

Wednesday
February 17, 1999

Oregon Emerald

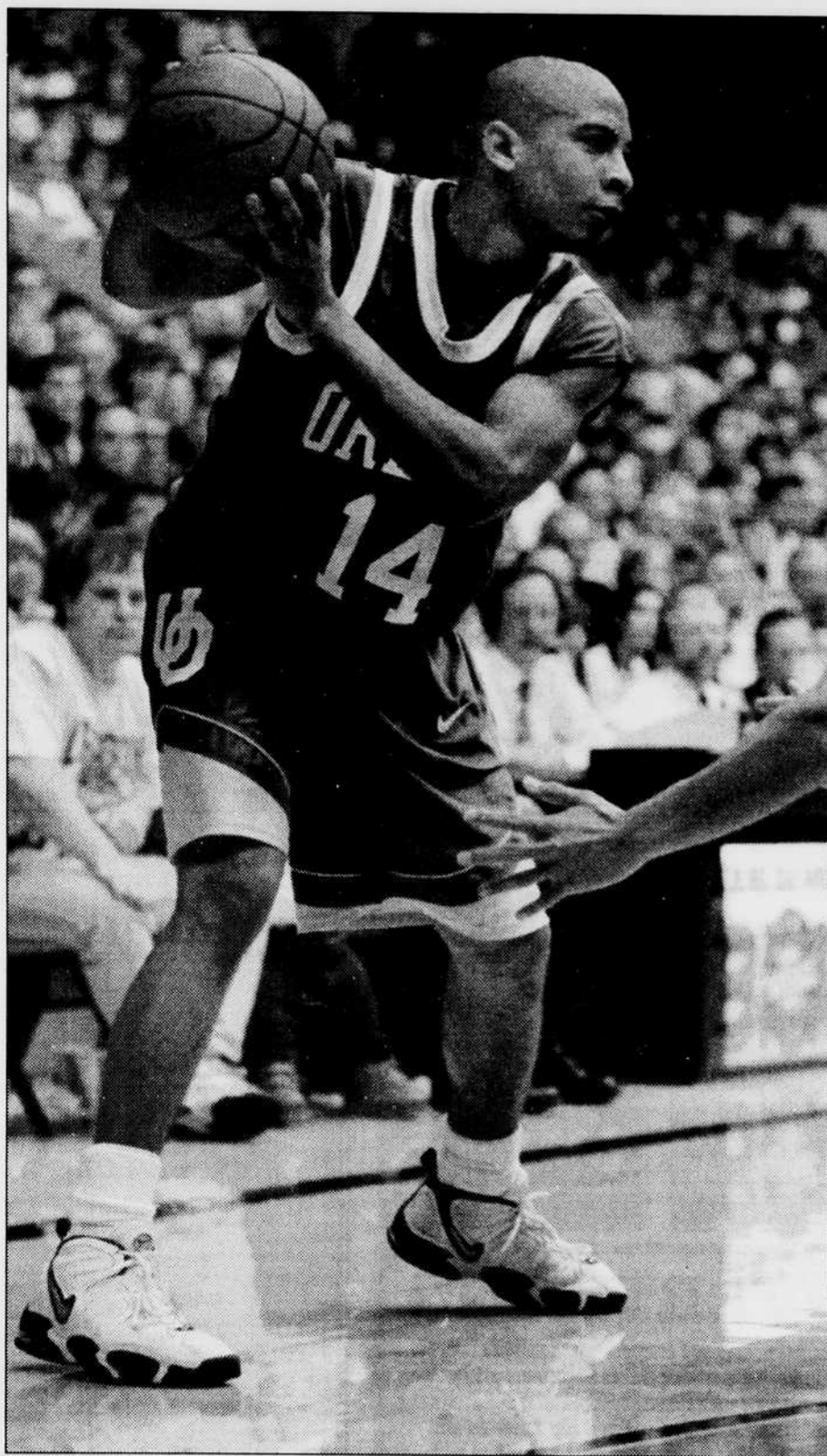
SPORTS

Best Bet
NCAA Basketball
Georgetown at Notre Dame
6 p.m., ESPN



"You're only as good as your last game, and that was our last game against the Huskies."

Terik Brown
UO Guard



Nick Medley/Emerald
Senior guard Terik Brown surveys his options before making a move against Oregon State on Jan. 30, when he led the Ducks with 16 points. Brown has reached double digits in scoring in 15 of 22 games this season and ranks third on the Oregon team with more than 11 points per game.

U on the UPSWING

By Tim Pyle
Oregon Daily Emerald

Like any senior, Terik Brown had dreams of ending his career gloriously entering his final season.

But his concluding ride for the Oregon men's basketball team has been tumultuous so far.

It started well enough, with the Ducks winning and jumping out to a 9-1 record.

Brown, the team's leading scorer last season, reached double figure in each of the first nine games, meshing well with talented newcomers such as freshman Freddie Jones and transfers Alex Scales and Darius Wright on the perimeter.

However, beginning with a 77-59 loss at Stanford on Jan. 4, Oregon and Brown hit a snag.

That game marked the start of a stretch during which the Ducks would lose seven of eight league games to fall to the depths of the Pacific-10 Conference standings.

It also denoted the debut of Jones at Brown's normal starting shooting guard position, and Brown managed just three points against the Cardinal.

"I found myself having difficulty adjusting to coming off the bench; it's a different situation," says the 6-foot-1, 179-pound Brown.

"When you [do not start], you can't make as many mistakes. You have less room for error."

After he scored in double figures for four straight games coming off the bench, Brown returned to the starting lineup Feb. 4 at UCLA.

And despite another heartbreaking loss to the Bruins in that game, Oregon rediscovered its old winning ways against Southern California two days later.

"We always have been a staff and a program that is going to play those people who are playing well," head coach Ernie Kent says. "We just felt like we needed to get [Brown] going again, and Freddie, to his credit, humbled himself to allow us to do that."

A home sweep of Washington State and what had been the conference's hottest team, Washington, last weekend has reen-

'Uptown'
Terik Brown has had a turbulent senior season thus far, but he and the Ducks are in good spirits again after defeating Washington on Saturday



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Stanford makes late charge for fifth straight Pac-10 title

Women's Pac-10 Notes



Joel Hood

Think Oregon and UCLA have this Pacific-10 Conference title race locked up?

Don't bet on it. Both teams can see a dilapidated bouncing tree in their rear-view mirrors.

Stanford has a modest 14-9 overall record, but has won seven straight in the Pac-10 to climb within a half game of frontrunners Oregon (20-4, 11-2) and UCLA (19-6, 11-2).

And don't think the Cardinal didn't send a message to the people of Westwood last Friday with its 87-84 victory over the Bruins in Los Angeles.

Suddenly, the Pac-10's two-horse race has become a three-team juggling act where each camp holds a unique piece of the puzzle. Don't be surprised if all

three teams shift positions in the final three weeks of the season.

Here's a closer look at what each team must do to capture the conference crown.

UCLA

The Bruins have been atop the Pac-10 race since the first game of the season. They suffered their first conference loss as late as Feb. 4 after running off a 9-0 start.

The problem for the Bruins is the loss came against Oregon, which since that game has moved ahead of UCLA in the conference race.

The good news for the Bruins is they still control their own destiny, in a way.

They still must travel to

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Pac-10's bottomless depth continues to fog standings

For proof that the Pacific-10 Conference this season is indeed the toughest it has ever been and, secondly, that it is the best overall conference in the country, I give you Exhibit A: last Saturday's games.

Of the four teams with winning conference records, only No. 10 Arizona (18-4 overall, 9-3 Pac-10) escaped that day of league upsets unscathed.

And the Wildcats may not have been so lucky had they not been beating up on a non-conference opponent, namely Louisiana State.

No. 8 Stanford, No. 15 UCLA and Washington, which was the Pac-10's hottest team, all suffered surprising defeats at the hands of lesser — at least

by record — conference opponents.

But maybe no result in the Pac-10 should be unexpected given the league's overall parity and penchant for close games.

Still, Southern California's ability to go into the Cardinal's Maples Pavilion, which has been labeled the Pac-10's toughest place to play all season, and knock off the conference's league leaders had to have countless heads slowly shaking around the league and country.

After all, the Trojans were fresh off eight losses in their last nine games and had not won a road game since their miracle: a victory led by

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Men's Pac-10 Notes



Tim Pyle