

## SPORTS

THURSDAY  
November 12, 1998

## Best Bet

College football  
Georgia Tech at Clemson  
4:30 p.m., ESPN*"If guys look at me doing my best then they're going to try to do the same."*Carlos Navarro  
Men's tennis team captain

## Navarro leads, inspires tennis team

*The senior has helped make the Ducks one of the top 100 teams in the nation*By Mirjam Swanson  
for the Emerald

When opposing coaches watch their players compete against Carlos Navarro, many of them have the same reaction after the match.

They stop him. They shake his hand. And they talk to him.

"He's a very refreshing person," Oregon head tennis coach Chris Russell says. "You sense immediately how genuine he

is. Not only his teammates and his own coaches, but opposing coaches have always respected him due to how fairly he plays."



Navarro, a senior from Bolivia, has played in the second or third spots in Oregon's line-up for the majority of his collegiate career. But it's impossible to accurately rate him in those terms because he's brought so many other important, intangible qualities to the team as the Duck's second-year captain.

"Carlos has been the soul of our team and the evolution of this program since we've been here," says Russell, who arrived at Oregon three years ago, the same time as Navarro. "He may not be the guy who always won the MVP award, but he's definitely the guy who had the strongest impact on the other guys on the team, on a day-in and day-out basis."

Navarro, a member of Bolivia's Davis Cup team for the past four years, first came to Oregon as a 17-year-old Bolivian national champion. Since his arrival to Eugene, the Ducks have taken huge steps toward success.

Before his freshman season in 1995, Oregon was nowhere close to being one of the top 100-ranked teams in the nation. After that first year, the Ducks were among the top 150, and before the end of his sophomore season, they had cracked the top 100. Last season the Ducks ended the year ranked 61st and they reached the



Nick Medley/Emerald

Senior Carlos Navarro compiled a 9-19 record as Oregon's No. 3 singles player last season.

regionals of the NCAA tournament for the first time in Oregon history.

This season could be the best yet, because Oregon returns several improved players, including junior Guillermo Carter, who will probably occupy Oregon's No. 1 position. The Ducks have also strengthened their roster with the addition of two promising freshman from Europe, in Bertrand Devillers and Thomas Schneider.

Still, Russell contends that it will be Navarro who continues to propel Oregon to greater heights.

"Carlos is the guy who is going to raise the level of those around him," Russell says.

Navarro enjoys having played such an integral role in the team's development.

"I like to be a leader," Navarro says. "I enjoy being captain. I guess that's just the

Turn to NAVARRO, Page 12

Cross country  
aiming for a  
national title

Back in high school, I was a sports writer, too.

It was very frustrating because none of my school's teams ever won. Just once, I would have liked to write about a team that went all the way.

Now, I may have my chance.

The Oregon men's cross country team has had a phenomenal season, and it seems as if winning the national title would be the only fitting ending to such a great team.

What has made this team's season so great?

According to head coach Bill Dellinger, 90 percent of a team's success in cross country is a result of preparation. And make no mistake, this team goes to great lengths to prepare itself.

During the season, many of the first-stringers run approximately 10 miles each day. The team works out together in a variety of workouts, including timed runs on Hayward Field and hill practice at the Laurelwood golf course.

The Ducks know that preparation is not limited to physical work. Each year before the start of the season, Dellinger takes his team up to O'Dell Lake for a weekend of hard, arduous labor. While the trip has obvious physical benefits, the real point of O'Dell Lake is to bring the team together.

After all of the training and bonding the Ducks have gone through, it is no wonder that they were able to come within two points of beating No. 1 Stanford — now No. 2 after narrowly avoiding defeat — at the Pacific-10 Conference Championships at Alton Baker Park two weeks ago.

But don't forget about the other 10 percent, that one other factor that Dellinger says determines a team's success — luck.

Dellinger said luck was important because it could help out in a close race. For example, if the other team's runner was in the lead but then fell and broke his ankle, then the Ducks would finish better.

However, to limit the fortune of the Ducks to an instance such as that would be

## Opinion

Scott  
Pesznecker

Turn to PEZNECKER, Page 12

## Exhibition will display men's talent

*Oregon matches up against the Australian team the Frankston Blues tonight at Mac Court*By Rob Moseley  
Oregon Daily Emerald

They've been playing in earnest for three weeks, shooting over their teammates, posting up on their roommates and out-rebounding their compatriots.

Now it's time to get it on for real.

The Oregon men's basketball team plays the first of its two scheduled exhibition games tonight at McArthur Court at 7:05 p.m. The Ducks will take on the Frankston Blues, an Australian touring club that may not meet the standards of Pacific-10 Conference opponents but will be a welcome sight for Oregon.

"We're so used to beating each oth-

er up in practice," senior guard Terik Brown said. "It's going to be good for us to beat up on someone else."

Brown is one of two members, along with center Mike Carson, of Oregon's senior class and was the Ducks' leading scorer last season with 12.8 points per game.

Joining the two seniors in the Ducks' projected starting lineup for tonight's game are junior forwards A.D. Smith and Alex Scales and junior point guard Darius Wright.

Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said Tuesday that the lineup may change before tonight's tipoff.

"I really don't have a clear set of starters," said Kent, who led the Ducks to a 13-14 record last season, his first in Eugene. "I'm more or less

going to put some guys together, put them on the floor and see how they play and look in different lineups and maybe come back with a different starting lineup after that for Cop-pin State."

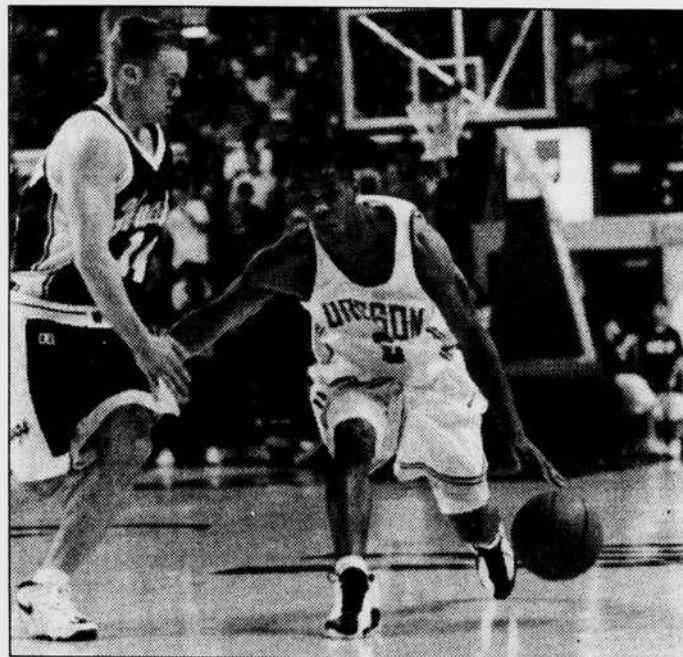
The Ducks' regular season schedule begins Sunday at McArthur Court at 3:05 p.m. against the Eagles.

Wright and Scales are two of Oregon's six new faces, along with fellow transfers Skouson Harker and David Jackson and freshmen Frederick Jones and Chris Christoffersen.

Wright will compete for minutes at point guard with returnees Mike McShane and Yasir Rosemond, who may also play shooting guard, Kent said.

"Mike and Yasir have been in our program for a year and understand the system better, and Darius is such a poised and polished true point

Turn to BASKETBALL, Page 12



Nick Medley/Emerald

Guard Yasir Rosemond charges past a Husky defender in Oregon's 81-71 loss to Washington last season.