

BEST BETS

Major League Baseball
Boston at Seattle
7 p.m., FoxSports (23)

SPORTS

Oregon Daily
Emerald

OFFSEASON REPORT



NICK MEDLEY/Emerald

Terik Brown and his teammates will look to five new team members and a familiar assistant coach in the coming season.

Kent seeks to avoid sophomore slump

Seniors Terik Brown and Mike Carson join a young but heralded group of recruits to lead the 1998-99 Oregon men

By Mirjam Swanson
Freelance Reporter

In his first year at the helm of the Oregon men's basketball program, Ernie Kent guided his team to a 13-14 record, good for a fifth-place tie in the Pacific-10 Conference, and barely out of contention for a National Invitation Tournament bid.

While Kent's focus on hard work and positive attitude will continue to be a part of his coaching repertoire in the upcoming season, much about the team will be changed. Kent has put together a team with more depth and athletic ability than last season's with the hope that Oregon will be able to match up with some of the Pac-10's nationally dominant opponents.

Those ideals are evident in Oregon's returning players.

"We have some great players coming

in and some great players coming back," senior center Mike Carson said. "I think the chances are great. We'll have a bigger bench, more guys will put in so Coach [Kent] has a lot more options of what he wants to do. It's going to be a good year."

Two top prep prospects and three junior college players are new to the team, as is assistant coach Don Newman, who joins Oregon's staff after having completed a year as interim head coach at Arizona State.

High school All-American Frederick Jones is one of three guards that Kent brought in. Jones, 6-foot-3, is one of the top prospects on the West Coast. A graduate of Gresham High School, Jones averaged nearly 30 points a game during his senior season and gained national attention earlier this summer when Mike DeCourcy of the Sporting News wrote that he was "about the most electrifying wing player

that will be coming into college basketball this year."

Kent has also acquired the services of Alex Scales, a 6-foot-4 guard from San Jacinto Junior College in Texas, where he was a JC all-star for scoring more than 10 points and grabbing 5.3 rebounds a game. Darius Wright, a 6-foot guard from West Valley Junior College in California, is the Ducks' third addition to the perimeter. Wright scored 17 points a game to go with his 9.8 assists at West Valley.

"Freddie Jones is supposed to be a really good offensive player," Oregon senior guard Terik Brown said, "and Alex Scales is supposed to be really good too."

The three incoming guards will join the 6-foot-1 Brown, who was Oregon's leading scorer last season with 12.8 points a game, and juniors Mike McShane, 6-foot-4, and Yasir Rosemond, 6-foot-1, at the perimeter positions. McShane and Rosemond split time at point

Turn to MEN, Page 8



Ex-Arizona State star arrested during NFL camp

Fomer Sun Devil Keith Poole was arrested by La Crosse police on Monday and charged with a golf club attack on a local man

The Associated Press

LA CROSSE, Wis. — New Orleans Saints wide receiver Keith Poole was free on bond Monday, charged with attacking a La Crosse man with a golf club.

Poole, 24, a 1997 fourth-round draft choice from Arizona State, was released on a \$150 cash bond and ordered to appear in La Crosse County Circuit Court on Aug. 13.

"There was an altercation I was involved with," Poole said after practice Monday. "I don't want to say anymore about it now."

After a night off, Poole and teammate Jake Delhomme, a second-year quarterback,

accepted a ride back to their dormitory from three La Crosse residents about 2:30 a.m. Sunday, according to a police report.

Before they reached the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, where the Saints are staying for training camp, the two players began yelling obscenities at the driver, who stopped and told them to get out of the car, the report said.

One of the passengers, Timothy Whitewater, 26, of La Crosse, told police that he and Poole then got into an argument outside the car. Poole grabbed a golf club from a bag in the back of the car and struck Whitewater on the left hip several times, causing a two-inch-long gash, Whitewater said.

When police arrived, Poole ran between several houses toward the campus and was stopped by an officer about two blocks

away.

Delhomme, who was not charged in the incident, refused comment Monday night.

"We're aware of the incident," Saints general manager Bill Kuharich said. "He has retained legal counsel. We're going to let things take their course."

Poole said he had retained a La Crosse attorney, but refused to identify him.

La Crosse County Deputy District Attorney Loralee Clark said she is waiting to receive all the police reports before deciding what charges to file.

Both Poole and Delhomme practiced Monday.

Poole played in three games late last season, but in the season finale at Kansas City he caught two touchdown passes, a 32-yarder and a 14-yarder.

Emeralds end five-game losing streak

An early offensive explosion helped Eugene to an 8-1 win at Portland's Civic Stadium

By Scott Pesznecker
Freelance Reporter

PORLAND — In the second consecutive game in Portland against the Rockies, the Eugene Emeralds knew that the cards were stacked against them.

For the season, the Emeralds (18-29) were 2-8 against the Rockies (22-25) and 0-4 in Portland. And to make matters worse, the Emeralds had just been beat by the Rockies 12-5 the night before in a game that was riddled with problems on the field.

But none of that mattered on Monday night. In front of a Rockpile crowd of 3,577, Eugene broke the game open at the top of the second and stunned Portland with an 8-1 victory.

"It was our game," said Eugene catcher Asdrubal Oropeza. "It was our day, and we came out and played the game and that's it. Things just happened to go better tonight."

Before Monday night, Eugene had lost five in a row. According to left fielder Gregg Strickland, most of those games were close until the seventh or eighth inning.

"We needed to get a win, some way and some how," said Strickland. "We'd been struggling for the last five games and we needed a lift. We needed to get a win here today and we got it. It's monkeys off our back."

Oropeza, who only had six previous at-bats on the season, had a base hit in the second inning that brought Junior Brignac over the plate for Eugene's first run of the night. Oropeza then advanced to second on a wild pitch, and Gregg Maluchnik was walked to first.

"I just wanted to relax," Oropeza said as he recalled his seventh-overall trip to the plate. "When I hit the ball, we had no outs, so I just hit the ball to second base and that was it."

With runners on first and second, the stage was set for the next three batters. Tye Hanseen had a base hit that brought in Oropeza for a run. Greg Strickland hit a right-field double that brought in Maluchnik and Hanseen, and before the end of the inning Strickland scored off a double by Castro, giving the Emeralds an

Turn to EMS, Page 8

Inside Today's Sports
Page 6

Oregon junior Michael Fletcher, who is expected to start at strong safety for the Duck football team this fall, has spent the last six weeks in a sports-writing class taught by KVAL's Walt Fox through the UO journalism school. Through his experiences in the class and serving as an intern at KMTR, Fletcher has gained an interesting perspective on sports journalism. In a reporter's notebook in today's Emerald, Fletcher gives insight into his experiences on both sides of the media spotlight.



FLETCHER