

Nick Medley/Emerald
Starting point guard Mike McShane gets the Oregon offense moving with a bounce pass against Coppin State.

Basketball

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who shot just 35 percent, including 29.6 percent from three-point range.

Despite those numbers, and the fact that Oregon out-rebounded the Eagles 38-28, forced 10 turnovers and blocked seven shots, Kent said defense is the Duck's biggest weakness after one game.

"Our defense needs to pick up," Kent said. "With that athleticism, we should be a much better defensive team in shutting people down, and we have not done a very good job in two games [including an exhibition win over an Australian club team] of shutting down the drive."

The key to doing that is the play of Oregon's big men, who also need to assert themselves offensively, according to Smith.

"We need to get more scoring on the inside," said Smith, who also provided nine rebounds against Coppin State. "I suspect we'll be able to do that when we get Flo [Hartenstein] back, and Skouson [Harker]'s coming around."

Hartenstein, a 6-foot-9 sophomore from Germany who averaged four points and four rebounds per game last season, will miss four more games this season because of academic suspension.

Harker, a 6-8 junior transfer from Alberta, Canada, provided some much-needed aggression in the post against Coppin State. Though he was scoreless, Harker pulled down seven rebounds against the Eagles.

Also back at center is 7-foot senior Mike Carson, who redshirted last season after sustaining ankle

and knee injuries. Chris Christofersen, a native of Denmark, gives Oregon two 7-footers for the first time in recent memory.

On the wing, Scales and Jones are joined by Donte Quinine, Yasir Rosemond and Terik Brown, who led the Ducks with 12.8 points per game last season.

At the point are Mike McShane and transfer Darius Wright, who Kent called one of the smartest players in the program's history.

Brown and Carson are the program's sole seniors, giving Kent two scholarships opening up next season, one of which was filled on Tuesday.

Kent announced the signing of Anthony Norwood, an honorable mention high school All-American and junior college transfer from Southwestern Louisiana.

Pyle

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back to dodge an opponent near the Eagle three-point line and calmly banked in his first regular-season field goal and lay up. Scales resembled another smooth No. 33 — NBA all-star Scottie Pippen.

In the second half, Scales got the Pit rocking with another highlight-reel play. Guard Yasir Rosemond dribbled down the left side of the lane on an Oregon fast break and lobbed a pass in the basket's general vicinity. The ball looked like it would drop unattended into an Eagle's hands, but suddenly Scales rose above everybody, clenched the ball with two hands and authorita-

tively slammed home the Ducks' 52nd and 53rd points.

No Oregon player in recent memory has possessed the combination of skill and athletic ability to make such plays.

Nobody except Jones, that is.

Although he played just 11 minutes against Coppin State, Jones scored seven points on 3-of-4 shooting and put exclamation points on the victory with a two-handed slam to end the game. In the exhibition game, Jones, the two-time Oregon state player of the year at Gresham's Barlow High School, showcased his talents on a baseline drive. As he approached the basket and the Australian defense, Jones performed

an improvisational 180-degree spin and dropped a finger roll through the net.

Duck fans will see many more breath-taking plays like these in the games to come, but they will never grow accustomed to them. As past seasons have shown, players like Jones and Scales are treats, not typical offerings.

If Kent can continue to attract players like these to his program, Oregon followers may eventually honor him with the ultimate stamp — commemorative.

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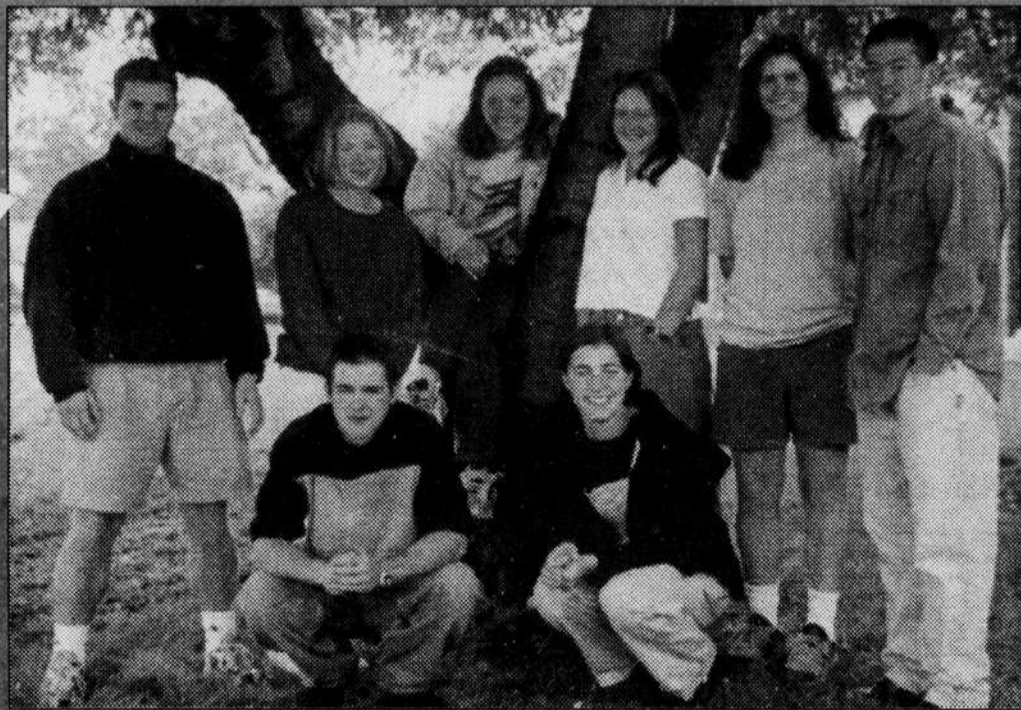
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