

Basketball

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way with 24 points and paces the team in scoring at 13.8 points per game. Freshman guard Michael Vranes tallied 20 points against the Wildcats and averages 11 points per game.

Sophomore wings Todd Christensen and Nathan Cooper scored 12 and 10 points, respectively, against Arizona. Cooper averages 11.5 points per game, and Christensen is fourth on the team in scoring at 9.8 points per game. Center Bret Jepsen, who is the Cougars' tallest player at 6-foot-11, leads the team in rebounding with 7 per game and also chips in six points per contest.

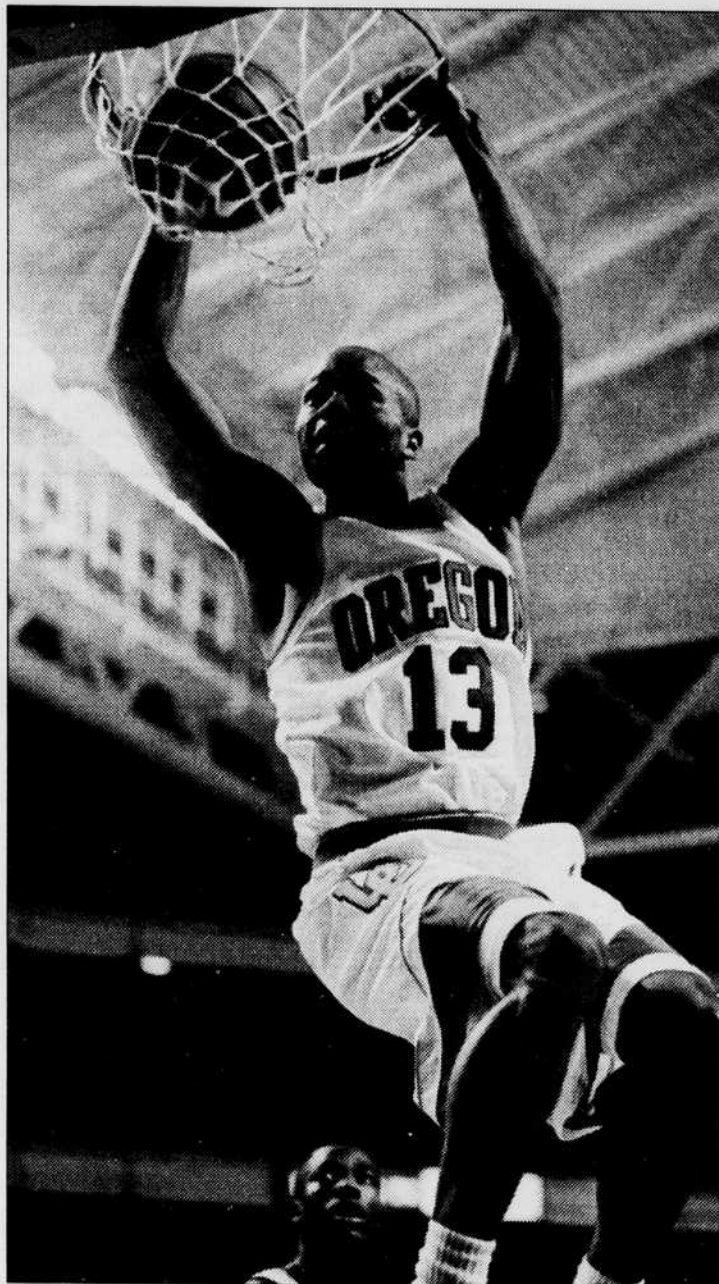
After guard Kevin Clark's hot shooting boosted Minnesota to a 47-22 second-half advantage and eventual win Monday, the Ducks will be looking to recover against BYU.

"We just need to learn from our mistakes," said senior guard Terik Brown, who ranks third on the team in scoring at 14 points per game. "If we do that and put two halves together, we'll be real tough."

Starting forwards A.D. Smith and Alex Scales have proved to be a deadly combination for Oregon in its first three games. Smith is averaging 16.7 points and 6.7 rebounds per game, while Scales is adding 14.7 points and 5.3 rebounds per game.

Last season, the Ducks' leading scorer, Brown, averaged 12.8 points per game.

With the abundance of outside scoring that BYU possesses and Oregon's improved offensive capabilities, Kent said he expects a high-scoring affair Saturday that will be decided by which team plays better defense.



Junior forward Donte Quinine slams one home in the Ducks' exhibition victory on Nov. 23. *Nick Medley/Emerald*

Sports brief

Oregon hockey looks for win over Idaho

What a difference a year makes. The Oregon Club Sports ice hockey team looks as if it not only will eclipse last year's fourth-place finish in the Pacific-8 Conference, but it may also be a darkhorse to win the conference title outright. The Ducks (8-2-1) are riding a

seven-game winning streak and have earned a sixth-place ranking in the American College Hockey Association.

"Everyone is having fun," captain Josh Hardin said. "Our team is really jelling, and hopefully we can end the season just like we started."

Oregon would like nothing more than to sweep non-conference foe Idaho at 7 p.m. tonight

and 8:35 p.m. on Saturday at Lane County Ice. The Vandals should find the Ducks a handful — Oregon has been playing with a high level of confidence during this seven-game run.

"It all started with the sweep of Stanford," Hardin said. "Ever since then, our players have been confident we can win every weekend."

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