

"I don't want to catch anything. That thing has been passed around more often than Paris Hilton."

Boston general manager Theo Epstein on the World Series trophy

■ In my opinion



CLAYTON JONES
SEVENTH INNING STRETCH

Taking time for the team: My March Madness role

Spring break is around the corner, and college students all over the country are eager to start their time off with beaches, bikinis and booze.

For students like me who don't have plans and get to spend their break in fantastic Eugene, there is one event that will make spending the time here bearable.

March Madness.

My television will be dialed-in to CBS and the men's NCAA Tournament for the next couple of weeks as I watch hour upon hour of college basketball with the pizza delivery person as my only contact with the outside world.

Liter upon liter of Mountain Dew (feel free to send me a free promotion for the advertisement) will be drunk as I watch to see if Washington can live up to the No. 1 seed it received and can represent the Pacific-10 Conference in a positive way.

There will be hours upon hours of research put into tournament teams like Delaware State, Bucknell and Vermont (when I should be studying).

During the few hours of sleep I will get between games, I'll be dreaming of Billy Packer and Greg Gumbel breaking down the tournament.

But now I have the daunting task in front of me that millions of people must face in the next few days: Filling out the tournament bracket.

In the past I always did some research before putting my final bracket in stone.

And in every bracket pool I played in, I always got burned by a top-team choke (i.e. Arizona), and my chances of winning went right down the drain.

Last year, I didn't have time to do the kind of research I generally do, and — of course — I almost won my pool.

While I still haven't devised a strategy for how to attack this year's bracket, I know one thing for sure ... don't depend on a Pac-10 team.

So, sorry Washington, Arizona, UCLA and Stanford ... I don't plan on putting you guys going past the round of 16.

Another breed of team I've been burned by in the past is one that has an unbelievable season — like Stanford and Saint Joseph's last season — then proceeds to take a total dive in the postseason.

Obviously that means I'm not taking Illinois and its 32-1 season. While I do think they have a chance of making it to the Final Four, they won't win it all.

My pick to win the championship this season may seem a bit conservative, but North Carolina will be the team to beat (yeah, I know, a big stretch).

So while my Spring Break won't bring me to the beach or any other exotic location, I do get to relax and take in some March Madness.

claytonjones@dailyemerald.com

■ Women's lacrosse

Oregon surrenders early lead to Colgate

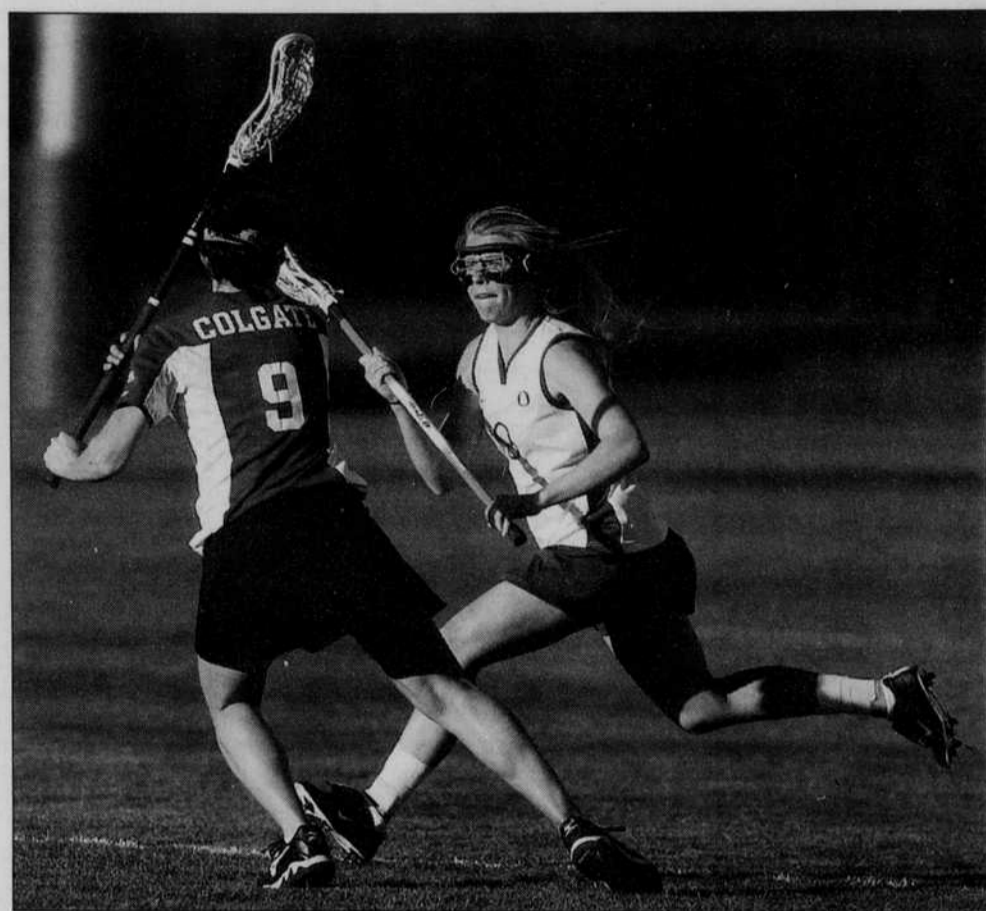
The Red Raiders went on a 7-0 first-half run and never looked back, defeating the Ducks 15-9

BY BEAU EASTES
DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

In front of almost 400 fans on an unusually bright and slightly breezy March afternoon, the Oregon women's lacrosse team, in familiar fashion, lost again.

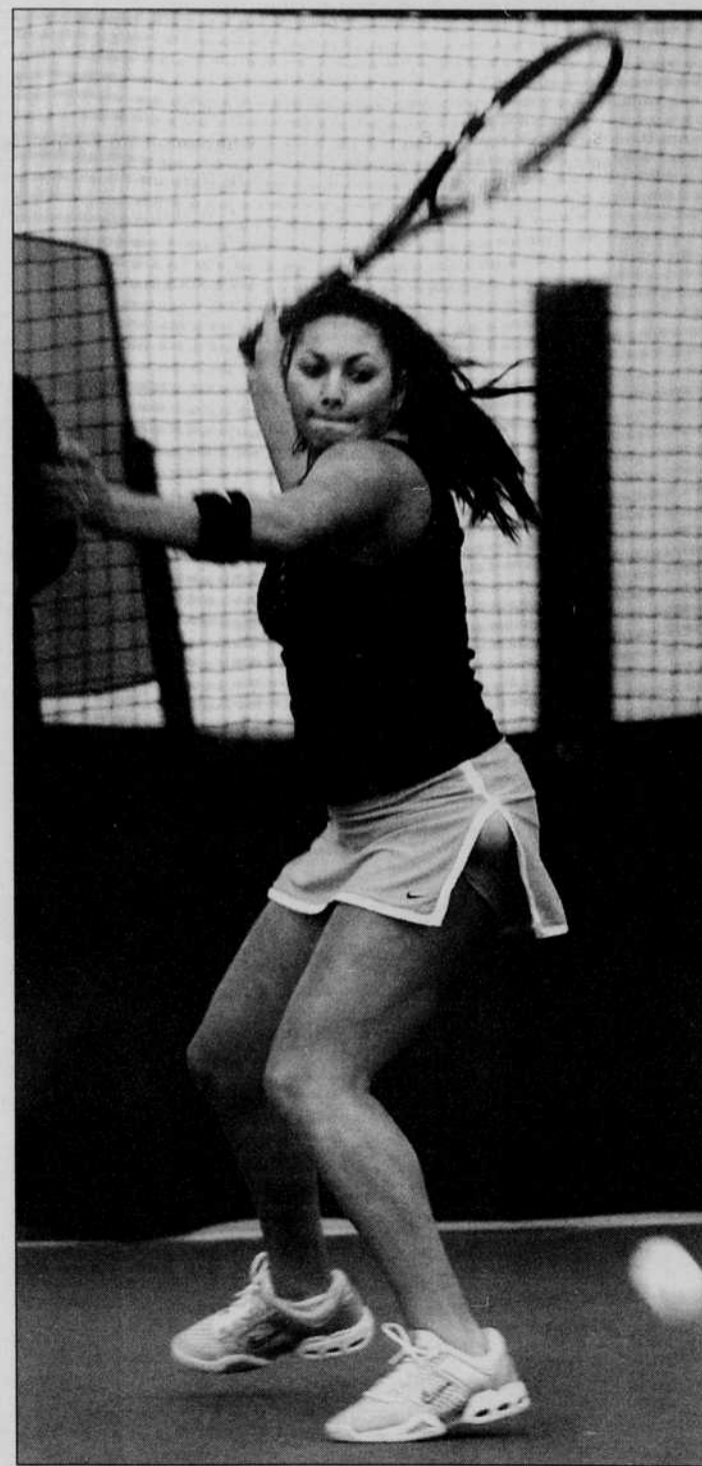
The Ducks (0-5 overall, 0-3 Mountain Pacific Sports Federation) took an early lead, went on a scoring drought and then battled back valiantly to no avail in a 15-9 home loss Saturday against Colgate (4-1, 1-0 Patriot League).

LACROSSE, page 14A



LAUREN WIMER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Freshman Oregon attacker Erin Gaebe looks to score against Colgate's Lauren Price in the Ducks' 15-9 loss Saturday at Papé Field. Gaebe had her fourth goal of the season in the loss.



KATE HORTON | PHOTOGRAPHER

Oregon junior Jamie Marshall was defeated by Princeton's Joanna Roth, 6-4, 6-3, in the Ducks' 4-3 victory Sunday at the Student Tennis Center.

■ Women's tennis

Women up record to 11-2 with win against Princeton

Doubles duo Dominika Dieskova and Daria Panova opened the dual with an 8-0 victory

BY ALEX TAM
DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

Before entering Sunday's game against Princeton, the Oregon women's tennis team had won 21 of its past 22 dual matches in non-conference play. After defeating Princeton, 4-3, at the Student Tennis Center, the Ducks (11-2) can now add another win to their impressive record. They also improved their home record to 8-1 on the season.

"We battled hard," Oregon head coach Nils Schyllander said. "We got a lot of people playing sick right now, but they were sucking it up."

Despite several ill athletes, the Ducks were able to jump out to a 1-0 lead after taking two of the three doubles matches.

The doubles team Daria Panova and Dominika Dieskova led the Ducks after making quick work of Princeton's Jessica Siebel and Stephanie Berg, 8-0, at the No. 1 position. The Oregon duo upped its record to 10-3 on the season.

At the No. 2 position, Dieskova upped her singles record to 10-3 while helping Oregon take a 2-0 lead. The 20-year-old defeated Princeton sophomore Darcy Robertson in straight sets, 6-1, 6-2.

Princeton cut the deficit to 2-1 when sophomore Joanna Roth triumphed over Oregon's Jamie Marshall, 6-4, 6-3. Marshall came

back from a 4-1 deficit in the first set to tie up the score at 4-4, but the junior from Las Vegas could not keep up her momentum through the rest of the matches, and her singles record fell to 4-7.

The Ducks quickly came back and took a commanding 3-1 lead when Panova bested Siebel in a hard-fought three-set match, 4-6, 6-0, 6-1. Panova, 22, said she mixed up her game after the first set, incorporating both forehand and drop shots aces that frustrated her opponent.

"I didn't expect the girl to play that well in the first set," Panova said. "Her serve was very good, and I didn't play my best. I wasn't ready mentally, but in the second set, I started making more balls and just started hanging in there and eventually, she broke down."

Ester Bak then clinched the victory for Oregon as she beat Princeton sophomore Laura Trimble at the No. 6 position in another three-set battle, 3-6, 6-2, 6-2. Bak was down 0-2 in the second set before winning 12 of the last 14 games to boost her singles record to 8-3.

"(Trimble) came out really big and hitting a lot of winners and came out fired up," Bak said. "I was just being patient and playing every point, game by game. I was able to pick it up and change the momentum. I think I was a little bit more consistent (in the second and third

TENNIS, page 14A