

Frank: Players should not be subjected to racial slurs

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One question has been continually asked about the recent incidents: Is there actually a problem?

According to UCLA's Kris Johnson there is. But that was never proven.

But what has been proven, at least according to the ASUO, has

been repeated incidents of racial slurs being hurled at opposing players.

And despite what some may argue, that is not "just part of the game."

It is not right for the players, and it is not right for the fans.

The players should not be sub-

jected to that kind of action. And to expect students to merely stand-by and listen while other students degrade someone because of the race — that is ludicrous.

I would like to think that things like that don't happen. I would like to think that at least one student would stand up and

confront someone yelling racial slurs. But things like that are very difficult. It is hard to confront a person in that situation.

I am not sure if I could confront a student yelling racial slurs, despite the fact I know it is disgustingly wrong.

But maybe with the awareness created by the ASUO's actions, it

will be easier. It will become more accepted to stand up and make a difference.

I just don't know if the ASUO is going about it in the right way.

Ryan Frank is a sports reporter for the Emerald. His views do not necessarily represent those of the paper.

Hockey: Louthis ready to avenge regular-season loss in tourney

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play the game, and he can see things that we need to change that are going on."

Louthis, a planning, public policy and management and environmental studies double major, was born and raised in Aspen. He started playing hockey when he was about nine years old, working his way up through the system.

"We had a really strong program, and I just kept advancing within the program and eventually made it to the top squad, the 'A' team," he said.

During high school, Louthis spent some time coaching younger kids.

"I think that helped [me] to understand the game better," he said.

During the four years Louthis attended Aspen High School, the hockey team won four Colorado state championships, something he said helped shape his winning attitude and drive for success.

"I was co-captain on a couple of state championship teams, and I knew what it felt like to win," he said.

After high school, Louthis took a year off from school to travel overseas.

"I went to Australia," he said. "I thought about where I wanted to go to school and decided the UO was the place to be for me."

"I had spent a little bit of time up here. I

liked the area — the community feel of Eugene. I knew that it was going to have a good planning program as well as a good environmental studies program."

While he said the fact that the Ducks had a hockey team was a plus, it wasn't one of his main reasons for coming to Oregon.

"I came mainly for academic reasons," he said.

Louthis is in his third year of playing hockey at Oregon, although he took half of last season off to go overseas again, this time to Southeast Asia.

He was back for the full season this year, however, and was one of the main components that turned around a team that finished 7-17-2 last season. He said the turnaround didn't come as much of a surprise to him or his teammates.

"I had a feeling that we'd be good this year," he said. "We have the quality of talent that is pretty amazing for this school. We just hadn't been able to bring it together, but for some reason I knew that this year was going to be good."

He attributed the team's depth as one of the main reasons for its success.

"We had a lot more players come out for tryouts," he said. "That just meant a greater level of confident players."

"Also, we've been playing together for a

couple of years, so we just started working together well and meshing. That was definitely a major factor."

But one other major factor was definitely the playing ability of Louthis, who credited his teammates with a large part of his personal success.

"I thrive on winning," he said. "But I couldn't have done it without Brendan Malia, my wing mate. He was our leader in assists [with 26]."

"I think the two of us work together really well, and it could have gone either way. I could have been the leader in assists, and he could have been the leader in goals, but it just happened to work my way. Next year could be different."

But before thinking about next season, the Ducks have some work to do at the Pac-8 Tournament.

Oregon is paired against California in a first round game Saturday. The Golden Bears beat the Ducks 8-6 earlier this season, and Louthis said he thinks this is the perfect time to get revenge.

"I think mainly the referee lost the game for us against Cal," he said. "They scored six of their eight goals on power plays, and I think that it's going to be sweet revenge because Cal thinks it's a better team than us, but we know we're better."

"We play a rougher game than they're

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I thrive on winning. But I couldn't have done it without Brendan Malia, my wing mate. He was our leader in assists [with 26].

— Ezra Louthis
UO Forward

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used to. I think that is going to take a toll on them both physically and mentally, and we're going to come out on the winning end in that game."

While Louthis is excited to be playing in the tournament this season, he thinks that the team will benefit from this season in the long run.

"I think that it is really exciting because it is going to give us a lot of potential for next year, as far as getting notoriety, [and] getting recognized as a team that is quality and deserves sponsorship, both in terms of time and money."

With the nucleus of the team returning for next season, the future is bright for the Ducks, and Louthis will undoubtedly be right in the middle of it, doing all he can to fulfill the desire to win that burns within him.

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