

## Scoreboard

### Lakers 97, Nets 89

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Compared to his past performances at the Meadowlands, Shaquille O'Neal only graded this one a "C."

Pretty tough self-critique for a guy who scored 35 points and grabbed 13 rebounds with four assists and three blocks. Then again, he once scored 50 at the Meadowlands, he also had his only career triple-double there, and another time he collapsed a basket support with a vicious dunk.

"I should have had 50," O'Neal said after leading the Los Angeles Lakers to a 97-89 victory over the New Jersey Nets to extend the Lakers' winning streak to eight games. "I missed a couple of shots and a couple of free throws."

O'Neal finished 15-for-26 from the field and 5-for-12 from the line and was backed by 21 points from Kobe Bryant and 15 from Glen Rice.

O'Neal broke the 30-point mark for the 22nd time this season as the Nets declined to double-team him and let Jim McIlvaine and Even Eschmeyer guard him by themselves.

"Who else are they going to put on me, (Gheorghe) Muresan? I'll do the same to all of them. Doesn't matter who they put on me, even if they put Willis Reed on me," O'Neal said.

There was nothing particularly flashy or fancy about this win, just a perfect combination of tough defense from everyone and offensive contributions from the Lakers' three best players.

### Strawberry busted again

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — New York Yankees outfielder Darryl Strawberry tested positive for cocaine on Jan. 19 and might once again be suspended from baseball.

A high-ranking baseball official, speaking on the condition he not be identified, said Tuesday the commissioner's office is investigating and a decision whether to take disciplinary action likely would be made by Thursday at the latest.

Strawberry is tested two or three times a week as part of his no-contest plea on May 26, 1999, to charges of cocaine possession and soliciting a prostitute. He was sentenced to 18 months of probation and 100 hours of community service.

The official did not say what disciplinary action the sport was likely to take against Strawberry. But given his past penalties, a suspension that would last most if not all of this season appears likely. Rich Levin, the spokesman for commissioner Bud Selig, declined comment.

Yankees owner George Steinbrenner and general manager Brian Cashman also declined comment on the news, first reported by WTVT in Tampa and WLWT in Cincinnati. WLWT obtained the three-page report on the probation violation from the Florida Department of Corrections and made it available to The Associated Press.

The eight-time All-Star came back from colon cancer surgery in October 1998.

### Best Bet

NCAA Men's Hoop Villanove vs. Syracuse 4 p.m., ESPN



# Sports

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## Wild, wild west gets more wild

USC's Jeff Trepagnier and Arizona State's Awvee Storey ignited a brawl between their teams on Saturday

### MEN'S NOTES

By Jeff Smith  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Every Pacific-10 Conference basketball game is a war.

But on Saturday night, Arizona State and Southern California took that to an extreme in a post-game melee.

Moments after the horn sounded following the Sun Devils' 93-81 home win

over the Trojans, USC guard Jeff Trepagnier and Arizona State forward Awvee Storey walked toward each other with their teams for the post-game handshakes.

Although, with Trepagnier and Storey, there was no shaking go on.

Details are sketchy, but it is assumed that both players threw punches. When they were through, Storey was left with a blood-gushing

split lip.

"I got 'cheap-shotted,'" Storey told the Los Angeles Daily News. "I didn't see it coming."

"I was just trying to protect myself," Trepagnier said. "He got in my face."

And of course, where there is one player there is usually 11 teammates who have their player's back.

Soon after the punches, Turn to **Men's hoops**, page 12A



## Battle royale

■ The Pac-10 season is nearly over, and four teams, with Oregon in the forefront, have a shot at the title

### Pac-10 standings

1. Oregon 10-3
2. Stanford 9-3  
UCLA 9-3
4. Arizona 9-4
5. Oregon St. 8-5
6. USC 6-6
7. Arizona St. 6-7
8. Washington 3-10
9. California 2-10
10. Wash. St. 1-12

### WOMEN'S NOTES

By Scott Pesznecker  
Oregon Daily Emerald

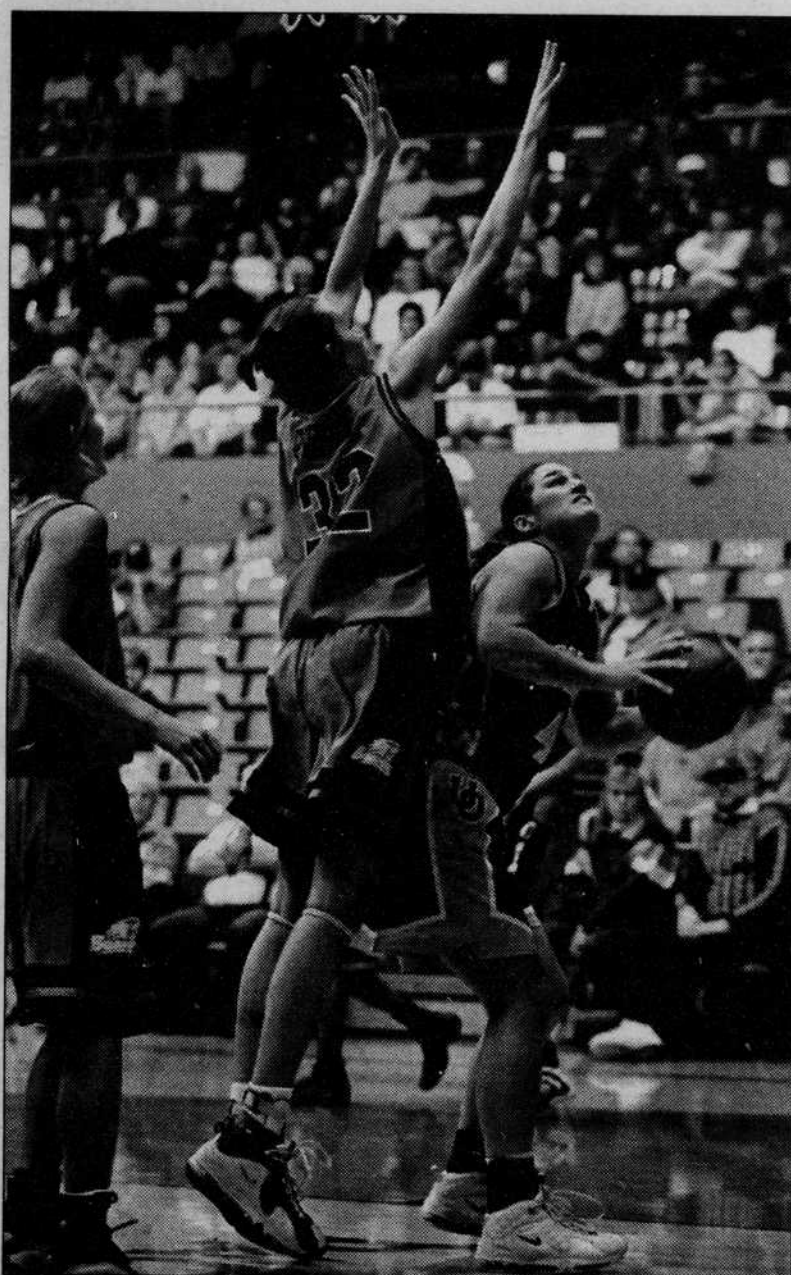
Outsiders looking into the Pacific-10 Conference see nothing more than a collection of mediocre teams taking turns beating each other.

Well, in the midst of all this, four teams are breaking away from the pack. On paper, Oregon holds sole possession of first place, and is trailed by Stanford and UCLA, who are each half a game behind. Arizona is one game back from the Ducks, in third place.

If you think that's mediocre, look again.

Oregon's half-game lead rests on the fact that Stanford and UCLA have played both of their rivalry games.

Turn to **Women**, page 8A



Oregon State's Sissel Pierce leads the conference with 35 blocks this season.

Emerald

## Griffey needs help to lead Reds to Series



Matt O'Neill

With spring training opening this week, all eyes are on Florida.

Not on the defending World Champs, but rather on a team that barely missed the playoffs last year and who hasn't been to the postseason in almost a decade.

Along comes a savior, or so they hope, in the form of a man named Ken Griffey.

However, without pitching, the Reds will only go as

far as their bats take them. And in the National League Central, where bats are bountiful, that won't be very far.

The division is chalk full of powerful lineups: the Houston Astros, the St. Louis Cardinals, and Sammy Sosa — I mean — the Chicago Cubs are all in there with Griffey and the Reds.

Everyone forgets that the Astros made it to the playoffs because of their quick exit on account of the overwhelming pitching of the

Atlanta Braves. And as for the Cardinals and Sosa, they didn't even make it into the playoffs.

The Reds wanted Griffey and Griffey wanted the Reds — it was just a question of getting them together — and at what price.

Which turned out to be outfielder Mike Cameron, top-prospect Antonio Perez, and pitchers Jake Meyer and Brett Tomko.

While on the surface, the Reds looked to pull off a

Turn to **O'Neill**, page 9A

“Even with adequate pitching, the Reds wouldn't be able to go as far as they think they can”