



Best Bet

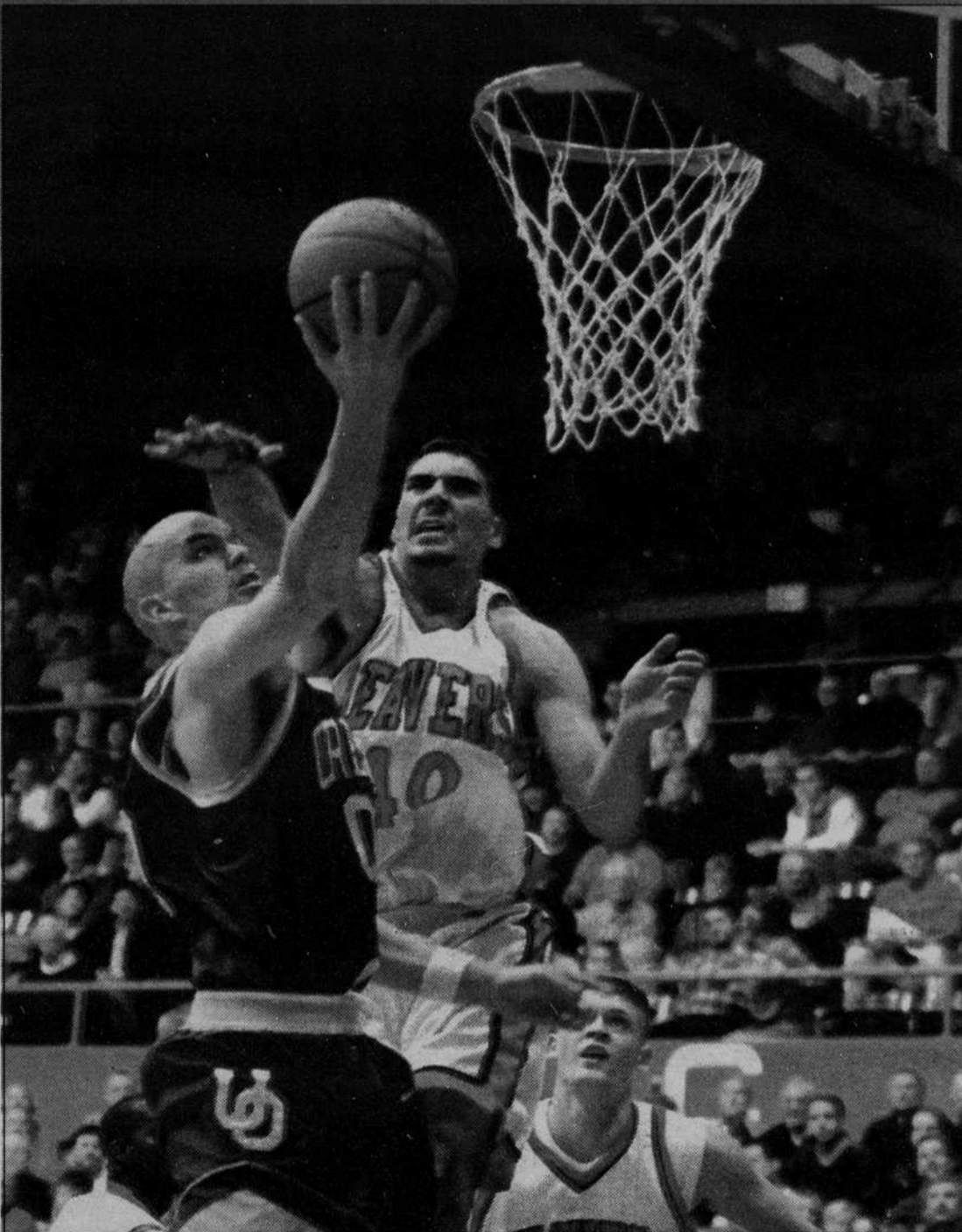
Stanford vs. Arizona
7:30 p.m., FoxSports Net

Sports

Thursday

March 9, 2000
Volume 101, Issue 114

Oregon Daily
Emerald



Emerald

After breaking his cheekbone, senior A.D. Smith is back on the attack for his final home game against the Beavers Saturday.

Smith & Lessons

■ With his last home game against Oregon State, A.D. Smith reflects on an outstanding career

By Brett Williams
Oregon Daily Emerald

He's now the man behind the mask, but still no Oregon basketball player is more recognizable than A.D. Smith.

Smith's impressive play has Oregon (21-7 overall, 12-5 Pacific-10 Conference) heading to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1995. The Ducks have some unfinished business before they pack up for the Big Dance Saturday, when they take on the Beavers at McArthur Court for Smith's last home game.

Smith's contributions to the Oregon program are incredible. On the school career-charts, Smith is currently fourth in steals, 11th in career scoring, 12th in three-pointers and sixth in rebounding.

Who would have thought that could come from a player with few scholarship offers after his senior season at Eugene's Churchill High?

Not many. Coaches told Smith he was better-suited for the West Coast Conference and that he would have limited success in a conference as strong as the Pac-10.

"Some people just looked at my size, but it's not like I had a problem with them thinking I

couldn't play there," said Smith, who has led the Ducks in scoring ten times and rebounding 11 times this season. "Coaches in the West Coast Conference were trying to get me to go there, they said I would have more success there.

"But it's something I never bought. Even if they were right, I wouldn't have bought it."

“Obviously, A.D.'s done a very good job representing the University on and off the court.”

Ernie Kent
head coach



Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said Smith has proved his critics wrong.

"It's been documented so much about what he went through as far as scholarships and how he ended up at Oregon," Kent said. "Obviously, A.D.'s done a very good job at Oregon and representing the University, not only on the floor but off it as well."

The Ducks definitely bought into Smith's talent. Despite referring to Eugene as his "hometown," Smith grew up in Albany until he was 10 years old, and he was an avid

Turn to A.D. Smith, page 12A

Natural born leader

Despite a series of injuries, junior co-captain Lindsey Dion remains one of Oregon's most effective, dependable players

By Mirjam Swanson
Oregon Daily Emerald

It was going to take a hell of a lot more than a prize-winning Gatorade cap to cheer up Lindsey Dion.

The Oregon women's basketball team had just finished its first practice since upending then-No. 10 UCLA in Los Angeles on Jan. 29. Everyone at Mac Court was in high spirits.

Players had some extra bounce, smiled when they answered questions about their previously inconceivable split in L.A., about Alyssa Fredrick's breakout performance, about the upcoming Arizona game.

All good for the Ducks on this particular Monday.

For all of them, that is, besides Dion, who had traveled but wasn't allowed to get out there herself. Who had to sit because of the post-concussion syndrome she was experiencing after sustaining a first-concussion at California on Jan. 13 and then, when she was on her way to recovery, had her head bounced off the floor again in a game on Jan 22.

So as her teammates lifted weights and cooled down from Monday's practice, Dion leaned against the edge of a trainer's table down in the catacombs of McArthur Court and stared off into space, furious.

She'd only been allowed in on two measly drills.

Turn to Dion, page 9A



Emerald

Junior co-captain Lindsey Dion is averaging more than seven points per game despite dealing with injuries.