



ON THE TUBE
Men's College Basketball,
St. John's at Villanova,
ESPN (34), 6 p.m.

SPORTS

Oregon Daily
Emerald

Orlando officially fires Hill after players complain

■ **COACH:** Magic assistant Richie Adubato, Hill's former high school coach, was promoted to interim coach

The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — The worst-kept secret in the NBA became official Tuesday when Brian Hill was fired as coach of the Orlando Magic, a victim of player dissatisfaction.

The Magic won two Atlantic Division titles, reached the Eastern Conference finals twice and made one appearance in the NBA Finals under Hill, but that was when Shaquille O'Neal was still part of the team.

A five-game losing streak since the All-Star break and an overall 24-25 start — minus O'Neal — this

season made it difficult to ignore complaints about how Hill was handling the team.

Co-captain Horace Grant said the players held a meeting last week in Minnesota, then related their concerns to general manager John Gabriel during a conversation via speaker phone.

"I understand the NBA and the politics of the NBA ... This is part of sports. We all live with it and move on," Hill said.

Magic assistant Richie Adubato, Hill's former high school coach, was promoted to interim coach.

His first game is at home Wednesday night against Portland.

"The one good thing here, as far as I'm concerned, is the fact I've worked with these players over a long period of time," the former Detroit Pistons and Dallas Mavericks coach said.

Magic players reportedly voted 12-0 to go to management about Hill. Grant called it a "majority" decision but shrugged off suggestions that the team had lost faith in Hill.

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Fire on the Ice

Ezra Louthis, the Oregon Club hockey team's leading goal scorer, has been a big part of the Ducks' success

By Alex Pond

Freelance Sports Reporter

It wasn't until a year after high school, while spending some time Down Under, that Ezra Louthis decided he would attend Oregon.

The Oregon Club hockey team sure is glad he did.

Louthis, a junior from Aspen, Colo., led the Ducks to a 17-6-1 overall record, a 7-5-1 mark in the Pacific-8 Hockey Conference and a berth in the Pac-8 Tournament this weekend in Anaheim, Calif.

The forward led the Ducks with 22 goals in 23 regular-season games while also dishing out 11 assists.

He has been Oregon's go-to guy all season long and has not disappointed, scoring a number of key goals in several games.

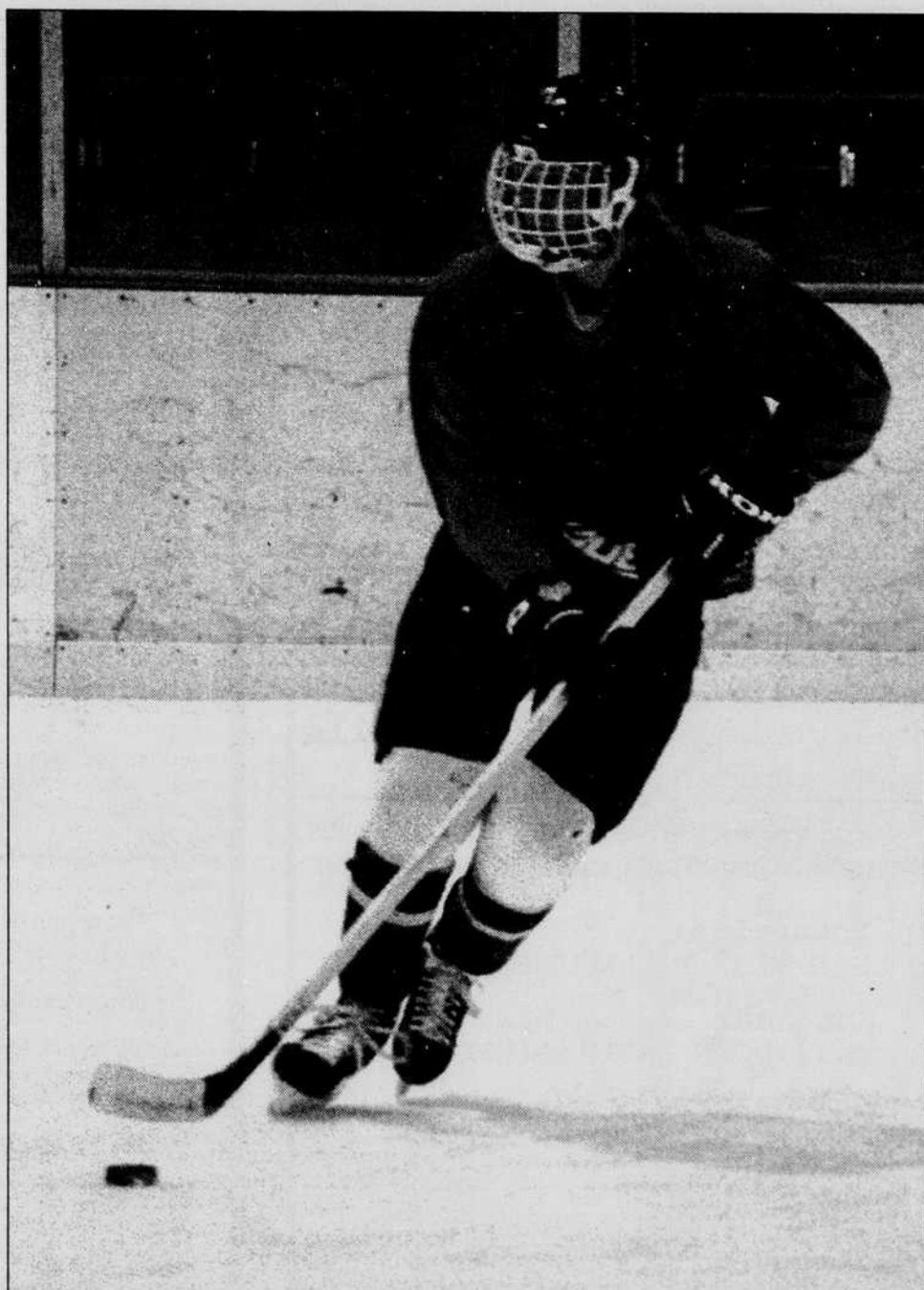
Louthis has had numerous game-winners, including one in overtime to beat Western Washington on Nov. 8. He also scored the final goal in a shootout at Washington on Jan. 24., which gave the Ducks the win and propelled them into the playoffs.

He seems to be at his best when Oregon needs a score the most, netting several game-tying or go-ahead goals for the Ducks throughout the season.

"I hate to lose," Louthis said. "It's something I despise. So when I get down, I guess it just brings me up a little bit. It wakes me up and gets me going."

Head coach Nick Ham and his Ducks saw Louthis "wake up" several times throughout the season, much to their delight.

"[Louthis] is one of the prime leaders on the team," Ham said. "He is an excellent player. He has a great deal of hockey sense, which means he knows how to



MATHEW STIFFLER/Emerald

Ezra Louthis has scored 22 goals and completed 11 assists during the Oregon Club hockey team's season. His offensive prowess has helped earn the Ducks a berth in the playoffs.

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ASUO has right idea, wrong plan

Call it what you will, but the ASUO's proposal to withhold 228 tickets from the student body for Thursday's Oregon-Arizona game because of reported ongoing racial incidents at MacArthur Court sends a message.

What kind of message?

That's a good question.

As a University of Oregon sports fan, my first reaction was outrage.

I could not believe the ASUO is planning on taking away tickets to a basketball game for actions taken by a small portion of the student body.

In addition, we, the students, paid for those tickets. A portion of our incidental fees go toward tickets to athletic events. And now, our governing body wants to withhold those tickets? And our money?

The ASUO has the right idea, trying to fight reported racism at Mac Court, but there has got to be other options — and there are.

What about flyers? The ASUO could pass out flyers on campus and at games to direct attention to racial incidents at Mac Court.

What about a representative from the athletic department talking to the Mac Court crowd about its recent actions?

ASUO vice president Glen Banfield has already thought of those things; both of those things will reportedly take place at Thursday's Oregon-Arizona game.

Isn't that enough? Is it really necessary to keep 228 students from attending the basketball game?

Or maybe, instead of a roping off part of the student section, what about tighter security?

If a member of the Mac Court security force spots someone, anyone, shouting racial slurs, kick them out. Have a one strike and you're out policy. Just having students watch their peers get taken out of Mac Court would most likely deter any further incidents.

OPINION



Ryan Frank

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USA Boxing denies Norton Jr.'s desire to compete

■ **GLOVES:**

Because he is a professional football player, Ken Norton Jr. cannot be considered an amateur boxer

The Associated Press

DALLAS — USA Boxing on Tuesday knocked out Ken Norton Jr.'s bid to enter a Golden Gloves tournament saying it would set a bad precedent to allow a professional football player to compete in the amateur event.

Federation rules say professionals from any sport cannot fight, but the San Francisco 49ers linebacker and son of former heavyweight champion

Ken Norton Sr. hoped an exception would be made for him.

His appeal was based on the fact he was entering a novice division of this week's Dallas tournament that does not advance to the state tournament.

"If you bend the rules for one guy, where do we stop?" USA Boxing spokesman Steve Ross said. "Personally, I think we get in dangerous territory if he would be let into this tour-

namment."

Ross said the decision was made upon the recommendation of its corporate counsel, C. Brian Renfro.

The USA Boxing rule restricting participation of professional athletes is clear:

"Any boxer who receives compensation to compete or participate in any professional competition or exhibi-

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