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# CRITTERS BUGGIN'



**THE WILD DUCK MUSIC HALL**  
Sunday, February 23  
8PM • door-7PM

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| \$5<br>UO | \$6<br>GP | \$8<br>DOOR |
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## Hank Steinbrecher

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U.S. Soccer Federation

# USA SOCCER

Thursday, Feb. 20  
4:00 p.m.  
128 Chiles

Reception to follow in 228 Chiles

Sponsored by the William K. Blount Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation and the World Cup Soccer Shop



# OREGON BASKETBALL

## Join The Oregon Lineup!

**Oregon vs. Arizona**

Students, come lineup early at Mac Court Thurs., Feb. 20 when the Ducks host the Arizona Wildcats. Enjoy live music and win FREE prizes including:

- \* A chance to win 2 reserved seats behind the Duck's Bench!
- \* Oregon 6th Man drinking cups for the first 500 students.
- \* Fowl Towels to the first 5000 fans.

Get there early or miss out on all the fun!  
Doors open at 6:05p.m. with tip-off set for 7:05.  
Students must have student ticket and current U of O ID card.

# Arizona next hurdle for Oregon

■ **PREVIEW:** Emotion may play a big part in tonight's men's basketball game

By **Andrea DeYoung**  
Assistant Sports Editor

Throughout all the controversy this week surrounding the student seating section, one thing remains clear — No. 13 Arizona is coming to town to play basketball.

The end of the 1997 season is approaching quickly for the Oregon men's basketball team (14-8 overall, 5-8 in the Pacific-10 Conference), and this weekend's games against the Wildcats and Arizona State will most likely determine what happens after March 8. Two wins may give the Ducks an outside chance at the NCAA Tournament. A split may mean an invitation to the NIT. Two losses and Oregon may be playing the rest of this season just for pride.

And the most difficult part of this weekend is tonight. Arizona is on a roll that started as soon as it hit the floor in late November. The Wildcats (16-6, 8-4) have blown through the Pac-10 season, suffering losses only to Southern California and UCLA twice. The good news for the Ducks is that three of Arizona's four losses have come on the road.

Although the Wildcats are currently fourth place in the conference behind the Bruins, the Trojans and the Golden Bears, they are not to be underestimated.

The Ducks are concentrating on their game as much as they are on the Wildcats. After being swept last weekend in the Bay Area, including an embarrassing 83-61 loss to Stanford, Oregon needs a

win to rebuild confidence.

"I think it's a good time for us to play again," head coach Jerry Green said. "We only played one good half out of two games we played in the Bay Area. I almost wish we had played [Monday] rather than Thursday because the last game leaves you with a bitter taste in your mouth, and you want to try to get that out of your system."



And with top-quality players continuing to make their mark for the Wildcats, Oregon needs to work on both the perimeter and inside players to win.

Four of Arizona's starters are averaging double-digits in scoring. Forward Michael Dickerson, tallying 20.3 points per game, scored 20 against the Ducks earlier this season. Freshman phenom Mike Bibby had 19 points in that game, and Bennett Davison, Jason Terry and Miles Simon each scored 11 for the Wildcats.

The Ducks were led by Jamal Lawrence with 18 points and Kenya Wilkins with 17, but Oregon could not overcome 28 turnovers.

And Oregon couldn't overcome Arizona's big men, who combined to score 27 points last time they faced the Ducks. But Kyle Milling said he thinks the guards are the most dangerous part of Arizona's offense.

"A lot of stuff comes from offense rebounds — their guards dishing the ball to them, creating easy baskets for them," Milling said. "But their guards are the ones who lead their team, and they run their offense. We just need to keep the post guys off the boards."

Milling also said watching the tapes of their last contest with Arizona should help in tonight's game.

"I think we learned that if we shoot the ball quick on the offense, we're not going to win," he said. "We watched the film and we know that we have to slow it down, work the ball around and take a good shot."

But as much as the Ducks will have to play a better game, it may be the emotional game that Oregon needs to work on the most.

"We need to start playing with more emotion and intensity," Milling said. "Other teams are coming at us, playing hard and kind of beating us around. But it's time for us to come out and basically beat a team around on the court. Just go after them instead of them coming after us."

Despite the tough losses last weekend and a nationally ranked team coming into town tonight, Green is optimistic.

"This week is going to be a true test of the character of this basketball team," Green said. "We finished strong the last three years, and we weren't always very good. I hope this team can do that, too. We have to come together and play with a lot of heart and determination. If not, then we have got two-and-a-half weeks to play, then we will pack it in."

## Lawrence: Guard looks to 'step up game'

■ **Continued from Page 7**

him in a particular way and are being successful with it," Green said. "And I don't think Jamal has countered it. He hasn't been very effective putting it on the floor and getting by his guy. He has to be able to become a more duel-type player to counter all that pressure."

And that pressure comes not only from the opposing team's defense, but also from Lawrence's own team, including himself. Other than Wilkins and maybe Kyle Milling in the post, Lawrence has become relied upon to carry much of the scoring load. Since he hasn't been shooting well, no one on the team has really stepped up and shouldered the load.

Part of the expectations that Lawrence is burdened with come from his own doing. After all, along with Wilkins, no one Oregon player is as responsible for making so many clutch shots or delivering so many daggers to the hearts of opposing teams this year, than Lawrence.

"I do feel some pressure," Lawrence said. "Whenever I have a bad game or things don't go well, I get down on myself. I need to step up my game; coach Green has been telling me that for a couple of weeks. So I have been trying to find other ways to step up my game, like on defense."

While it is a definite plus for Lawrence to be playing well in other aspects of his game, it is his propensity to take and make the three-point shot that makes him so valuable to the team. His ability to do this is what clears the way for breakdowns in the opposing team's defense, creating open paths to the basket.

"We need Jamal to be shooting well," Wilkins said. "It makes it easier for other players to perform well because the other team has to concentrate on stopping him. It opens it up for guys like me to penetrate."

Part of the responsibility to get Lawrence back on track lies with his teammates and drawing up the appropriate plays, Green said.

"We have got to use more screens and more sets to get him more shots so he won't struggle scoring like the last couple of games," Green said. "We have got to help him."

But like any true team player, Lawrence isn't exactly concerned that his scoring average is going

"I'm the type of player that does whatever it takes to win. I just go with the flow of the game. If they are double teaming me and that allows Kenya to go off, that's fine with me. If the team needs me to step up and score points, I can do that."

— **Jamal Lawrence**  
UO Guard

down — as long as his team is winning, that is.

"I'm the type of player that does whatever it takes to win," he said. "I just go with the flow of the game. If they are double teaming me and that allows Kenya to go off, that's fine with me. If the team needs me to step up and score points, I can do that."

There's no doubt he will be called upon to do some scoring tonight against Arizona. With every game an absolute must-win for the Ducks, every player will need to step it up against the 13th-ranked Wildcats.

And if there ever was a time for Lawrence to have a breakout game, who better to do it against than the Wildcats. In Arizona's trip to McArthur Court last season, Lawrence played the best game of his college career, scoring a career-high 34 points.

The clincher, though, is that it has been six years since Oregon was able to beat the Wildcats, with a string of 12 straight losses. That is something that is not lost on Lawrence, a senior, who will be playing Arizona for the last time tonight.

"That is the one team I have wanted to beat since I have been here," he said. "Everybody on this team feels that way. We've beaten UCLA, we've beaten Stanford, we've beaten everybody else in the Pac-10. Now we want to beat Arizona. When I leave here, I want to be able to say that I was part of the team that finally beat Arizona."

And Lawrence thinks this team is good enough to accomplish this task.

"This can still be a very special team," he said. "Right now my focus is trying to help this team be the best team possible and bring the guys back together so we can make it to the tournament."