

Boys' netters hopes to repeat championship

JOSEPH MILLER

Staff Reporter

number-one
player of thethis season won't be as
smooth-sailing as the pastCallagan has been taking
tennis lessons since the

For the
the Boys' V
Team has
capturing
League title
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"It's exci
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Lewis said

Lewis on
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Track

DANIELLE

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Dewart, juni
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LAUREN PA

The Equ
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competition

"My goal
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State," Sam
sophomore,

Samantha
sophomore,
first place in
Seat Equitat
followed by

Hillary Obye, junior, who
I oed second. Elizabeth
Sloop, senior, exited the ring

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Sports

Insert

Low seeds to look out for in the big tournament

Under-the-radar teams to watch

Every year in college basketball there are the "traditional powers" that hang around in the tournament. This year is different. The Duke's, Connecticut's, and Gonzaga's of the nation are being replaced with teams that are in the power conferences, but usually lie in the shadows. Teams like Washington State, Oregon, and Virginia Tech aren't used to being in the spotlight. These under-the-radar power schools include:

Washington State

Cougars

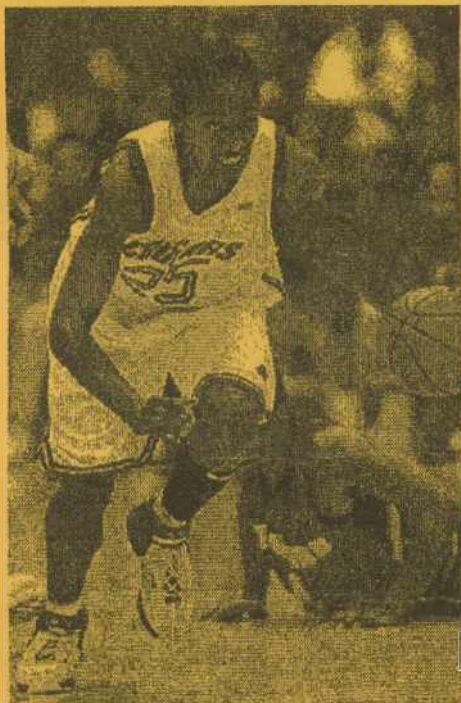
(23-5, 12-4) -The Cougars are led by their sure-handed point guard, Derek Low. With coach Tony Bennett who preaches defense, the Cougars might turn some heads in the tournament.

Virginia Tech

Hokies (20-8, 10-4) -The Hokies have

been one of the surprise stories of the year so far, led by their two senior guards who are averaging double figures in points. The Hokies have already made some noise in the regular season by upsetting the North Carolina Tar Heels twice. They seem to be ready for more upsets come tournament time.

Oregon Ducks (22-7, 10-7) -Oregon is led by their point guard, Aaron Brooks. The Ducks will go only as far as Brooks can take them. If he and his teammates can get on a



Kyle Weaver, junior guard for the Washington State Cougars, goes on a breakaway against Stanford. Weaver, averaging 11.5 points per game, will be relied on by the Cougars in the NCAA tournament. Photo courtesy of espn.com

shooting streak, the Ducks may be able to stir the pot of the NCAA tournament.

Pittsburgh Panthers

(24-5, 11-3) -The Panthers are led by their 7' Aaron Gray, senior center, who is averaging 14.3 points and 9.9 rebounds per game. They may be a little over-rated, because

they have played only four ranked teams all season, and they were 0-4.

Air Force Falcons

(23-6, 10-5) -The key to success in the NCAA tournament is good guard play and a presence in the key to keep everything together. The Falcons have both with senior forwards Nwaelele and Burtshi who are averaging 14.5 and 13.2 points per game, and senior

This year's potential "George Mason" teams

Southern Illinois

Salukis (22-5, 13-3) -- Southern Illinois, who has made it to the tournament consistently before, but never made it out of the opening rounds of the tournament, now has a physical presence down low in Randal Falker who is averaging 13.1 points and 7.6 rebounds per game.

Vermont Catamounts

(23-6, 15-1) -The Catamounts have a guard averaging 16 points per game, a forward averaging 12.7 points per game, and a good center in Chris Holm who is averaging 10.4 points and 12.2 rebounds. They've already had the experience of playing "Cinderella" when they beat Syracuse back in 2005.

Matt McCraw at the point guard averaging 11.3 points per game.

You would expect to see Gonzaga on this list of potential contenders, but due to the recent arrests of Josh Heytvelt and Theo Davis for possession of a controlled substance, and the fact that winning their conference is now in jeopardy, we decided Gonzaga didn't deserve a spot on our list.



Jamaal Tatum, senior guard for the Southern Illinois Salukis, drives past a Creighton defender. Tatum is averaging 15 points a game, and is the Salukis' leading scorer. Photo courtesy of ESPN.com

Virginia

Commonwealth Rams

(24-6, 16-2) -The Rams are making a name for themselves by scoring a lot of points, led by three guards averaging in double figures.

Who we think will get to the Final Four and who will be National Champs

It's always tough to predict what can happen in the zany world of college sports, but this is how we think the tournament will play out.

(Disclaimer: Picks were made before the bracket was announced so its possible that some of these teams may be in the same bracket and will not be able to reach the Final Four.)

Zak Laster's picks -I spent a lot of time thinking about this and I came up with the Final Four of Ohio State, UCLA, Texas A&M and Florida. The Ohio State Basketball Team will get a chance to avenge the loss of the Ohio State Football Team, but will fall short to the UCLA Bruins.

Jon Helmkamp's picks -I think UCLA, with their defense, Florida, with their offensive



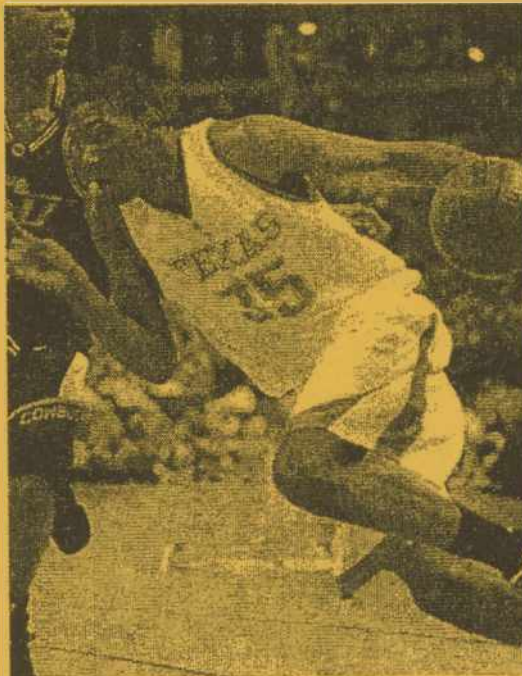
Greg Oden, freshman center for the Ohio State Buckeyes, gets his hand on the opponent's shot. Oden, only a freshman, is a candidate for the Player of the Year award. Photo courtesy of ESPN.com

attack, Ohio State, with Greg Oden manning the post, and Texas A&M, led by Acie Law IV, will make it through to

the Final Four. It's absolutely impossible for me to go against Ohio State when they have Greg Oden, the big man down low, and Mike Conley

Jr. as an outside threat. I think Ohio State will be the National Champs of college basketball, beating Florida in a shoot out.

Greg Bean's Picks -I think the Final Four will be Florida, UCLA, Ohio State, and North Carolina. I think Florida is going to re-



Kevin Durant, freshman guard for the Texas Longhorns, dips past Marcus Dove, Oklahoma State guard. Durant is averaging 25.6 points per game going into the NCAA tournament. Photo courtesy of ESPN.com

peat as National Champions of College Basketball.

Alex Tadros' Picks -I'm not really sure but I'm going to have a Final Four of Ohio State, Florida, North Carolina and Texas, with Ohio State being national champs.

Jeff Bilyeu's Picks -I know a Pac-10 team will be in there. I don't think Florida will be in it, it's too hard to win that many games in a row. I've got to take the safe bet and say UCLA will be the National Champs.

positive outcome.

Boys Rugby Shifting Momentum

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