

Navarro

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way I am. I believe that talk is cheap, so I just try to do my best. If guys look at me doing my best then they're going to try to do the same. I try to lead by example."

The correlation between the rise of Oregon tennis and Navarro's participation in the program is evident to those involved.

"We do think of him [as a leader] because he is our captain," Carter says. "He's a very cool guy, and a hard worker."

Navarro, who has a career singles record of 27-61, thrives on working hard. In the past three years, Russell can't remember him missing a practice, and he consistently requests additional workouts beyond the 20-plus hours a week that he and his teammates usually spend on the court.

"I just like to concentrate on what I'm doing at the moment," Navarro says. "If I'm on the court, I'm concentrating on playing tennis and doing what the coaches ask me. If I'm studying I really concentrate on that. You always have to focus."

"With a lot of captains, you hope that they can carry the torch but also light the flame, and he's done that."

Chris Russel
Men's tennis coach

Navarro's focus extends well beyond athletics. This spring he'll graduate with a double major in business and economics, and he's one class away from completing the International Business Communications Program, which has given him the opportunity to interact with people from all over the world. He's been a constant fixture on the student athletes honor roll, currently holding a cumulative 3.38 GPA, which he hopes will be high enough to get him into a good graduate school.

"He's really an outstanding student, very motivated and tremendously academically successful,"

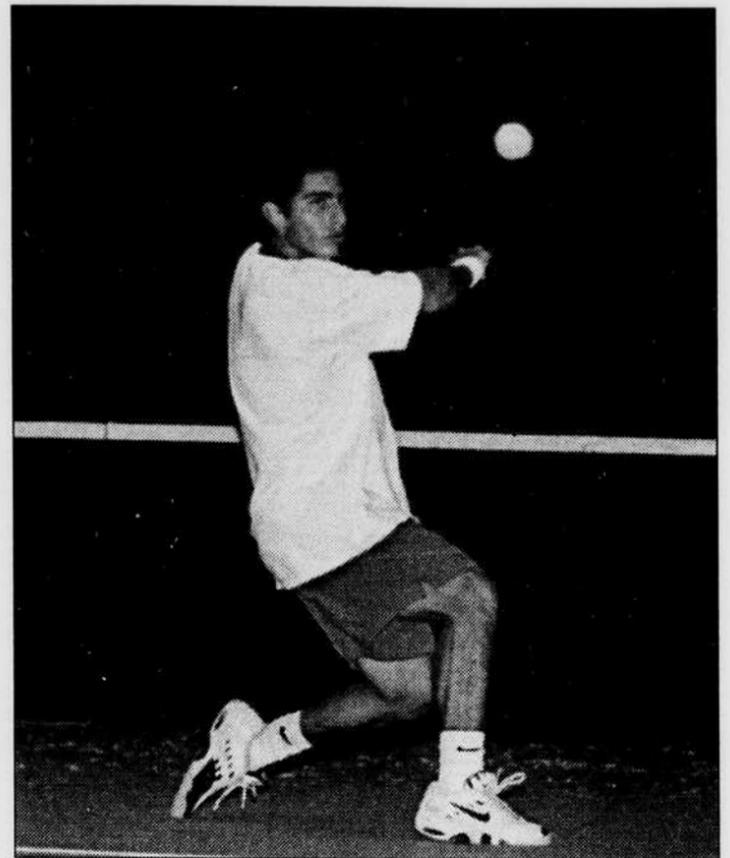
says Jeanne Wagenknecht, a professor who taught one of Navarro's business classes. "It's always nice to find out that a student is gifted in lots of different ways."

One of Navarro's gifts is his presence, which is as apparent in class as it is on the court. In a course of more than 100 students, his former professor says Navarro stood out.

"I teach really large classes, but there's always about a dozen students that you can clearly see are getting the material," Wagenknecht says. "They're connecting with what's going on."

Because Russell so appreciates his captain, he realizes how much he'll miss him when he graduates and begins his pursuit of a masters degree in either economics or business.

"His presence will stay with us for a long time," Russell says. "With a lot of captains, you hope that they can carry the torch but also light the flame, and he's done that. He's the kind of guy who, if you had kids, you'd want them to grow up like him."



Navarro competed in the Davis Cup for his native Boliva in 1995.

Nick Medley/Emerald

Pesznecker

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a great understatement.

There was no way to know that Steve Fein, an all-American transfer from Wisconsin, would follow Wisconsin head coach Martin Smith to Oregon. In both of his appearances, he has been Oregon's second runner.

Combine Fein with all-American Matthew Davis and you have two runners who are guaranteed to finish near the top.

Yes, this Oregon team has a ton of poten-

tial. As the season has progressed, they have only gotten better. The NCAA Championships, held in Lawrence, Kan., will be the perfect indication of just how good they are.

First, they must compete at the West Regional Competition in on Saturday in Fresno, Calif. There are many sports, basketball comes to my mind first, in which a team can play poorly, but win on the shoulders of one teammate who plays well.

That is not the case for cross country. It is

possible for a runner to finish a meet in first place while his team finishes near the bottom.

If the Ducks are to place well, each of the seven runners must run well. But they have done this in the past and with all the preparing they have been doing in the past couple of weeks, there is no reason why they should not do it again.

Now all they need is a little bit of luck.

Scott Pesznecker is a sports reporter for the Emerald.

Basketball

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guard," Kent said. "So they're all going to bring something to the table and they're all going to compliment each other very well."

One Duck who won't be appearing against the Blues, or any other opponent until December, is forward Flo Hartenstein. The sophomore from Thurston was suspended by Kent for sub-par academic performance.

Kent said the 7-foot-2 Christoffersen would help fill the void left by Hartenstein's absence.

"Christoffersen has really come a long way since the first day he set foot on campus," Kent said. "He's come just huge, huge steps forward in terms of his development, and that's been nice to see because he's somebody that we'll certainly put into the rotation now, particularly with Flo being out for the first five ball games."

Christoffersen joins Jones as the two freshman in a recruiting class that was recently ranked one of the top 15 in the country by The Hoopscoop, a national recruiting service. Jones, a two-time state player of

the year at Gresham's Barlow High School, averaged 29.9 points, 8.1 rebounds and four assists per game as a senior.

"There is a lot of hype, and what I'm going to do is not put any additional pressure on him, because he is a great player, and he's going to be a very, very good player at this level," Kent said. "But he has to go through an adjustment just like everybody else does when you come from high school to this level."

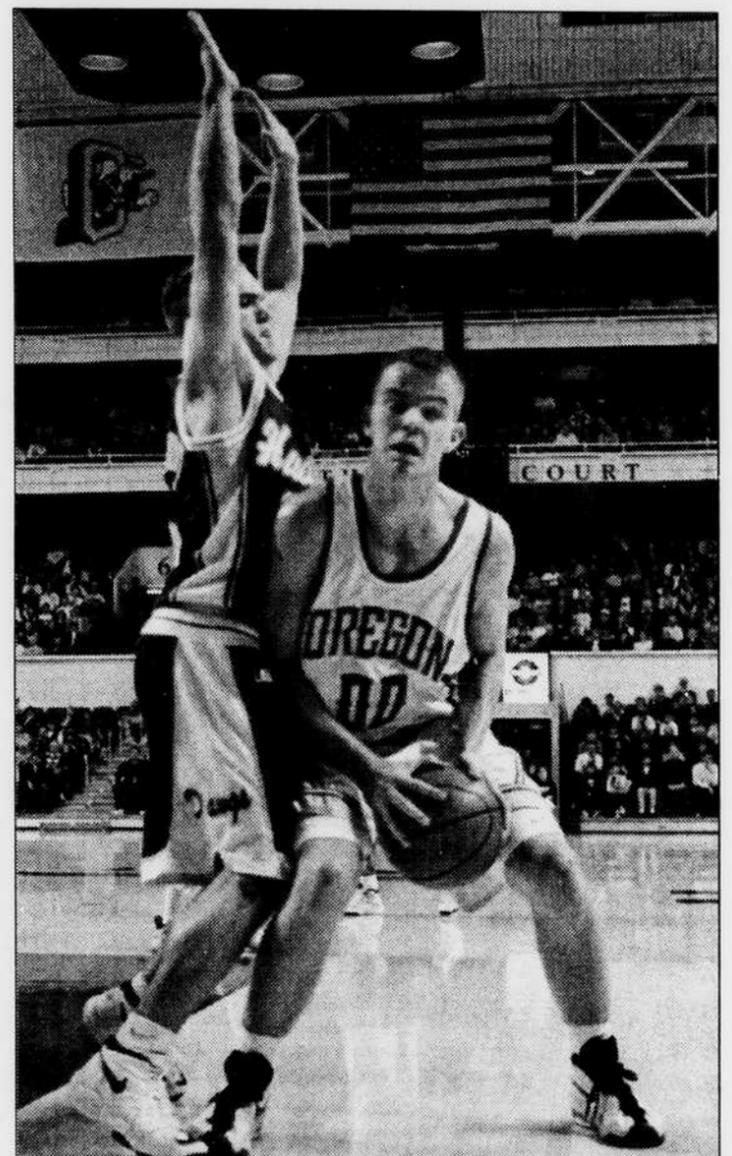
Also coming off the bench will be forward Donte Quinine, one of the Ducks' top defenders, who traveled to Africa in July to play with Athletes in Action.

Oregon began its schedule in similar fashion last season by beating Australia's Outback All-Stars 85-76 in a game that featured 48 fouls.

"It'll probably be a physical game because they will be a team that, on this road trip alone, has probably gotten seven or eight games beneath their belt before they play us," Kent said.

The Blues began their tour of the country with a 125-68 loss to Gonzaga on Nov. 2. Frankston has subsequently lost to Idaho, Montana State and Idaho State, with its one win coming against Montana Tech.

The Ducks' second exhibition, against Global Sports, was moved from Sunday afternoon to Monday at 7:05 p.m. to accommodate the football team's banquet. Oregon's Pac-10 schedule begins Jan. 2 at California, with the conference home opener against Southern California on Jan. 7.



Forward A.D. Smith tries to put the ball up to the hoop against Washington on Jan. 15.

Nick Medley/Emerald

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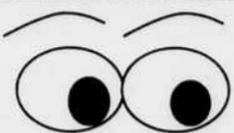
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