

Oregon Daily
Emerald
Editor in chief: Laura Cadiz
Sports Editor: Tim Pyle

Sports

Best Bet
College Football
North Carolina State vs. North Carolina
5 p.m., ESPN



Kent discloses Duck recruiting class

Ernie Kent is more than happy with the three prep standouts he has signed and is still looking to add a fourth

By Tim Pyle
Oregon Daily Emerald

Two weeks after signing a new four-year contract himself, Oregon men's basketball head coach Ernie Kent revealed his newest crop of signees Wednesday at the Casanova Center on national signing day.

Kent's fall class consists of three high school seniors who have already enjoyed spectacular prep careers.

Forward Luke Jackson of Creswell, perhaps the prize of the class, was Oregon's 3A player of the year and an all-state selection last season while averaging more than 23 points, 11 rebounds and four assists per game. The 6-foot-7, 210-pound Jackson was also named one of the top players on the West Coast as a second-team "Fab 15" pick by the Orange County Register.

Guard James Davis of Vancouver, Wash., poured in more than 21 points per game in leading Ever-

green High School to a 25-1 record and third-place finish at state. Davis, listed at 5-10, was a third-team selection on the "Fab 15" list after shooting 42 percent from three-point range and better than 90 percent from the free-throw line.



Center Jay Anderson of Faribault, Minn., averaged more than 18 points and 10 rebounds for his high school team and 20 points and 11 rebounds for his Minnesota

Select team. The 6-9, 220-pound Anderson also shot almost 49 percent from the field and was an all-conference selection last season.

"The next step for our basketball program was to close the continuity gap," Kent said, "and in order to do that we needed some very good young players to come in this program that can grow with us over the

UO Recruiting Class

James Davis

5-10 guard from Vancouver, Wash.

Luke Jackson

6-7, 210-pound forward from Creswell

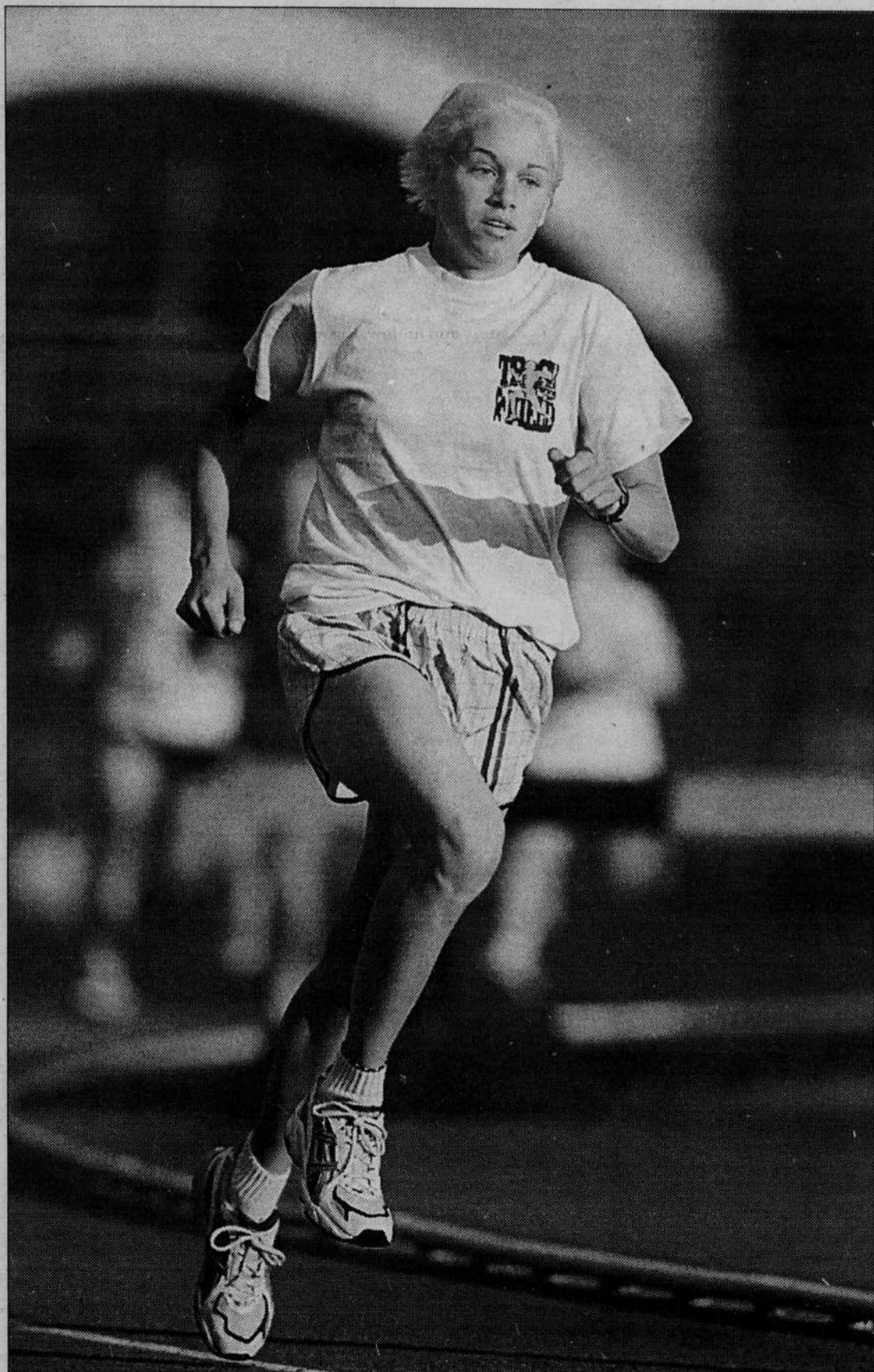
Jay Anderson

6-9, 220-pound center from Faribault, Minn.

course of the next four years and give us that stability year-in, year-out where we're gonna be able to build and put a great team on that floor.

"And we feel like we have done that now with the addition of these three young men."

The Ducks have one available scholarship re-
Turn to **Basketball**, Page 16A



Freshman Amy Nickerson of Coquille has finished first among Oregon runners in every meet she has competed in this fall.

Scott Barnett Emerald

STANDING OUT

■ Despite nagging injuries, freshman Amy Nickerson has already shown the signs of a champion

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

The starting gun shoots off and the usual fast starters jump out ahead to set the pace.

But she is nowhere to be found.

At the midway point of the 5,000-meter race, some of those fast starters are settling into the middle of the pack, where she is waiting — patiently — to make her move.

The running ensues, and it is not until the final mile of the cross country meet that you first begin to notice Amy Nickerson.

You notice the composure.

You notice her easy stride.

You notice her eye-catching dyed-blond hair.

But most of all, you notice that the Oregon freshman is in the front — exactly where she is accustomed to being.

In just a few short months, the 11-time state champion from Coquille High School has come to Eugene and made an immediate impact on the Oregon women's cross country team, as well as on her teammates and coach.

Of the three races that she's run in, Nickerson has been the highest Duck finisher every time. She was also the overall individual finisher in the Clackamas Open on Sept. 25, taking the title in her Duck debut.

"I was really surprised with winning that race," Nickerson said. "I didn't expect to, but it was a great way to start the season. Wearing the Oregon uniform for the

first time felt great. I just went into that race with no pressure."

Someone who was not surprised with Nickerson's performance was junior Katie Crabb, who Nickerson stayed with on her recruiting trip a year ago. Crabb realized back then how fortunate Oregon would be to get Nickerson and now seems to have run out of adjectives to describe her.

"Her composure is unlike any freshman," Crabb said. "She asserts herself quietly, but her presence is always known. She's the kind of person who you can instantly bond with. She's gracious, humble and has a great compassion for others."

Crabb, who has been sidelined most of the season with an Achilles injury, has been energized and motivated with the running of her freshman teammate.

"She has really kept me going this fall," Crabb said. "When you know you have a strong runner like Amy out there, it drives me to join her. I can't reiterate how much she has meant for this team and how excited we are to have her."

Nickerson sometimes can't believe she is actually here. She hails from Coquille, and if the name doesn't ring a bell, don't worry. The population of Coquille is a mere 4,200, and, as Nickerson puts it, "It's a mile-long strip with two grocery stores and a 7-Eleven."

Running for a 3A school

Turn to **Nickerson**, Page 13A