

The Flash

Foster leaves Ducks

Oregon football linebacker coach Bob Foster announced his retirement on Tuesday from the Ducks and from coaching, head coach Mike Bellotti said.

The 59-year-old former California, Davis head coach joined the Ducks as defensive coordinator in 1998, then switched to linebacker coach last season. His efforts have helped lift Oregon's defense from 10th in the Pacific-10 Conference in total defense and ninth in scoring defense in 1997, to sixth and fourth, respectively.

"I greatly appreciated the two years that Bob Foster spent with us," Bellotti said. "He's been a positive influence on all of us in terms of the way he approaches the game of football and the game of life."

"We are better for having him here in this program and I hope, in some small way, that he's better for having been with us."

AP Women's Basketball Rankings

1. Connecticut (45), 14-0
2. Tennessee, 13-2
3. Louisiana Tech, 11-2
4. Penn State, 15-2
5. Notre Dame, 13-2
6. North Carolina State, 14-1
7. Georgia, 16-2
8. Iowa State, 12-2
9. Duke, 16-1
10. Auburn, 14-2
11. Rutgers, 11-3
12. UCLA, 9-4
13. Illinois, 14-5
14. LSU, 12-3
15. Texas Tech, 13-2
16. Arizona, 14-2
17. Santa Barbara, 13-3
18. Old Dominion, 11-3
19. Purdue, 10-5
20. Boston College, 15-3
21. Tulane, 14-2
22. Mississippi State, 12-2
23. Kansas, 11-4
24. George Washington, 13-2
25. Oklahoma, 13-3

AP Men's Basketball Rankings

1. Cincinnati (61), 16-1
2. Arizona, 15-2
3. Stanford, 14-1
4. Auburn, 15-1
5. Duke, 13-2
6. Syracuse, 14-0
7. Kansas, 14-2
8. Connecticut, 12-3
9. Florida, 13-2
10. Michigan State, 12-4
11. Indiana, 13-2
12. Oklahoma State, 13-1
13. Ohio State, 11-3
14. Texas, 11-4
15. Tulsa, 16-1
16. Tennessee, 15-2
17. Oklahoma, 14-2
18. Kentucky, 11-5
19. St. Johns, 12-2
20. Vanderbilt, 12-2
21. North Carolina, 11-6
22. Utah, 13-3
23. DePaul, 12-4
24. Maryland, 11-5
25. UCLA, 10-4

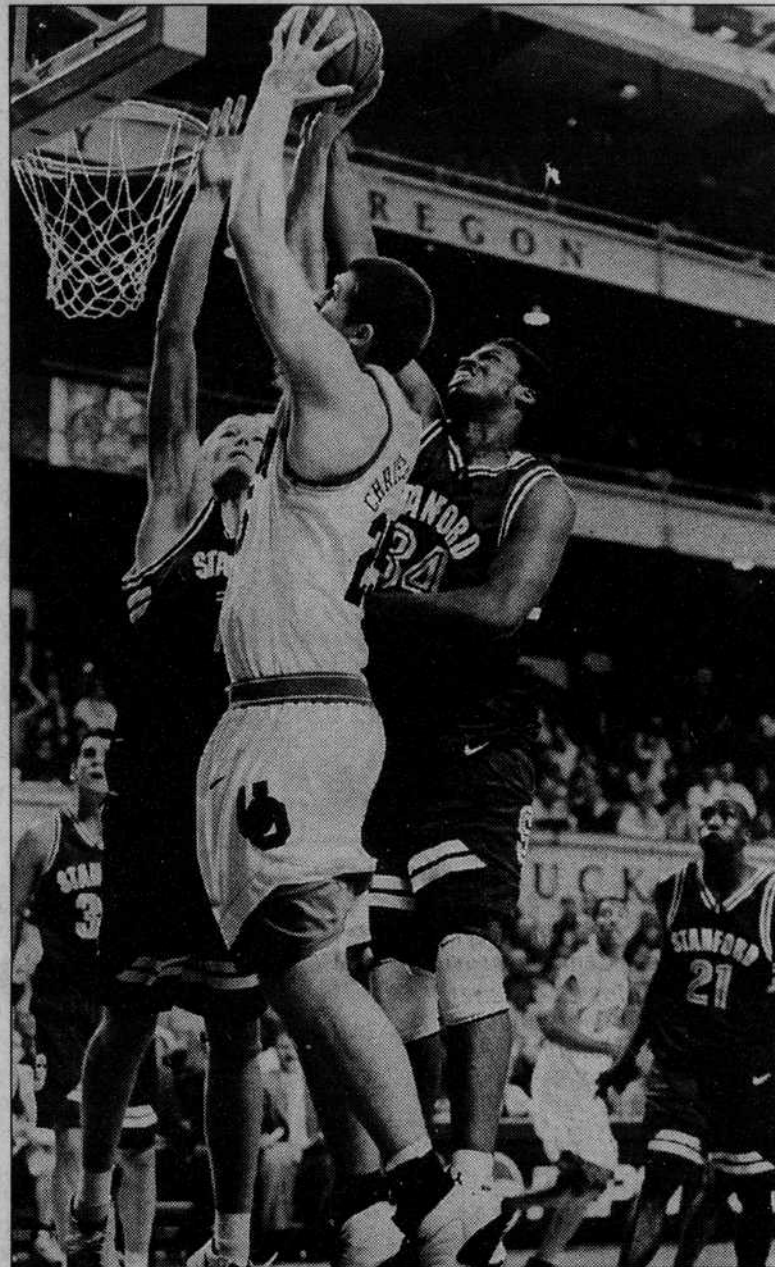
Best Bet

College Basketball
NC State vs. Duke
4 p.m., ESPN



Sports

UO putting pieces together



Seven-foot-two sophomore Chris Christoffersen scored four points in 11 productive minutes against Stanford.

Jeffrey Stockton Emerald

The Ducks are hoping to answer some questions before heading to Washington on Thursday

MEN'S NOTES

By Brett Williams
Oregon Daily Emerald

A lot of things are still up in the air the week after the Oregon men's basketball team split its home openers. And the Ducks (11-3 overall, 2-1 Pacific-10 Conference) will do their best to find solutions before they travel to face their Northwest nemesis in Seattle this weekend.

The Post Rotation

Oregon played relatively well against Stanford's interior game in their 85-71 loss to the Cardinal last Saturday. The Ducks entered the game shorthanded after one of their most consistent post players, junior college transfer Julius Hicks, was sidelined with a back injury that he suffered near the end of Oregon's win against California.

According to head coach Ernie Kent, Hicks is practicing this week, but his availability for Thursday's game at Washington, as well as Saturday's game at Washington State, is still up in the air.

"Julius is still day-to-day," Kent said. "I don't know if he'll be able to do too much in practice this week. We'll see where he is at game time Thursday. If he's not ready then, we'll see if he's ready Saturday."

Kent said there were multiple reasons for keeping Hicks out of the lineup

Oregon leaders

| Scoring | |
|----------|------|
| Smith | 15.8 |
| Scales | 14.2 |
| Wright | 11.4 |
| Rebounds | |
| Smith | 5.6 |
| Scales | 4.1 |
| Hicks | 4.0 |
| Assists | |
| Wright | 4.9 |
| Jones | 3.3 |
| Scales | 2.3 |

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Ducks: There's no place like home

After a 10-game road swing, the women's basketball team returns home for the first time since Dec. 4

"I can't express in words how happy I am to be a part of this game, finally, at McArthur Court"

Jenny Mowe center

WOMEN'S NOTES

By Mirjam Swanson
Oregon Daily Emerald

"Oh ... my... gosh," said junior center Jenny Mowe after Tuesday's practice. "I can't express in words how happy I am to be a part of this game, finally, at McArthur Court."

At last, they're back. After a grueling, school-record, 10-game, six-week-long road odyssey, the Oregon women's basketball team (11-4 overall, 2-1 Pacific-10 Conference) gets to play a home game.

The Ducks' guest Thursday evening is Washington — whom they've beaten in their last seven meetings. Their objective, obviously, is to beat them again.



Jeffrey Stockton Emerald

Guard Jamie Craighead is shooting 39 percent from behind the arc, fifth best in the Pac-10.

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