



## Green ball gains national attention

### Ducks break into AP Top 25 with wins

Chris Metz  
Oregon Daily Emerald

In a year ripe with rewards at every turn for Oregon athletics, the men's basketball team has provided the latest in the ever-growing list of pleasant surprises.

Jerry Green's Ducks, snubbed by the coaches in the CNN/USA Today poll, were rewarded for their sweep of UCLA and USC over the weekend in opening play of the Pac-10 season by sneaking into the 25th spot in the latest Associated Press Top 25.

The Ducks haven't been nationally ranked since 1977, but have gotten off to their best since 1974 with a 10-1 record. Included in the fast start was the Ducks' first Far West Classic Championship in 20 years with wins over George Washington

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#### THE TOP TWENTY FIVE

Associated Press Basketball poll

1. Massachusetts (44)	8-1
2. Connecticut (17)	10-0
3. Kansas (2)	10-1
4. North Carolina (2)	10-1
5. Arkansas	12-2
6. UCLA	7-1
7. Kentucky (1)	8-2
8. Syracuse	10-1
9. Maryland	11-3
10. Georgetown	9-1
11. Michigan St.	9-1
12. Arizona St.	11-2
13. Arizona	10-3
14. Wake Forest	8-1
15. Florida	7-3
16. Duke	9-4
17. Missouri	10-1
18. Clemson	10-0
19. Iowa	11-3
20. California	8-2
21. Penn	8-1
22. Georgia Tech	9-4
23. Iowa St.	11-2
24. New Mexico St.	10-3
25. Oregon	10-1

### Life as a sportswriter offers blame, occasional credit for job well done



KRIS HENRY

We all have days when we are proud to be a part of a profession and other days when we can't stand our profession.

Before I began my tour here at the Emerald, I got some advice from Terry Frei, former columnist at the Oregonian and current contributor to The Sporting News. Being new at this game, I took heed to his warning that sportswriters are cynical, backstabbing bastards.

That thought remained in the back of my mind as I covered the volleyball circuit and the Ducks' run for the roses. It still exists as I enter my men's beat of covering the Oregon men's basketball team.

And it has been in covering basketball for this limited time

that I have already incurred the presence of the dark side of sportswriting, as well as the light side.

Following the title game of the Far West Classic, I watched with pleasure as the Ducks received their championship trophy. Seniors like Orlando Williams and Jordy Lyden had smiles of relief after finally winning the elusive Portland tournament.

Then my ears burned with amazement as the Far West Classic All-Tournament team was announced. Notre Dame's Ryan Hoover was named the Classic's MVP while George Washington's Kwame Evans and "O" took their place among the tournament's elite, easy choices considering each player's key efforts in the Classic.

But rounding out the list of five were two Oregon State players, Mustafa Hoff and Stephane Brown — two players who displayed average abilities in helping the Beavers lose both games they played.

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### Penn State star opts for the pros, heeds head coach's advice

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) — Penn State tailback Ki-Jana Carter was impressed when J.J. Stokes of UCLA and Tyrone Wheatley of Michigan turned down millions of dollars from the NFL to return to school last year.

But both players had injury-plagued seasons that hurt their draft status, and that helped Carter decide to skip his own senior season and enter the NFL a year early.

"You only have so many years in football," he said Monday. "So I might as well get something out of it now while I'm young and healthy."

Pro scouts told Penn State coach Joe Paterno that Carter, the Heisman Trophy runner-up this season, would be a top five pick.

"I don't really think he can improve his situation athletically by coming back to Penn State," Paterno said. "The No. 1 obligation he has is to do what's best for him and his family."

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Penn State running back Ki-Jana Carter announced his intentions of forgoing his final year of eligibility to enter the 1995 NFL draft.

### Trade talk aside, Drexler leads Trail Blazers past Lakers

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Clyde Drexler, in his first home game since he went public with his request to be traded, made six of seven 3-pointers and scored 31 points as Portland handed the Los Angeles Lakers their most lopsided loss ever, 129-83 Monday night.

Drexler missed his first 3-pointer, then made six in a row. He scored 16 points in the third quarter when Portland turned an 11-point lead into a blowout that emphatically ended the Lakers' five-game winning streak.

The Blazers, who have beaten Los Angeles eight straight times, outscored the Lakers 41-15 in the third quarter to go ahead 106-69. Los Angeles hasn't beaten Portland since Jan. 15, 1993.

The Lakers previous worst loss also was in Portland, by 42 points (130-88) on April 22, 1990, when then-coach Pat Riley benched Magic Johnson and James Worthy to prepare for the upcoming playoffs.

Clifford Robinson added 23 points, while Rod Strickland added 14 points and a season-high 16 assists. Drexler, Robinson and Strickland all sat out the final quarter.

Tony Smith scored 17 and Eddie Jones 15 for Los Angeles. Cedric Ceballos, who missed the two previous games with back spasms, returned to the lineup but scored only two points in 20 minutes. Nick Van Exel also scored just two points and didn't play in the second half.

The Lakers, playing their second game in as many nights, lost big as is their habit. In

10 losses, the Lakers have lost by an average of 20.2 points.

The Blazers, who matched their longest winning streak of the season at three games, scored a season-high 65 points in the first half when they led by as many as 12 points before settling for a 65-54 advantage at intermission.

Portland had a 23-3 run in the third quarter, then added an 8-1 outburst to end the period.

Drexler, who had eight rebounds, received a smattering of boos but mostly cheers when he was introduced.

The margin wasn't the biggest for the Blazers this season. They beat the other Los Angeles team, the Clippers, by 48 on Dec. 14.

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#### Sluggish inducted into Hall of Fame

NEW YORK (AP) — Mike Schmidt, perhaps the greatest third baseman in baseball history, was in the overwhelming and only choice Monday for election to the Hall of Fame.

Schmidt, whose 548 home runs rank seventh on the career list, was named on 444 of the 460 ballots by the Baseball Writers Association of America in his first year of eligibility. His 96.52 vote percentage was the fourth-highest ever.

Schmidt, a three-time NL MVP and MVP of the 1980 World Series, became just the 10th third baseman to be selected for the Hall.

#### PAC-10 HONORS

WALNUT CREEK, Calif. (AP) — Washington State point guard Donminic Ellison was named the Pacific-10 Conference Player of the Week on Monday.

Second-half scoring by Ellison, a 5-foot-10 sophomore, led the Cougars (6-4, 2-0) to victories last week over then-No. 17 California and then-No. 23 Stanford.

Ellison scored a career-high 26 points, with all but one point coming in the second half, in Washington State's 83-71 victory over California on Thursday. Ellison was 14-of-16 from the line and added six assists and two steals.

Ellison scored all of his 12 points in the second half Saturday to help the Cougars' to a 77-63 victory over Stanford.

#### ON THIS DAY

■ 1972 — The longest winning streak in major professional sports is snapped when the Milwaukee Bucks beat the Los Angeles Lakers 120-104. The Lakers had won 33 straight, but Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's 39 points gave Los Angeles its first loss since Oct. 31.

■ 1980 — Goaltender Jim Stewart, playing in his first and only game with the Boston Bruins, gives up three goals in the first four minutes of the game and a total of five in the first period. He is replaced and never plays in the NHL again.

■ 1982 — Joe Montana's third overtime pass of the game, a 6-yarder to Dwight Clark, with 51 seconds remaining, lifted the San Francisco 49ers to 28-27 victory over the Dallas Cowboys in the NFC title game.