

**Oregon Daily
Emerald**
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Sports

Best Bet
Men's College Basketball
Duke vs. Illinois
6 p.m., ESPN



Season of success leaves UO running for more

A trio of Oregon men capture All-American honors in head coach Martin Smith's inaugural season

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

Two words can sum up the 1999 Oregon men's cross country season: Steve Fein.

Sure, there were others that helped Oregon achieve its sixth-place finish at the NCAA Cross Country Championships on Nov. 22, but none did it as impressively as Fein.

The Lenexa, Kan., native led the Ducks throughout the fall, capturing four individual titles on his way to his third All-American honor.

"You couldn't ask for much more than to run with someone like Steve," freshman Jason Hartmann said. "It helped me out so much to watch him run and see how he practices."

Fein's spectacular farewell to collegiate cross country culminated Nov. 22 as he raced to a third-place finish at nationals, 15 places higher than his 1998 performance.

He wasn't alone in earning All-American accolades as fellow senior co-captain Andrew Bliss and Hartmann were also awarded the honor.

It was the first time since 1989 that the Ducks had three All-Americans in one sea-

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Jeffrey Stockton Emerald

All-American Steve Fein paced the men with four individual titles and a third-place finish at nationals.

The Oregon women have many reasons to be excited for next season after a top-20 finish at nationals

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

No Marie Davis. No Katie Crabb for most of the season. No NCAA Championships experience for the top three runners on the team.

No problem.

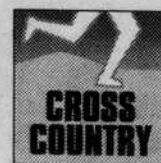
Before Tom Heinonen embarked on his 25th year as head coach of the Oregon women's cross country team, he made sure everybody knew one thing — his team was young, very young.

He labeled this fall as "Life After Marie," as in 1999 graduate and cross country standout Marie Davis.

But a few months and a top-20 placing in the NCAA Championships later, Heinonen may now have a new name for this new era — "The Sky is the Limit."

One week after his youthful Ducks completed their successful season by finishing tied for 19th at the NCAA Championships, Heinonen looks back fondly and looks forward to next fall with anticipation.

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HEINONEN

Ducks ready for Pilots' fire

■ Oregon meets Portland for the first time since the 1990-91 season tonight in Oregon's home opener

By Tim Pyle
Oregon Daily Emerald

When the Oregon men's basketball meets Portland tonight at 7:05 p.m. in its regular-season home opener at McArthur Court, one thing is guaranteed.

The Pilots (2-1 overall) will be intense.

Ducks head coach Ernie Kent is well aware that Portland would love nothing more than to knock off Oregon (1-0), which is expected to be the state's best collegiate team this season.

Ditto for Portland State, which the Ducks face Friday night at Memorial Coliseum in Portland.

"A lot of coaches will stay away from [games like these] because you're kind of in a situation where they have everything to gain from it, and you have everything to lose from it," Kent said.

"Those two teams are gonna really come after us. We need to make sure that we counter that energy level that they bring to the floor."

Oregon began its season with a turnover-ridden 65-58 win at Illinois-Chicago last Tuesday. Senior forward A.D. Smith led the way with 14 points, six rebounds and clutch free-throw shooting to help the Ducks overcome 31 turnovers and a 27-22 halftime deficit against the Flames.

Sophomore guard Freddie Jones, a Portland native who scored 10 points on four-of-seven shooting in the season opener, said Oregon plans to curb those ball-handling difficulties tonight.

"We're not gonna win most games with that many turnovers, so we've just gotta protect the ball," Jones said.

Kent said the turnovers are probably the result of players still getting used to each other and the team's system.

"Guys are going to continue to find themselves and find out what their roles are and get a little bit more flow, a little bit more continuity," Kent said. "It's still, obviously, going to take us a few games."

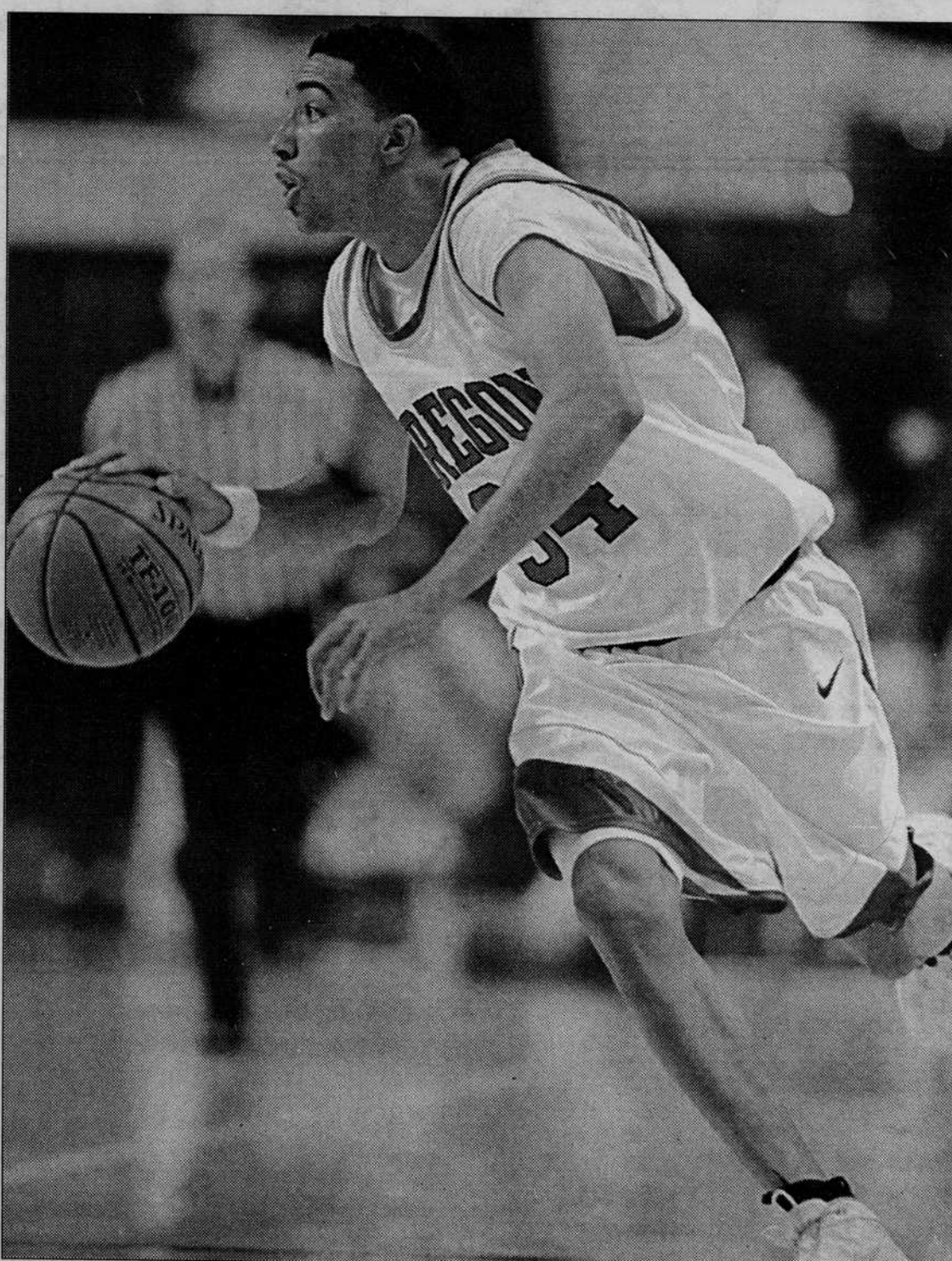
The Pilots should give the Ducks a challenge in the ball-handling area because Kent said Portland head coach Rob Chavez always has his teams prepared defensively. So far, the Pilots have allowed just 56 points per game in beating Occidental and Rice and losing to Portland State.

"It's gonna be a defensive battle," Kent said. "They do some good things defensively that may disrupt us a little bit if we don't handle it right."

Portland, which plays in the West Coast Conference and finished 9-18 last season, features six freshmen on its 13-man roster.

Guards Ryan Jones, last season's WCC freshman of the year, and Travis Andrews lead the offensive attack. Forward Troy Collins, a 6-foot-6, 210-pound senior, scored a game-

Turn to **Basketball**, Page 9



Jeffrey Stockton Emerald

Sophomore point guard Anthony Norwood and the Ducks make their regular-season home debut tonight against the Portland Pilots.