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Men's B-ball: UCLA will test Ducks

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Leading the Trojans was Crouse with 17 points, who tallied a double-double by adding 12 rebounds. Roseman was able to score 10 points in the 20 minutes he played, but Jones could only muster two.

It was an important game for the Ducks as the win brought their record to 15-12 overall and evened up their Pacific-10 Conference record at 8-8. Oregon faces UCLA on Saturday in its final home game of the season, a game that could determine whether or not the Ducks make it to postseason play. The Bruins

have come to McArthur Court the past two years and lost, so they will be hungry for revenge. But the Ducks know this and are ready to continue their home win streak against UCLA.

"It's a good win," Wilkins said. "We need something to carry us into the UCLA game. It is easier now to prepare for the UCLA game then it would have been if we had lost."

The Bruins are coming off a squeaker up in Corvallis. They lost to Duke last weekend and barely beat the Beavers by a score of 68-66.

UCLA will not be bringing the

same team that won the NCAA title last year, but Charles O'Bannon, Toby Bailey, Cameron Dollar and J.R. Henderson are still with the team that was beaten at Mac Court last year.

OREGON (80)	
Lawrence 9-14 0-0 25, Wilkins 4-8 9-10 18, Curry 8-13 0-0 12, Brown 3-8 0-0 6, Milling 3-7 0-2 6, Ramaker 2-3 0-0 4, Smith 2-2 0-0 4, Quinone 1-4 1-2 3, Larry 1-1 0-0 2, TOTALS 31-61 10-18 80	
USC (60)	
Crouse 7-11 3-4 17, Martin 5-13 5-6 16, Roseman 3-8 3-4 10, Souleian 2-5 1-2 7, Slaughter 2-2 0-0 4, Wilson 2-6 0-0 4, Jones 1-4 0-0 2, TOTALS 22-50 12-16 60	
3-point post-Oregon 8-29 (Lawrence 7-11, Wilkins 1-2, Brown 0-3, Curry 0-2, Quinone 0-2), USC 4-9 (Souleian 2-3, Martin 1-1, Roseman 1-4, Wilson 0-1), Assists-Oregon 19 (Curry 4, Milling 4, Ramaker 4, Wilkins 4), USC 10 (Martin 6, Roseman 2).	

Kearney: Waters makes the right choice

■ Continued from Page 13

on a last-second goal-line stand, that was a pretty dumb question — and I will be the first to admit it. But Waters quickly answered my question, and then some, when he saw I was trying unsuccessfully to wipe the egg off my face.

After the football season was over and the football team was headed to Dallas, where Waters had played for 11 years with the Cowboys, I decided it was time to do a feature on this man who had done so much to better an already great defense.

Of course, being a student and a journalist and, most of all, a procrastinator, I left everything until the last minute. Waters had gone on a recruiting trip, and, I thought, so had my story.

But a couple of nights before deadline, I got a call from Waters, someone I never thought I would be talking to from my living room. He was still out of town, he told me, and wouldn't be able to set aside time for an interview.

But Waters had some free time right then and there to talk to me about Oregon, the team's trip to the Cotton Bowl and his return to Dallas. So I did my interview over the phone, while Waters was in a hotel room somewhere and I was in front of my TV.

He told me that the NFL was in his past for now and that coming to Oregon "was the right thing for me at this stage in my career."

Having heard the media's whispers and snickers about the coach, I had heard Oregon was a one-year stop for Waters, that Waters was just taking a temporary break from the NFL.

But that simply wasn't true. From that conversation, I came to understand that Oregon wasn't just a fly-by-night stop for him. Waters wasn't sitting around, waiting to go back to the NFL; he

had lived in an NFL city, and he had lived the NFL lifestyle. He had been there, done that. Now was the time to spend some quality time.

The publication date for my article was Dec. 5, 1995 — the day of the Emerald's Cotton Bowl supplement. That meant that Dec. 4 was the day I frantically ran around the office putting the final touches on the newspaper.

It was also the day Charlie Waters' son Cody died.

I held that story. There wasn't any reason to feature Waters' football accomplishments that day. Because on that day, he wasn't Charlie Waters the former NFL great-turned-charismatic Oregon coach. On that heart-breaking day, he was a grieving father spending time with his grieving family.

In this day and age, sports figures are put on a pedestal — the fans and media only think about so-and-so the player, not so-and-so the person. It goes with the territory, I guess, but it's unfortunate that it takes a tragedy for people, including me, to realize that these personalities are people first, sports figures second.

Waters' departure from the Oregon football team is really unfortunate, but the coach did the best thing for Charlie Waters the person, and for the Waters family, and that is only to be commended.

Today, I am still a nervous, aspiring sports reporter who occasionally asks a really dumb question, but I no longer see Waters as just this incredible defensive back who has seen the glamour and glory of the highest level of football.

I see a father, a husband and a person that did the best thing for his family.

Trevor Kearney, a junior majoring in journalism, is the sports editor for the Emerald.

Ducks face Marquette today at Willow Creek

Oregon's men's tennis team will play its second home match in as many weeks today when Marquette comes to Eugene. The Ducks (8-9) were scheduled to play on campus at 2 p.m., but due to the weather they will play at the Willow Creek Racquet Club at 7 p.m. Today's match will be Oregon's third and final home match of the winter season.

For the women's team, Friday will be a busy day. The Ducks will play two dual matches in Moraga, Calif., on Friday, along with one each on Saturday and Sunday. On Friday, Oregon will



take on Cal Poly Pomona at 9 a.m. and Sacramento State at 2 p.m., then Cal Poly San Luis Obispo on Saturday and St. Mary's on Sunday. All four matches will be played at St. Mary's.

— Ryan Frank

Leadoff Classic marks end of tourney play

Oregon concludes its tournament play this weekend when it heads to Columbus, Ga., to play

in the NSCA Leadoff Classic.

The Leadoff Classic is considered to be the premier softball tournament of the season and features 24 of the top programs in the country including fellow Pacific-10 Conference schools, Washington and California.

Twenty of the participating teams advanced to the NCAA tournament in 1995. Three of the teams playing this weekend — Princeton, UNLV and Southwestern Louisiana State — advanced to last year's Women's College World Series.

Oregon (5-6) begins play this morning when it faces Hawaii (10-3) for the third time in a week.

— Chris Hansen

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