

**IN BRIEF**

**Midnight Madness arrives at McArthur Court**

Midnight Madness, the hoopla surrounding the official start of college basketball practice, will return to ESPN after an eight-year absence.

The national cable network announced Thursday that ESPNU will televise five hours of Midnight Madness coverage on Friday, Oct. 14. Following a one-hour season preview show at 7 p.m. EDT., five live, one-hour events will be shown from Memphis, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan State and Oregon.

The Ducks will start at 9 p.m. and admission will be free. The event will also coincide with the distribution of the official Pit Crew T-shirts to University students.

The Michigan State event will also feature the women's team, which lost to Baylor in the national championship game in April.

**Skipper leaves football, sticks with track**

Oregon pole vaulter Tommy Skipper has decided to end his week-long endeavor into college football.

Skipper, who last played football

at Sandy High School in 2002, had been working with the football team since Sept. 22. He focused as a punter, cornerback and wide receiver.

Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said that Skipper had offered his services if he could help immediately, but acknowledged that it would be better to concentrate on only one sport.

The decision came so that Skipper could focus solely on track, where he has starred at Oregon since he arrived on campus.

He captured the NCAA pole vault titles in 2004 for his outdoor performance and the indoor title in 2005. Skipper missed most of the 2005 outdoor track season while recovering from a knee injury.

As a freshman, Skipper won the pole vault and decathlon titles. He also set the school record in the pole vault at 18 feet 10 1/4 inches during that year.

Skipper is a favorite to regain both the indoor and outdoor title in the upcoming seasons.

— From Staff and Associated Press reports

**Andrews: Crowd is a factor**

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we're frightening," Moore said. "We can be very, very scary, and we have to play that way to be successful."

Mac Court can be a scary place as well. It was obvious during the weekend that the Oregon players fed off the energy of their boisterous fans.

"(The Ducks) got a good thing going. They play really hard," Cal coach Rich Feller said. "They have

a great crowd. It's wonderful. The students switching sides is pretty annoying, but they're always pretty good, clean and fun, and never fail to congratulate our team following the match.

"(Mac Court) is a great place to play. College athletics should be like this. I love this place."

Coach, I couldn't agree more.

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**Soccer: Ducks power toward Pac-10 play**

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made low-scoring games easier to watch for first-year head coach Tara Erickson.

"Jessie came up with two huge game-winning saves for us," Erickson said. "It was a tough day on the defense with a lot of wind and difficult bounces because it's a very hard playing surface, but I was impressed with how well we adapted to the conditions."

Gamble and Chatfield were both honored alongside their senior teammates Nicole Garbin and Cristan Higa on the all-tournament team. Chatfield has earned a career's worth of accolades this season already. Last Tuesday she was honored as the Pacific-10 Conference Women's Soccer Player of the Week and was named the MVP of the season-opening Oregon Classic.

On Friday, Garbin scored her sixth game-winning goal of the season to push the Ducks past Nevada. Garbin's goal came at the 36:34 mark and gave Oregon a comfortable 2-0 lead, but the Wolfpack answered. Nevada closed the gap to 2-1 in the 81st minute with a goal by Miranda Montejo, ending Chatfield's scoreless minutes streak of 355:47. Garbin's goal would prove to be the clincher for Erickson's squad who prevented a game-tying rally.

"It's too bad to lose the scoreless streak," Erickson said. "But I give Nevada's players credit for battling hard and making a game of it."

Nevada head coach Terri Patraw was pleased that her team refused to go scoreless, but would like to have seen more from them.

"We didn't bring our 'A' game today, but we were still the more dan-



NICOLE BARKER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior fielder Nicole Garbin recorded her sixth game-winning goal of the season Friday as the Ducks defeated Nevada 2-1 in Laramie, Wyo. The goal helped lead the Ducks to a win at the Brown and Gold Tournament.

gerous team out there," Patraw said. "We had several scoring opportunities that we didn't put away. We battled hard today but just didn't get the results we wanted."

Senior Andrea Valadez got Oregon ahead first in the game with a first-half goal scored in the 29th minute. Freshman defender Allison Newton set up the goal with a cross that found the head of Valadez. It was the first goal of the season for Valadez, ending a drought extending almost one year back. Erickson felt that the goal was a testament to her team's persistence in the first half.

"I thought we were composed, especially in the first 30 minutes," Er-

ickson said. "It was good to see Andrea score from the midfield position on a really nice goal and a good ball from Ally Newton."

With the non-conference schedule now in their wake, it's full-steam ahead for the Ducks toward conference play, which opens this weekend on the road against No. 24 Arizona (5-3-2) and Arizona State (5-4-2). The Ducks have an unscathed record aside from a 7-0 loss to No. 2 Portland and a 1-1 tie to Gonzaga and are currently second in the Pac-10 standings.

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**Cross Country: Weather conditions have little effect on powerful showing by Ducks**

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Buchanan, Sara Schaaf, Emily Mathis, Heather Fitz-Gustafson, Meriel Hartling and Liisa Heinonen finished strong as a team.

"The women ran tough today and to come within a couple of points against a very good Washington team proves that they ran well," Vin Lananna, Oregon director of cross country and track and field, said. "Individually, I was happy with everyone, and Katie Leary in particular showed well today."

The men's team finished the day with a fourth-place finish behind first place Portland State, second place Washington and third place Air Force.

Notable for the men's team was the performance of freshman Galen Rupp, finishing sixth with an 8,000-meter time of 23:58. Saturday marked Rupp's collegiate cross country debut. He averaged a 4:49 pace on the fast Bush Park course.

"I felt pretty good considering it's my first race of the season," Rupp

said. "This was a good opportunity for the team to begin to gauge where we're at and against some good teams. Personally, I know I have a ways to go. The pace felt pretty comfortable early, and I tried to hang with guys on the team the first few miles and just run the race. Mark (Mandi of Washington, who won first place) deserves credit. He surged a lot in the middle and at the end and deserved the win."

Rupp wasn't bothered by the wet course.

"Considering the rain the course got yesterday, the conditions were pretty good," Rupp said. "It was mix of grass, trails and concrete, I wore some small spikes that helped a little although it was a little soft in spots."

Just shy of their team goal, the Ducks top seven had a 58-second gap between them, but the front five had a mere 36-second gap. The men averaged 4:49 and 4:56 per mile.

Carlos Trujillo, J.K. Withers, Patrick Werhane, Chris Winter,

Scott Wall, Zach Done, Esteban Trujillo and Vertin Alvarez helped boost the Ducks to the top five finish.

"The men have been training really hard the past month and basically placed where I expected them to," Lananna said. "I'm glad we had a meet with this level of competition early so we could identify what we need to work on. Galen had a good opener and has had a hard training cycle. We flagged him to back off the last mile to be a little cautious since it's his first race."

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