

GamePlan

TODAY'S BEST BETS

Watch: NCAA Tournament opener
 March Madness begins as Hampton, with Jeff Granger, right, takes on Monmouth, N.J. in the play-in game. The winner will play Villanova. ESPN will have the game at 4:30 p.m.



Go: Phoenix at Kings
 The Coyotes are out of the playoff picture, but the Kings need the points to try and catch Calgary in the West. Puck drops at Staples Center at 7:30 p.m.

TALK BACK

'It's nice having the World Baseball Classic in Anaheim. Now I can actually go root for a baseball team with a name I can identify with.'

ROB ROHM
 ORANGE



Talk to us

We want your comments on sports personalities, games and news. Please send your thoughts to sports@ocregister.com or fax to (714) 796-6765. Please keep comments to 25 words.

THE LINE

NCAA Tournament
Play-in game
Today
At Dayton, Ohio

Favorite	Line	Underdog
Monmouth (N.J.)	5½	Hampton

Thursday
First Round
At Greensboro, N.C.

Favorite	Line	Underdog
Wichita St.	2	Seton Hall
Tennessee	8½	Winthrop
Geo. Washington	2½	N.C.-Wilm.
Duke	26	Southern U.

At Jacksonville, Fla

Favorite	Line	Underdog
Oklahoma	2½	Wis.-Milwaukee
Florida	9	South Alabama
Syracuse	1½	Texas A&M
LSU	6½	Iona

At Salt Lake City

Favorite	Line	Underdog
Boston College	8	Pacific
Nevada	7	Montana
Indiana	2½	San Diego St.
Gonzaga	6	Xavier

At San Diego

Favorite	Line	Underdog
UCLA	20	Belmont
Illinois	9	Air Force
Washington	6½	Utah St.
Marquette	1½	Alabama

Friday
At Dayton, Ohio

Favorite	Line	Underdog
Georgetown	4	N. Iowa
Ohio St.	12	Davidson
Michigan St.	5	George Mason
North Carolina	13	Murray St.

At Philadelphia

Favorite	Line	Underdog
Arizona	1½	Wisconsin
Villanova	Off	Hampton/ Monmouth (N.J.)
Kentucky	2½	UAB
Connecticut	23	Albany (N.Y.)

At Auburn Hills, Mich.

Favorite	Line	Underdog
Pittsburgh	6	Kent St.
Kansas	7½	Bradley
Iowa	7½	Northwestern St.
West Virginia	4	S. Illinois

At Dallas

Favorite	Line	Underdog
Arkansas	4½	Bucknell
Memphis	15	Oral Roberts
Cal	1	N.C. State
Texas	15½	Penn

NBA

Favorite	Line	Underdog
at Sacramento	6	Lakers
at Philadelphia	2½	Toronto
at Miami	10	Utah
Washington	5	at Charlotte
at Memphis	7	Boston
at Dallas	7½	Cleveland
at San Antonio	10½	New Orleans
at Chicago	10	Portland
Phoenix	6	at Seattle

TOP OF THE 2ND



FRANCIS SPECKER, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NICE JOB: Huntington Beach's Chanda Gunn, right, meets Ducks captain Scott Niedermayer after she was honored at a recent game for winning an Olympic bronze medal.

Gunn learns about post-Olympic life

ANAHEIM • The same night Mighty Ducks goaltender Jean-Sebastien Giguere was rumored to be on the NHL trading block, the most victorious American goalie in the world of late walked into the Arrowhead Pond of Anaheim.

In blue jeans, sneakers, a T-shirt and a surfer-style green zip-up sweater. With an Olympic bronze medal loose in the bottom of a black tote bag.

"A goalie? Me? Tonight?" Chanda Gunn responded with surprise to a passerby's request before last week's San Jose Sharks-Ducks game.

Barely three days back from the Winter Games in Turin, Italy — where she helped USA Hockey defeat Finland, 4-0, for the bronze medal — she said, "I haven't even skated since the last game (Feb. 20)."

No netminding was necessary. But the team gave the Huntington Beach-born goalie a Ducks sweater bearing "Gunn" and her number "30."

Donning her new uniform, with her medal swinging from the red ribbon around her neck, Gunn performed the ceremonial puck drop at center ice between the sticks of Sharks center Patrick Marleau and Ducks defenseman Scott Niedermayer, who brushed at the puck as the crowd applauded.

Then Gunn rushed to the rollaway carpet strips into the unseen parts of the arena and re-appeared in her Section 211 seats beside her 22-year-old brother, Jacob — a center on the UCLA club hockey team.

"He's the best player on his team," she said of her brother, who cheered her from the stands through all 14 saves in her final shutout.

Chanda and Jacob later visited with Ducks owners Henry and Susan Samuelli in their luxury suite. Then they did color commentary for Fox Sports in the second period from the upper tier of the stadium.

After the 5-4 Ducks victory, Chanda had plans to visit the locker room and meet Giguere — "I always cheer for him," Gunn said — and Ducks forward Teemu Selanne, who lost three teeth playing for silver medalist Finland.

"I heard he was in the Finland (women's) locker room before the bronze-medal game telling them they could beat us," she said. "I won't tell him I know that. You can't find a nicer guy or a role model."

As many Olympians return home after their four-year, single-minded athletic pursuits of the podium, many reap the rewards of their success and continue to meet demands of

new-found fame.

Local interest keeps Gunn running around Southern California to meet interview and appearance requests. The Ducks wanted to embrace Gunn in all her post-Games glory. An East Coast radio show, which forced her to stay awake from 3:45-7 a.m. on Wednesday, sought to catch up with Gunn, who attends Northeastern University in Boston.

"It has only been three days, and I haven't even finished unpacking," said Gunn, who was last home in December.

"It has been a long time since I had a permanent address. I've been on the road living in hotels and athletic villages with a credential around my neck. You need one to go to the bathroom. Today it was nice just to go to the mall."

Olympians talk of the dropoff — the emotional, mental and physical cliff from which they plummet in the months after The Games. That lifestyle change for Gunn and her hockey teammates makes homecoming bittersweet.

"There is a huge letdown," she said. "Mostly I feel separation from my team, 20 women I spent a year with."

Their days were planned. Their food, lodging, clothes and travel provided. They had few choices beyond hockey. That's life, Olympic-style.

Today her hockey equipment sits zipped in a bag in the garage. Helmet, skates, jersey, pads, sticks — it's all there, untouched since it came out of the car from the airport.

"Maybe I'll skate a couple days before Calgary," she said, referring to USA Hockey's weeklong contest against Canada beginning March 21.

Workouts, which were twice a day and six hours, are now 45 minutes on a gym machine.

Her teammates, whom she left in tearful embraces in the Boston airport after their flight from Milan, are still a daily presence. Only now the contact comes in electronic text that she checks five times a day.

"We're going on a team vacation to Puerto Rico in two weeks," she said excitedly. "People are out getting swimsuits and pedicures."

Some teammates have returned to coaching college hockey. A few have gone back to school, which Gunn will do in a few months, since she needs one credit to get her diploma and graduate in June.

Gunn, who has epilepsy, goes to New York City next week to speak in support of the Epilepsy Development Therapy Project. After playing in Calgary, she plans to return to Washington, D.C. to help kids lobbying for a cure.

Then it's off to Minnesota in April to work with a girls' hockey program. This is the start of Year One in another Olympic cycle.

Whether she will try to compete in 2010, Gunn has yet to decide.

"One year at a time," the bronze medalist said. "Just getting back in real life is challenge enough for now."



MARCIA C. SMITH
 REGISTER COLUMNIST

ON THE AIR TODAY

Sport	Time	Event (D-delay; T-tape)	TV	Radio
Baseball	10 a.m.	Exhibition: St. Louis vs. Yankees	ESPN	
	Noon	Exhibition: Angels vs. Kansas City		KSPN/710 KTNO/1020
	Noon	Exhibition: San Diego vs. Oakland		XPRS/1090 XEMO/860
	4 p.m.	World Baseball Classic: Venezuela vs. Dom. Republic	ESPN2	
	10:30 p.m.	WBC: Japan vs. Mexico (D)	ESPN2	
College baseball	2 p.m.	UC Irvine at LMU		KUCI/88.9 KWFM/1370
College basketball	4:30 p.m.	NCAA Tournament: Monmouth vs. Hampton	ESPN	
	6:30 p.m.	NIT: Virginia at Stanford	ESPN	
Hockey	4 p.m.	Buffalo at Washington	OLN	
	7:30 p.m.	Phoenix at Kings	OLN	KSPN/710
Pro basketball	5:30 p.m.	Cleveland at Dallas	NBA	
	7 p.m.	Lakers at Sacramento	Ch. 9	KLAC/570 KKWU/1220 KKWV/1330
Soccer	2 p.m.	Copa Libertadores: Velez vs. Universitario	FoxE	
	4 p.m.	Copa Libertadores: Cerro Porteno vs. At. Nacional	FoxE	
	6:30 p.m.	Copa Libertadores: Cienciano vs. Caracas	FoxE	
Tennis	1 p.m.	Pacific Life Open	ESPN2	

For complete listings, please see TV Register. Satellite times might differ. Check with your service provider.

5 GAMES OUT

Kings					Mighty Ducks				
Tue 3-14	Thu 3-16	Sat 3-18	Mon 3-20	Sat 3-25	Wed 3-15	Fri 3-17	Sun 3-19	Mon 3-20	Wed 3-22
PHX	DAL	STL	COL	NSH	DET	CHI	CLM	DAL	COL
7:30	7:30	7:30	7:30	7:30	4:30	5:30	2:00	5:30	7:30
OLN	FSN	FSN	FSN	FSN	FSN2	FSN		FSN2	FSN2

Information: (888) 546-4752

Information: (877) 945-3946

Clippers					Lakers				
Wed 3-15	Fri 3-17	Mon 3-20	Tue 3-21	Sat 3-25	Tue 3-14	Wed 3-15	Fri 3-17	Sun 3-19	Mon 3-20
PHX	PHI	HOU	N.O.	WSH	SAC	MIN	N.J.	CLE	BOS
6:00	7:30	5:30	5:00	12:30	7:00	7:30	4:30	10:00	4:30
ESPN	FSN2	KTLLA/5		KTLLA/5	KCAL/9	FSN	KCAL/9	KABC/7	KCAL/9

Information: (323) 224-1448

Information: (310) 426-6031

CSF baseball					UCI baseball				
Fri 3-17	Sat 3-18	Sun 3-19	Tue 3-21	Fri 3-24	Tue 3-14	Thurs 3-16	Fri 3-17	Sat 3-18	Sat 3-25
ARIZ	ARIZ	ARIZ	PEP	L.B. ST.	LMU	O. ROB.	O. ROB.	O. ROB.	ARIZ
6:00	5:00	11:00	6:00	7:00	2:00	6:00	6:00	1:00	5:00

Information: (714) 278-2783

Information: (949) 824-5000

UCLA basketball

Thu 3-16*
BEL 1:55
KCBS/2

Information: (310) 825-2946
 * - NCAA Tournament at San Diego

Home - Away -

ALSO TODAY

- College softball: Hope International at Concordia, 1:30 p.m.
- College softball: UNLV at UCLA, 2:30 p.m.
- College baseball: UNLV at UCLA, 6 p.m.
- College baseball: Kean (N.J.) at Chapman, 7 p.m.
- College softball: Utah at Cal State Fullerton 8 p.m.

COLLEGES

UCI men's volleyball reaches No. 1 in poll

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

UC Irvine men's volleyball team has taken over the No. 1 ranking in the latest CSTV/American Volleyball Coaches Association poll.

The Anteaters (19-3, 12-2) defeated then-No. 1 BYU on Friday and Saturday in a pair of five-game matches to secure the top spot.

UCI received all 16 first-place votes.

BYU dropped to No. 2.

UCI increased its winning streak to 13, the longest in the nation and longest in the program's history.

The Anteaters play host to No. 12 USC on Thursday at 7 p.m. at Crawford Court before taking on fourth-ranked Pepperdine on Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Bren Center.

ROEMER HONORED

Cal State Fullerton pitcher Wes Roemer was selected Big West Conference Pitcher of the Week on Monday.

Roemer, a sophomore, recorded 12 strikeouts Friday against East Carolina and recorded his first shutout in a 5-0 victory.

Roemer hasn't allowed a walk in 45 innings.

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