Wilkins still unknown to UCLA

By Dave Charbonneau

Oregon Daily Emerald

During the Pacific-10 Conference basketball conference call Tuesday, UCLA coach Jim Harrick was asked about the abundance of talent at the point guard position within the PAC-10 this season.

Harrick responded by naming virtually every point guard in the conference.

After naming eight point guards he paused and said, "Let's see, I don't want to leave anybody out."

He thought for a second and finally decided he covered everyone

He did, however, leave one point guard off the list: Oregon's Kenya Wilkins.

Wilkins hopes to make sure Harrick never makes that mistake again when he and the Ducks face the sixth-ranked Bruins tonight at Pauley Pavilion.

But in reality, Harrick shouldn't be blamed for leaving out Oregon's 5-foot-10 point guard. Wilkins has only played nine games for the Ducks this year and has yet to play in a Pac-10 game. Not only will Wilkins be making his Pac-10 debut, but he will be doing it in his hometown of Los Angeles.

"That'll be a lot fun," Wilkins said of tonight's game. "It's a new experience for me. I'm looking forward to going back to my



JEFF PASLAY/Emer

Oregon guard Kenya Wilkins has played well recently, but still remains unknown to many people, including UCLA coach Jim Harrick.

hometown."

Wilkins mind may change by the end of the night if the teams' records are any indication of what the final result will be. Oregon is 4-5 and two of those wins came against Division II schools. The Ducks are picked by most to finish near or at the bottom of the conference. UCLA is ranked sixth in the nation, is undefeated and is the favorite to win the Pac-10 this season.

"We have our work cut out for us this weekend," head coach Jerry Green said. "Everybody's already writing us off and when that occurs, you have only one way to go."

On an up note, the Ducks have won three out their last four games, including a 100-71 win over Alaska-Fairbanks Monday. Much of the team's recent success can be attributed to Wilkins, who has started to get a real feel for just exactly what Green wants him to do on the court.

"I'm playing with a little more confidence than I was at first,"

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