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## Duck: Santa Clara coach impressed with Carson

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"To me, this is a huge step," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "Will he go out and do this again in the very next game? I don't know yet. But it is a positive step in the right direction, where we challenged him before the game and he responded to it."

Carson has never really had a chance to establish his game since coming to Eugene three years ago. He averaged just three minutes as a freshman and didn't play after Feb. 16 due to a stress fracture in his right foot, an injury that he never fully recovered from psychologically if not physically.

"Coming back from injuries I expected to do a lot," Carson said. "When I didn't, I questioned my capabilities, and that's a hard thing to bounce back from. But Coach Kent's been believing in me this whole time."

"You handle different players differently," Kent said, "and Mike's a guy that just needs confidence, because he has some pretty good tools to work with. There's some areas of his game that still need to come and he came in those areas tonight, catching the ball, finishing plays when people are banging him. He played with a lot of heart and a lot of confidence."

Santa Clara head coach Dick Davey was one who didn't expect

Carson to carry such a load after the Broncos' perimeter defense shut down Oregon's outside shooters.

"[Broncos' center] Alex Lopez has played [Kansas' Raef] LaFrentz and [Pacific's Michael] Olowokandi in his first two

games," Davey said, referring to the Jayhawks' preseason All-American and the Tigers' 7-foot-1 center from London, "and we didn't expect the post today to be



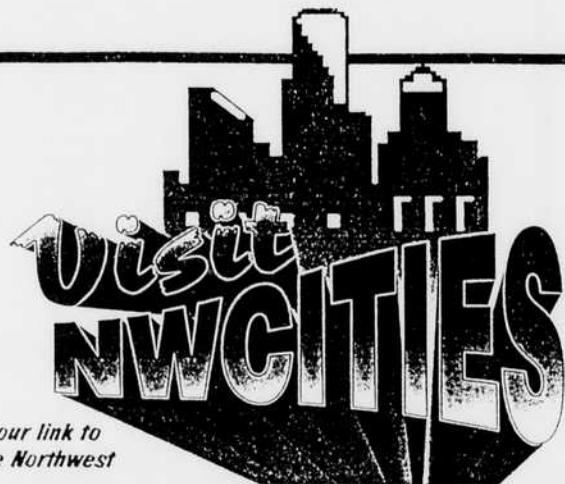
CARSON

quite that level, but Carson played real well in there."

Armed with what Carson says is the most confidence he's had since coming to Oregon as a heralded prospect in 1994, the Ducks appear to have an inside presence to finally match their guard play.

With the physical tools to help replace graduated seniors Kyle Milling and Rob Ramaker from last season's NIT participant, can Carson maintain the confidence necessary to utilize those tools for the rest of the season?

"I hope so," he said. "I hope so."



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**WORLD AIDS DAY**  
**December 1 - 5**

**Monday**

12-1pm Ceremony at the UO Museum of Art

Hear the gospel choir, Bobby Lee & other speakers.

7pm MCC UO Student speaks about his experience

**Tuesday**

7pm MCC HIV Alliance work shop on how to get involved

**Thursday**

7:30pm MCC in EMU Jefferey, a film about love in a time of AIDS

**Friday**

9 - midnight Fir Room DANCE! Come Celebrate!

**One dollar or One hour**

Contribute \$1 or 1 hour of your time to HIV Alliance.

Look for containers and sign-up sheets at events.

Sponsored by Health Education, LGBTQA, UO Art Museum, MCC