

■ In my opinion



CLAYTON JONES
SEVENTH INNING STRETCH

To the MLB: Thanks for major league compassion

As most Major League Baseball fans know, players and managers wore pink armbands and ribbons on Mother's Day to promote breast cancer awareness.

What most people don't know is that it was the finale of a week-long program called the "Strikeout Challenge." The program joined the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation with Major League Baseball and its clubs to create awareness about breast cancer and the importance of early detection and to raise money for breast cancer research.

Fans and players made monetary pledges per strikeout during the week. Going into Sunday's games, there had been 1,173 strikeouts. Major League Baseball charities also committed \$50,000 to the program as part of the challenge, and pink lineup cards and bases printed with the pink ribbon logo will be sold at auctions to raise additional funds for the foundation.

When I was watching baseball Sunday and saw the pink armbands, I thought it was good for baseball to promote breast cancer awareness, but I had no idea how much that gesture would mean to me in a mere few hours.

Later that day, I called my mother to wish her a happy Mother's Day. A short while later, I received a call from her, and she told me something a son never wants to hear.

Cancer.

She has breast cancer.

And I lost it.

She calmed me down by telling me the cancer was caught early, and afterward I went online to find out more about what Major League Baseball is doing for cancer research and awareness. I found the "Strikeout Challenge" and more statistics about breast cancer.

I was hit with all kinds of information, but it was the story of Dodger outfielder Milton Bradley that really hit home for me.

Bradley's mother, Charlena Rector, is a breast cancer survivor. She was diagnosed in September 2002, and Bradley told MLB.com that he was shaken when he first heard of her diagnosis.

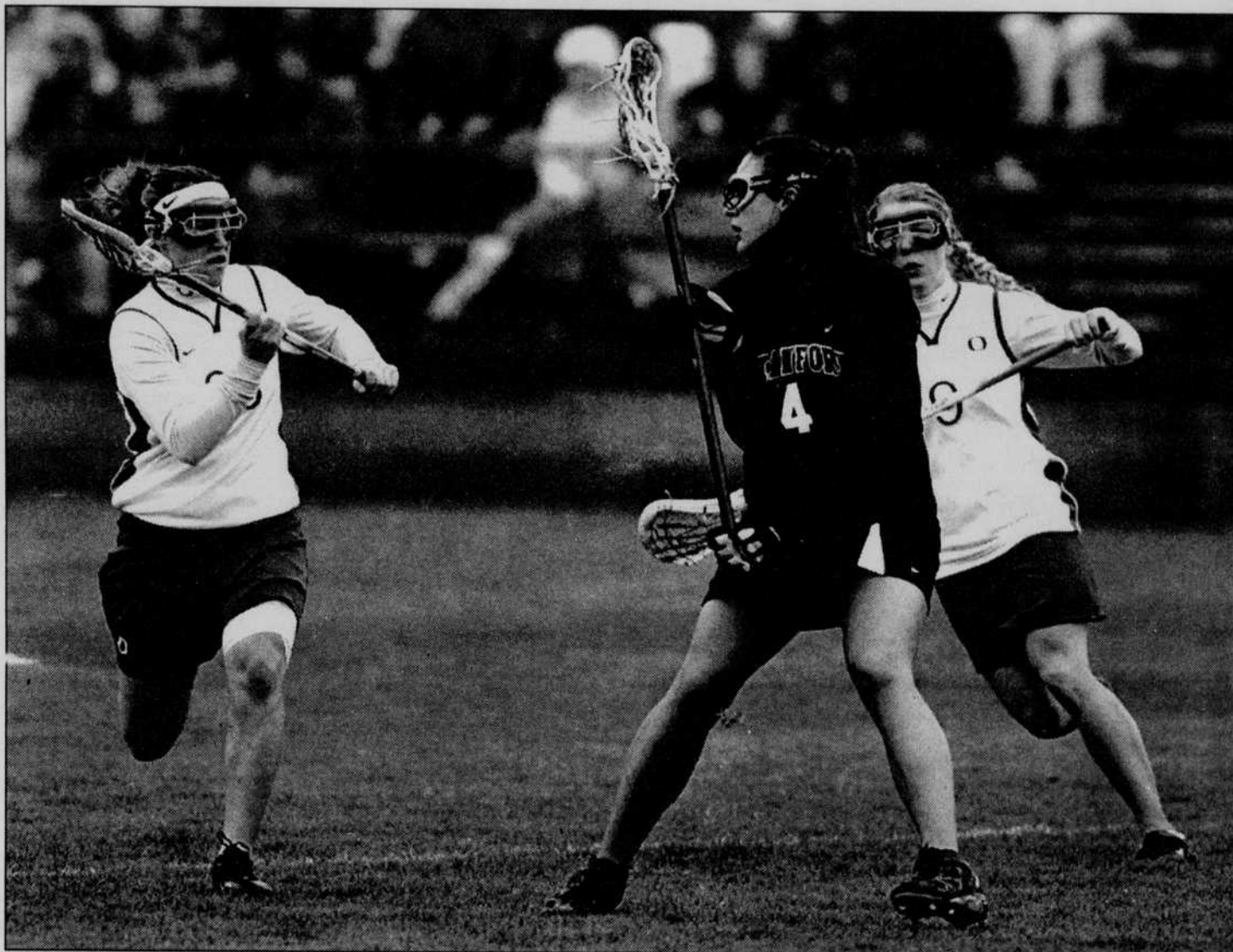
"It's always scary, because when you talk about cancer, you talk about dying," he said. "It's something we need to make people aware of and make sure they get tested and treated early."

One of the first thoughts that ran through my head when my mom told me about her diagnosis was that cancer equals death. But Bradley's quote made me think differently.

To Major League Baseball, along with the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, I have just one word to say: Thanks.

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■ Duck lacrosse



EMERALD

Oregon's Kate Fleming, left, seen here earlier in the season, scored three goals and had three assists against St. Mary's on Friday, leading the Ducks to a fifth-place finish in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Conference tournament.

Ducks take 5th at first season's end

After falling to UC Davis 7-6 in the first round of the MSPF tournament, Oregon beat St. Mary's 16-12 in its final game

BY STEFANIE LOH
DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

The Oregon women's lacrosse team closed out its inaugural season with a 16-12 win against St. Mary's at the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation championship tournament on Friday.

The win marked the third time this season the Ducks have beaten the Gaels. However, this time victory was only bittersweet because it came on the heels of a heartbreakingly close 7-6 loss to UC Davis in the opening round of tournament play.

"It was a valiant fight between two teams,"

Oregon head coach Jen Larsen said after the game against UC Davis. "We just made a few too many errors."

Still, the Ducks made the Aggies work for their win Thursday, never allowing Davis to pull ahead by more than a single goal until the final minutes of the game.

Eventually, a free position shot off the cross by Davis midfielder Katie McGovern made the difference in the game with ten minutes left to play. McGovern's goal gave the Aggies a 7-5 lead against the Ducks. Oregon scored again five minutes later, but as a

result of some missed opportunities it never found the final goal to tie the game.

"We were fortunate to have a lot of opportunities, including a couple of eight-meter shots in the last 20 seconds; that could have made a difference," Larsen said. "Unfortunately, it's always hard when you're a goal behind, and we didn't quite capitalize on those opportunities."

Davis went on to lose to Denver, 10-8, in the third-place game.

Oregon's Friday win against St. Mary's gave the Ducks a fifth-place finish in the MPSF tournament standings.

Freshman midfielder Kate Fleming and attacker Jana Bradley each contributed three goals in the victory. Fleming also had three assists,

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■ Men's track and field

Decathlon title streak stops at four

Junior Andy Young captured second place and Cody Fleming took fourth at the Pac-10 decathlon championships on Sunday

BY BRIAN SMITH
SPORTS REPORTER

Andy Young nearly secured Oregon its fifth-straight Pacific-10 Conference decathlon title but fell just short with a second-place finish at the Pac-10 decathlon championships in Los Angeles on Sunday.

Oregon's streak dated back to 2001 when Santiago Lorenzo took home the title with a point total of 7,617. Billy Papas won

in 2002, followed by Lorenzo's second title in three years.

In 2004, then-freshman pole vaulter Tommy Skipper competed in the decathlon for the first time as a Duck and took home the title, finishing 105 points higher than runner-up Joshua Kinnaman of Arizona State and 89 points higher than the decathlon automatic standard.

While Young's second-place finish didn't

extend the streak, it did keep alive an even longer tradition of Ducks finishing the event in the top two. This streak has lasted for six years, coinciding with current Duck decathlon mentor Bill Lawson's tenure at the University.

For the third straight season, Young scored team points in the Pac-10 meet. His 7,165 score this season was second to last year's personal best of 7,372.

The Newberg native came into Sunday in third place, trailing Arizona's Robert Arnold and eventual winner Darion Powell of Washington State.

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