



NBA
Miami at Chicago,
TNT (27), 5 p.m.

One-year Wonder

Erwan Kergroach is making the most of what could be a one-year UO career

By Tim Pyle

Freelance Sports Reporter

In less than two full terms of school in the United States, Erwan Kergroach of the Oregon men's tennis team has compiled a 16-5 record, solidified the Ducks' No. 1 singles position and, most impressively, become the first Oregon player to be ranked nationally.

Kergroach ranks No. 92 in the most recent Rolex Collegiate Tennis Rankings, the first time in the program's 64 years that a Duck has earned that recognition.

"I had two goals when I decided to come here. First was to play tennis in college, and my second goal was to learn English."

Erwan Kergroach
UO tennis

"When you've got a No. 1 guy who can win against any school, which he really is capable of doing," head coach Chris Russell says, "it's outstanding for the program. It's great for the other guys on the team to see how successful he can be, and what he can do."

Despite all of those accolades and achievements, Kergroach, a native of Paris, France, is fighting a losing battle against perhaps the most common ill for foreign players — homesickness. In fact, he misses his parents, girlfriend and country so

much that he expects to forgo his final season of eligibility next year and return home at the end of this school year.

"I had never been to the United States before," Kergroach says. "It's the first time. I think it is okay, but I'm going to last just one year."

Kergroach attended the University of Paris for two years while playing for a local club team before deciding to test his game in the United States. He says it was a contact in New York who helps many European tennis players find American colleges that got him in touch with Russell.

"I had two goals when I decided to come here," Kergroach says. "First was to play tennis in college, and my second goal was to learn English."

Both his goals have already been reached, al-

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Kergroach is the first Oregon men's tennis player to be nationally ranked in the program's 64 years.

NICK MEDLEY/Emerald

Tournament picks: Third time's a charm

There are few weeks that bring chills to the spines of college students as much as this one.

It's time to start cramming information you wish you'd begun studying weeks ago.

It's time to learn all those places and people that are so unfamiliar.

That's right, it's NCAA Tournament time.

It's time to learn just which states Murray State and Nicholls State are in.

(Hint: Kentucky and Louisiana.)

It's time to learn the leading scorer off the bench for Valparaiso, Radford and Farleigh

Dickinson.

(Hint: Ask someone else.)

And for those professors out there applauding the voracity of the note-takers sitting in the back of classes during Dead Week, it's time to get a clue.

Those aren't assignments being scribbled out; those are brackets being filled in.

Not that I'm not guilty. I didn't pick up much on William Dean Howells in my 9 a.m. literature class on Monday. I was more concerned with how the William (Billy) Tubbs-led Horned Frogs of Texas Christ-

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BASKETBALL



Men's
NCAA
Notes

by Rob Moseley

Huskies don't belong in NCAAs

Forget that old adage about what a team does at the end of a season being more important than what it does at the beginning of the season.

That went out the door when the Washington women's basketball team was selected to participate in the NCAA Tournament despite going 9-9 during the Pacific-10 Conference season and finishing in fifth place in the conference.

The Huskies got in primarily on the basis that they had a stellar nonconference record, a perfect 9-0 to be exact.

Nonconference wins over some top teams is what pushed them over the top, said Jean Lenti Ponsetto, chairwoman of

the NCAA women's basketball selection committee.

True, the Huskies did have nice wins over teams such as No. 23 Iowa (17-10), No. 18 Vanderbilt (20-8) and No. 10 North Carolina State (21-6), all teams which are No. 6 seeds or higher in the tournament.

That's all fine and dandy, but those wins all came in November or December. What have they done for me lately?

The Huskies haven't done much of anything.

Yes, the Pac-10 is a tough conference, but it's not like all their losses were to teams above them in the standings.

First of all, there was their

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BASKETBALL



Women's
Pac-10
Notes

by Alex Pond