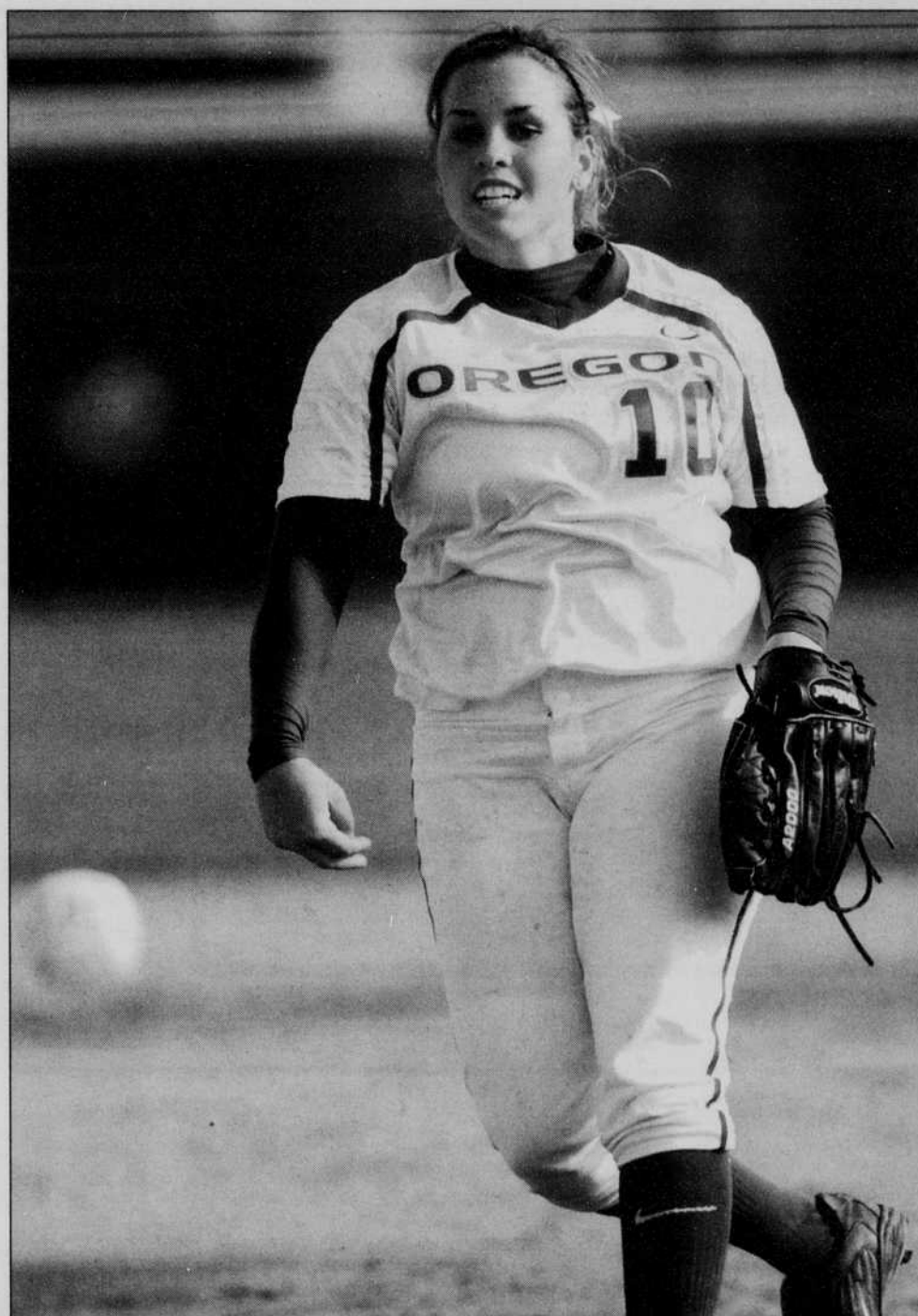
"We continued to get timely hits and had a great pitching performance by Alicia Cook," Arendsen said. "I'm very pleased with how we came out."

Next up for the Ducks is their second trip of the season to Las Vegas to compete in the UNLV Classic. Oregon opens the tournament Thursday against Illinois-Chicago at 3 p.m.

claytonjones@dailyemerald.com

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KATHY ARENSEN | Oregon head coach



ERIK R. BISHOFF | PHOTOGRAPHER

Oregon's Amy Harris, seen here earlier this season, recorded nine strikeouts and gave up five hits in Oregon's extra-inning win over Florida Atlantic on Saturday.

IN BRIEF

Women's tennis splits pair of dual matches

The Oregon women's tennis team opened up Pacific-10 Conference play on the road by splitting a pair of dual matches.

The Ducks (9-2 overall, 1-1 Pac-10) fell to No. 37 Arizona State 7-0 Saturday, but defeated No. 25 Arizona 4-3 on Friday.

The loss to Arizona State was the first time Oregon was shut out in 24 dual matches. The last shutout occurred against California on Feb. 28, 2004.

Senior Davina Mendiburu came closest to capturing a point for the Ducks after her singles match went to three sets. However, Mendiburu was upended by the Sun Devils' Jessica Leitch, 6-3, 3-6, (10-7).

In Friday's game, junior Anna Leksinska clinched the win against Arizona when she defeated the Wildcats' Kasia Jakowlew at the

No. 5 position in straight sets, 6-4, 7-5.

"I was really proud that we performed as well as we did," Oregon head coach Nils Schyllander said. "It was our first competition outside since October, so we had to adapt to the surroundings."

The Oregon women hold the same record through 11 matches as last season, but the team will need to sustain its early season momentum that lead the Ducks to win their first eight matches. In 2004, the Ducks saw their record slide from 9-0 to 9-7 in less than a month during

the Pac-10 schedule.

The Ducks' next three matches are at home against non-conference opponents. Boise State visits Eugene for the second straight season Saturday at noon. Oregon then hosts Princeton on March 13 and Brigham Young on March 19.

Pac-10 play will resume March 22 when the 25th-ranked Ducks travel to Seattle to face Washington. In the teams' last meeting on Feb. 12 in Eugene, the Huskies triumphed with a 5-2 victory.

— Alex Tam