

Lacrosse wins two on the road

■ **CLUB SPORTS:** The Ducks overcome a number of key injuries on the defensive side

By Alex Pond

Freelance Sports Reporter

Despite competing with a squad depleted by various injuries, the Oregon Club lacrosse team improved to 3-4 on the season with a pair of road victories over the University of Puget Sound and Pacific Lutheran University last weekend.

Because of a rash of injuries on the defensive side, the Duck offense needed to deliver big time for Oregon to be successful.

It did so in both contests.

The Ducks started the trip off with a 9-6 victory over Puget Sound. The teams traded goals early on, then the Ducks got the output they needed from the offense with four straight goals

CLUB SPORTS

late in the game to pull away. Jeff Erickson led the way for the Ducks with three goals, and the hat trick seemed to set a trend for the next game with PLU.

In that one, five different Ducks had at least a hat trick as Oregon breezed to a 19-11 victory.

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Believe it or not, the Ducks led just 6-4 at halftime before a second-half explosion that saw them score 13 goals and eight in a row during one stretch.

Erickson and Ben Myler each led the way with four goals, while Jerry Baglien, Schuyler Harrison and Colin Baugh each chipped in three goals.

"Our offense really stepped up and took charge when it came down to it," student coordinator Matthew O'Brien said of both games. "They are two of the weaker teams in the league, but we were missing some key defensive players."

Wilkins: Future may include another year at UO

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we didn't have any Senior Night or had it on a different day. Even though I think it's nice that they show some appreciation for us, I wish they would do it on a day we didn't play."

But that won't stop Wilkins from playing. In fact, nothing has stopped him from even starting a game since he was a freshman.

"When I got on the 'Green Team,' I think it was against Germany, and [head coach Jerry Green] put the names [of the starters] on the board and coach said I was starting. I said 'Alright, I'm going to keep this position all year.'"

One-hundred and ten games later, Wilkins will be in the starting lineup again on Saturday.

But Wilkins has done more than just start the games, he has dominated many of them. He scored 30 points twice, once against Nebraska in 1995 and once against Stanford in 1996. He dished out 12 assists against Southern California in 1996 and captured a school record with nine steals at Boise State earlier this season.

That isn't the only time you will find Wilkins' name in the Oregon record book. He set the all-time steals mark last season and now has 207. He became the all-time assists leader earlier this season and continues to add onto his total of 607. Wilkins is also third in free throws, fourth in career three-pointers made and seventh in all-time points.

Although Wilkins looks like he will be in the record books for a long time, he wants his name to be more than just ink on a page.

"I want to be remembered the way people remember Ronnie Lee in the 70s," Wilkins said. "The whole Kamikaze Kid thing — people remember them. Even though it's been 20 years or so, people remember Ronnie Lee. I want my name to be around here and around Oregon basketball long after I'm done playing ball."

It would be hard to forget Wilkins and visions of him taking the ball coast-to-coast with a stunning lay-in through defenders. Or dribbling through a double-team for the open shot. Or hitting clutch free throws when the game is on the line.

But outside of the Pacific-10 Conference, Wilkins is not known as much as other point guards. But he knows that the Ducks cannot be ignored much longer.

"I just accept it as being that way and so I don't worry about it," he said. "But there's going to be a time when you can't overlook it. You have to compare players, so it's not always going to be like that."

And Wilkins has been compared to some other great guards in the conference. It is these match-ups that he enjoys the most.

"I like playing the top point guards — Jason Kidd, Damon Stoudamire, Tyus Edney, Brevin Knight, Dominick Young, whoever else I played up there at the top," he said.

And has he proven himself against these players?

"Yeah, I'm sure I have. I've had at least a couple of good games against each of them," Wilkins said.

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[The Oregon basketball program] has given me opportunities — a lot of opportunities. A lot of respect. It's helped me grow up and grow as a person. It's given me a lot.

— **Kenya Wilkins**
UO Point Guard

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The Los Angeles native has also enjoyed playing against UCLA. He cites the contests against the Bruins as his favorites.

"I like playing UCLA because they bring so much hype and we usually beat them here," Wilkins said.

But it was against the Bruins this season that Wilkins said his view of the University and Eugene changed.

"The UCLA incident affected me. It kind of woke me up. The ignorant people out there who made those comments I guess accepted me as not really being what they were calling some of the UCLA players," he said.

"It disturbed me a lot. I think I was sort of in a dreamland because I wasn't thinking about how it really is because you get caught up in tokenism."

Although the incident tainted Wilkins' view of Oregon, nothing will change the way he feels about the basketball team.

"It has given me opportunities — a lot of opportunities. A lot of respect," he said. "It's helped me grow up and grow as a person. It's given me a lot. I could sit here and name so many ways it has helped me."

Wilkins said one of these ways is getting an education — something he made a priority before he even came to Oregon.

"My goal was to get here and do the things I needed to do to stay in school and graduate. Basketball was going to be second."

But along with the starting job his freshman year, Wilkins got a lot of added pressure. This caused him to fight to keep his education even with basketball.

"It's been real hard," he said. "The way it's designed and the whole system are real hard. You can't keep education above basketball. You try to keep them even. But because everything is arranged so that you have time to do basketball, it comes first. What I did was try not to sell all my books back. I get the grades now, but I have to go back and get the education later."

Education may begin again soon after graduation for Wilkins. Although he said he is getting some "looks" right now for a possible basketball career after college, he wants to return to Oregon for a fifth year to take some extra courses to learn important skills like computing. He hopes eventually to get a job in sales.

And looking back at his time as a member of the Oregon basketball team, Wilkins said there is only one word to describe his feelings.

"I can sum up my Oregon experience in one word — grateful. For everything, and that's a whole book," he said.

Congratulations to the 1996 Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils!

The Women and Men of the Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils were recognized in the following areas by the Mid-American Greek Council Association at their annual conference last week in Chicago:

**Academic Achievement Programming
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