

*"It took me 17 years to get 3,000 hits in baseball. I did it in one afternoon playing golf."*

Major League Baseball's all-time home run leader  
Hank Aaron, who knocked 755 over the fence.

■ In my opinion



LUKE ANDREWS  
EXCESSIVE CELEBRATION

## Volleyball has chance for season to remember

Watching Oregon's home volleyball match Thursday against California made me proud to be a student at the University Of Oregon.

I must be honest; entering this year, I knew little to nothing about the history of Oregon volleyball, except that it was typically a losing, Pacific-10 Conference bottom-dwelling program.

You'd never guess that judging from the noise of the proud 726 that packed McArthur Court to watch Oregon take on the 14th-ranked Golden Bears and the season-high 1,040 that witnessed Oregon battle defending national champion Stanford.

Though the Ducks fell in both matches, it was quite a sight to see the green and yellow fanatics support this 2005 Oregon squad.

It's a testament to the pride and loyalty of the University's fan base when a team that has won only one of its last 22 Pac-10 games manages to draw a crowd like that.

Heck, even the Duck dragged its pasty, white, slightly deformed behind to Mac Court.

While the Ducks may not win the Pac-10, the fans and players have a chance to be a part of something special: a noble rebuilding effort.

It's a chance to bring an atmosphere to Mac Court that parallels a packed Maples Pavilion at Stanford.

It's been a privilege to have the opportunity to cover this Oregon team, which has been playing inspired volleyball under first-year head coach Jim Moore.

Moore is a passionate man and coach who cares greatly for his players. He brings a fiery attitude each night and you can expect great things before his career is over.

Watching him erupt off the bench with unrivaled intensity makes it difficult to maintain any sort of professionalism on press row. It's safe to say: He's won over many, including me, in Eugene.

His team plays hard for him, and the nucleus of players he has left over from last year's team mixed with a crop of talented newcomers will give plenty of reasons for Oregon's faithful to applaud this season.

Sure the Ducks have started their Pac-10 schedule 0-4, but three losses were against ranked opponents.

In last Friday's loss to Stanford, Oregon hit 0.179. Consider that the Cardinal held six previous opponents under a 0.100 hitting percentage and it quickly becomes evident that Oregon is headed in the right direction.

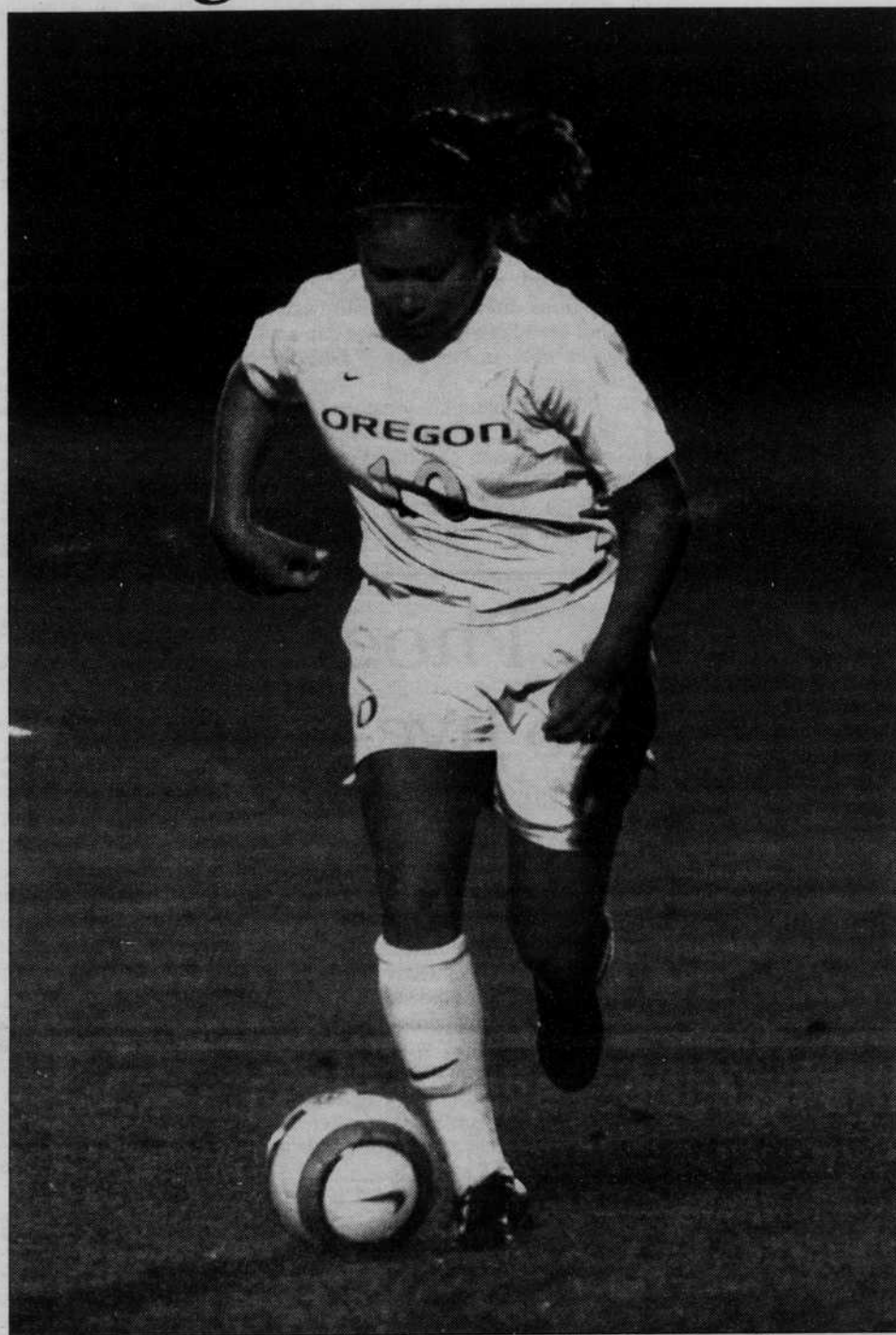
Not to say that Oregon's climb won't be a tough one in a talented Pac-10 conference. Six of the conference's 10 teams are ranked and three competed in last year's final four.

If the Ducks can maintain their level of play demonstrated in the first game against the Cardinal, a narrow 30-28 loss, the Ducks can compete with the majority of the conference's teams and eventually that winning mentality will shine through.

"If we play like we did in the last two games against Cal and first game (against Stanford),

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## Oregon wins at Brown and Gold



NICOLE BARKER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior midfielder Andrea Valadez sends in a cross during Oregon's Sept. 23 win over South Dakota State. At Friday and Sunday's tournament in Laramie, Wyo., Valadez scored her first goal of the season in a 2-1 win.

*Goalie Jessie Chatfield earns MVP honors as the Ducks get their eighth win this season*

BY SCOTT J. ADAMS  
SPORTS REPORTER

The Oregon women's soccer team proved that it can win on the road when it marched into Laramie, Wyo., and won the Brown and Gold Tournament, defeating Nevada (4-4-1) 2-1 on Friday and host Wyoming (3-3-3) 1-0 on Sunday. The Ducks (8-1-1) are flawless on the road this season, boasting a 4-0 record. They have stayed perfect going into this week thanks to clutch defensive play.

On Sunday, the Ducks topped the Cowgirls in unusual fashion, sitting on an early lead and watching their defense preserve a win. Oregon senior midfielder Caitlin Gamble stuck an unassisted shot in the back of Wyoming's net a little more than four minutes into the first half, giving the Ducks the lead. The Salt Lake City native made the most of a critical mistake by goalkeeper Jamie Scarcliff, who could not haul in a save off of a previous shot. The ball deflected from Scarcliff to an unforgiving Gamble who buried it in the open net. It marked the second goal of the season for Gamble and the seventh of her career. After the game, Wyoming head coach Anne Moore marveled at the Ducks' resilience and reflected on her goalkeeper's costly mishap.

"We had to resort to playing their game, which was a little disappointing. However, they are an extremely tough team and this was a good team to face heading into conference play next weekend," Moore said. "Overall, it was a very even game and our one mistake in the first half ended up costing us a chance to win."

Gamble's goal sparked the Ducks to stay strong despite playing at 7,000 feet above sea level. Tournament MVP and Oregon freshman goalkeeper Jessie Chatfield and the defense took it from that point. Chatfield delivered another solid performance, notching five saves en route to her sixth shutout of the season. It posts her fourth scoreless outing in the last five games and extends her own school record. The play of the young goalkeeper this season has the mark of a veteran and has

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## Duck teams secure top-four finishes

*Zoe Nelson helps the women to second place while Galen Rupp leads the men to the fourth spot*

BY KIM GAVIGLIO  
FREELANCE REPORTER

This season's Oregon cross country team is showing the running world that a flock of Ducks is a dangerous thing — cross its path and you will get run over.

Over the weekend the Ducks traveled to Salem to compete in the Willamette University 31st annual Charles Bowles Invitational. The men's and women's teams both finished the race with impressive times, which ensured Oregon top-four finishes.

Zoe Nelson and Katie Leary helped the Ducks earn a second-place finish behind No. 30 Washington. Nelson took fourth place in the 5,000-meter race with a time of 17 minutes, 14 seconds; a mere 12 seconds behind first place finisher Dee Olson from Idaho.

Nelson, a true freshman, clocked in at 5:26 for her first mile and managed an 11:07 split. This

was Nelson's second straight race where she finished first for Oregon.

"Collegiate racing still feels a little new, but I'm starting to get a little more comfortable," Nelson said. "The level of talent was higher this time, and there were a lot more people to run with today, so I wasn't really worried about the pace or splits. I didn't have much of a strategy, more just run my own race and try to finish top five."

"I felt pretty good throughout, although I was a little concerned at the end because I don't have the best foot speed and didn't want anyone to pass me. I did my best to pick up the last 300 meters on the track, and I finished okay," Nelson said.

Leary, a redshirt freshman, was the top second runner from any team finishing sixth with a time of 17:17.

"This was a nice confidence



GEOFF THURNER | OREGON MEDIA SERVICES

Oregon distance runner Galen Rupp (79) made his collegiate cross country debut with a sixth-place finish (23:58) at Willamette University's 31st annual Charles Bowles Invitational.

booster," Leary said of her personal record. "I haven't PRed since my senior season, so this was exciting. I'm still getting back into racing mode and getting my skills back, but I felt strong the whole way. It was nice to have Zoe up front so I could work off her."

Leary and Nelson were not the

only standouts for the women on Saturday; the entire team had an impressive performance. The top five Ducks had a 34-second gap between the first and fifth runner, averaging paces between 5:33 and 5:44 per mile. Sarah Pearson, Amber McGown, Dana

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