



ON THE TUBE
Men's College Basketball
Big East Tournament
ESPN (34), noon

SPORTS

Oregon Daily
Emerald

KENYA

Over the Years

1993-94



The freshman led the Ducks to their first win in 8 years over UCLA to reignite the rivalry.

1994-95



Wilkins led Oregon to its first NCAA appearance in 24 years, averaging 12 points a game.

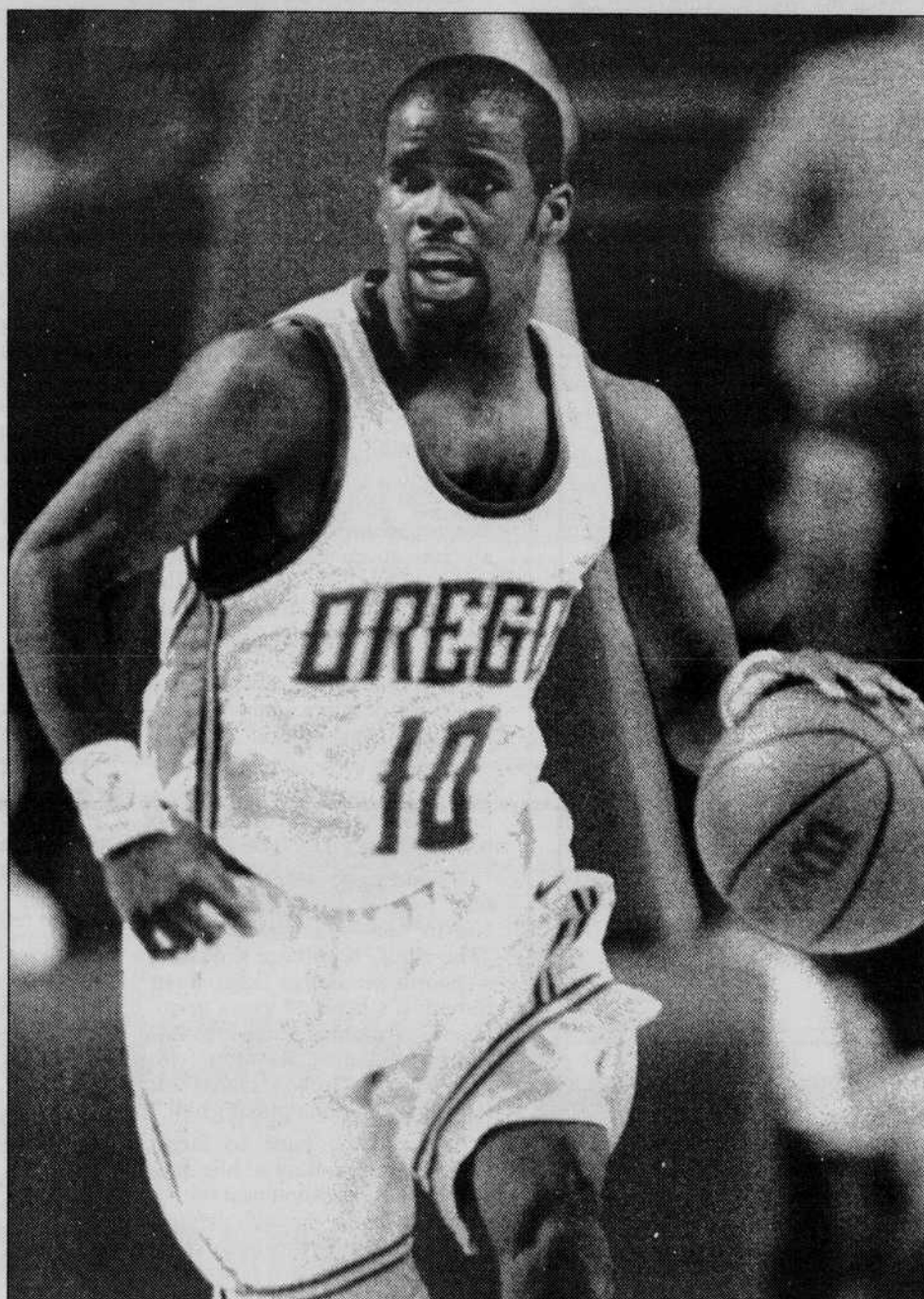
1995-96



Wilkins capped off a 30-point outing by nailing a shot at the buzzer for a 64-62 win over No. 20 Stanford.

1996-97

Wilkins is Oregon's career-leader in steals and assists. He hopes to lead the Ducks to an NIT bid and finish his college career in the postseason.



MARK McTYRE/Emerald

Kenya Wilkins earned the starting point guard position his freshman year and never looked back

By **Andrea DeYoung**
Assistant Sports Editor

The Kenya Wilkins era of Oregon basketball is coming to a close. On Saturday night, the point guard will play in his last regular-season game. Unless the Ducks end up hosting a National Invitation Tournament game, he will be walking off the hardwood floor of McArthur Court in an Oregon uniform for the last time when the final buzzer sounds. But don't get all choked up because

Wilkins won't be.

"I don't think it will hit me until these guys have to practice and I don't have to be there," he said.

Wilkins doesn't even like the idea of celebrating the outgoing class right before such an important game.

"I think of it as a game," he said. "I want to be ready to play the game. I would prefer it if

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"I don't know if I can sum [my feelings] up in one sentence. I can sum up my Oregon experience in one word — grateful. For everything, and that's a whole book."

— **Kenya Wilkins**
UO Point Guard

With only one game remaining in the regular season, Kenya Wilkins is hoping to extend the Ducks' season by getting Oregon to the National Invitation Tournament. A win this Saturday could very well earn the Ducks a berth in the NIT.

Runge's team deserves some voters' respect

Respect. Apparently, the Oregon women's basketball team has not earned much of it with the national media.

The Ducks recorded their 20th win of the season last Saturday, and for a team that was No. 27 in the nation in November, you would think 20 wins would put it somewhere in the top 25.

Wrong.

With a 20-6 overall record, Oregon garnered 16 votes in The Associated Press' top 25 and sits at No. 32 in the nation this week. And according to the USA Today/CNN Coaches poll, the Ducks are the nation's 29th best team.

What exactly do the Ducks have to do to earn a spot in the nation's elite?

How about make three straight trips, and soon to be a fourth, to the NCAA Tournament?

How about lead two-time national champion and current No. 3 Stanford for much of the game on national television — but lose by three points?

How about beat an Arizona team that had won six straight games, including a win at USC, on its own floor?

Or how about demolish a Southern California team that was No. 14 in the power ratings at the time?

Well, Oregon did all of those things and guess what, it is still not one of the nation's top 30 teams, according to the Associated Press.

Yet let's see who is in the top 25.

Stanford remains the Pacific-10 Conference's only representative at the No. 3 spot. The Cardinal is probably worthy of a No. 2 ranking behind 28-0 Connecticut, but ahead of now-No. 2 Old Dominion.

Tennessee is sitting at No. 11 in the AP poll with a 23-10 record. Granted Tennessee is a great team year after year and it does have one of the toughest schedules in the nation, but with 10 losses is it really worthy of a No. 11 ranking?

The same goes for No. 20 Vanderbilt, No. 21 Clemson and No. 25 Duke. All three teams have 10 losses, but strong conferences that keep them in the top 25.

The Southeastern Conference, which Tennessee and Vanderbilt belong to, houses seven of the nation's top 25 teams. And the Atlantic Coast Conference, which Clemson and Duke belong to, has four teams in the top 25.

Those schools are worthy of a top 25 ranking, but if the sportswriters of America are going to vote those teams into the top 25, isn't Oregon deserving of at least a No. 25 ranking?

While the teams in the SEC and ACC belong in the top 25, there is one team

OPINION



Ryan Frank

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on deck IN SPORTS

UO Basketball

General admission tickets for the women's Civil War basketball game are available at the University of Oregon ticket office in the Casanova Center. The game is at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 6, at Oregon State's Gill Coliseum.

College Football

(AP) — Peyton Manning, by far the best professional prospect among college quarterbacks, will announce Wednesday whether he intends to return to Tennessee or enter the NFL draft. If he comes out, Manning is likely to be the first pick in the April 19 draft.

NBA

(AP) — Dennis Rodman, who finished an 11-game suspension less than a month ago, was suspended for the fourth time this season on Tuesday, a one-game ban for "deliberately striking" Milwaukee's Joe Wolf in the groin.

UO Tennis

The Oregon men's tennis team lost 7-0 to Stanford on Tuesday. The Cardinal is ranked first in the nation. The loss moves the Ducks to 3-5 on the season and 0-3 in the Pacific-10 Conference. Oregon plays No. 23 California today.

UO Football

Robin Ross has been named to the post of inside linebackers coach at the University of Oregon according to head coach Mike Bellotti. Ross replaces Bill Tarrow, who is retiring following 20 years as an Oregon assistant coach.