

Sports



Mayhem at McArthur Court

Emerald columnist Jeff Smith explains why YOU need to come support YOUR Ducks tonight against Cal. PAGE 13

The Flash

Phills killed

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Bobby Phills of the Charlotte Hornets was killed Monday when he wrecked his speeding Porsche after a morning practice at the team's arena, police said.

Witnesses said teammate David Wesley, driving another car at the scene, also may have been speeding, police spokesman Keith Bridges said.

Phills, a 30-year-old guard, had just left a shootaround at Charlotte Coliseum at about 11 a.m. when the three-vehicle accident happened, club spokesman Jonathan Supranowitz said.

Rocker apologizes

John Rucker admitted Wednesday that his racial and ethnic comments in a magazine article made him sound like "a complete jerk."

In his first interview since the uproar, the 25-year-old relief pitcher spoke to ESPN at his home in Macon, Ga., and again apologized, repeating that he is not a racist. He pointed out that several minority players stayed in his home while they were playing for the Braves minor league affiliate in Macon.

"I'll reiterate again and apologize one more time to anybody I've offended," Rucker said. "It certainly was not my intent."

Tyson could be barred from British boxing

LONDON (AP) — The promoter of Mike Tyson's Jan. 29 fight against Julius Francis in Manchester says the bout is still on.

But the former heavyweight champion might not learn if he can enter England until he gets off the Concorde on Sunday at Heathrow Airport and walks to the immigration desk.

The Tyson debate began Tuesday when several lawmakers asked that he be barred from Britain because of a 1992 rape conviction. On Wednesday, Prime Minister Tony Blair addressed the dispute in Parliament.

Best Bet

NCAA Basketball
Ohio State vs.
Wisconsin
6 p.m., ESPN



Ready to RUMBLE

■ Junior college transfer Eugene Harris has overcome a serious knee injury to become one of the Ducks' best wrestlers

Eugene Harris

Hometown: Las Vegas, NV
Year: Sophomore — transfer
Weight: 157
Record: 16-9 overall, 5-9 dual matches
Major: Psychology
1997 Nevada high school wrestler of the year

By Brett Williams
Oregon Daily Emerald

When the going got tough, Eugene Harris got tougher.

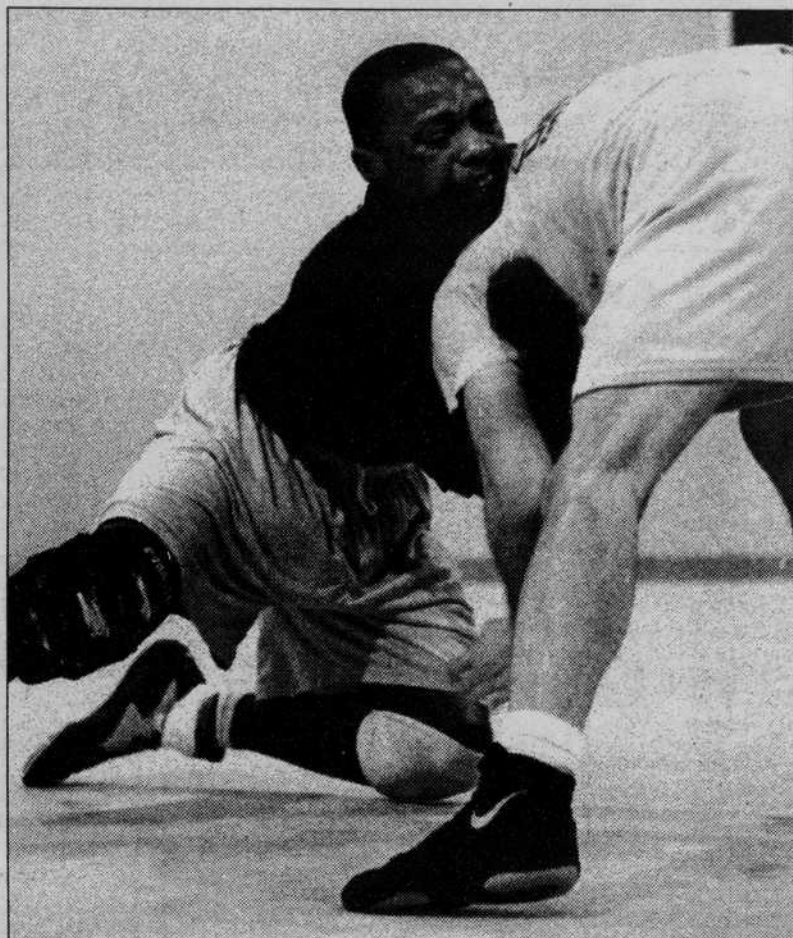
As a freshman last season at Lassen Community College in Susanville, Calif., Harris was coming off an outstanding prep career that garnered him numerous honors, including Nevada's wrestler of the year and the Most Outstanding Wrestler at the state championships.

But in just his second meet of his freshman season, Harris saw his future flash before his eyes.

An awkward twist of Harris' knee left him with a torn anterior cruciate ligament, an injury that has been known to jeopardize many wrestlers' careers. Nonetheless, Harris felt he had no other option but to wrestle on a knee that, according to him, was 40 percent the whole season.

"I put it through torture all last season," said Harris, a psychology major. "I really shouldn't have been wrestling on it."

Still, Harris refused to let the injury get the best of him and dominated his weight class at Lassen en route to Ju-



Azle Malinao-Alvarez Emerald

Eugene Harris has a 16-9 record at 157 pounds while recovering from a torn ACL.

nior College All-American honors.

After the season Harris had surgery to repair the ligament. Following his surgery, doctors told him there was another factor that would be slowing his rehabilitation.

"The doctors told me there was muscle atrophy, and the strength of my knee was a big problem," Harris said. "When I got [to Oregon], the trainers said they weren't having me do the right therapy in Las Vegas, and that I needed to do more."

Harris did do more, and now it is paying big dividends for him on the mat. Harris said his knee is "85 percent now, and is getting better everyday,"

and it shows with his impressive 16-9 record so far this season, 5-1 in dual matches. Two of those victories came against wrestlers from Oklahoma State and Cal-State Bakersfield, teams that are nationally ranked.

Although Oregon coaches mourned the loss of last year's NCAA qualifier, 157-pound Daryl Christian, who graduated, Harris is filling in nicely. He is filling the role so well that the Ducks' head coach Chuck Kearney said he believes the sky is the limit for his sophomore standout.

"Eugene is extraordinarily talented," said Kearney, who was an All-

Turn to **Wrestling**, page 8A

Kent, UO eager to treat fans to Pac-10 win



Jeffrey Stockton Emerald

Freddie Jones and his teammates are hoping to electrify a boisterous crowd tonight against California.

■ Oregon aims to go 2-0 in Pac-10 play as it faces talented California tonight

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

Oregon head coach Ernie Kent can't wait.

After seeing his Ducks (10-2, 1-0 Pacific-10 Conference) dominate the first edition of the Civil War on Saturday in Corvallis by a score of 67-49, he is eager to see what will happen tonight when Oregon hosts the youthful California Golden Bears (9-5, 0-2 Pac-10) tonight at 7:05 p.m. at McArthur Court.

"I'm excited because I'm looking forward to seeing this team play here at the Pit and how they respond to the con-

Turn to **UO men**, page 8A

On Tap:

What: Men's basketball
Who: Cal vs. Oregon
When: 7:05 p.m.
Where: McArthur Court