



National picture clouded by East Coast programs



TWO MINUTES FOR CROSSCHECKING

PETER HOCKADAY

People say that Oregon complains too much about not getting enough respect on a national stage. You know what I say? Hey, it's true. The Ducks don't get enough respect on a national stage, people!

And I can prove it with a dose of common sense and a little level-headedness.

This week the Ducks moved from seventh to sixth in the Associated Press poll, from eighth to seventh in the USA Today/ESPN Coaches poll and stayed seventh in the Bowl Championship Series Rankings, as Virginia Tech tumbled in all three polls.

But realistically, a few more teams are going to have to tumble before Oregon can start thinking about the national championship.

The Ducks will need to move up to second in the BCS rankings in order to play in the Orange Bowl, where the national champion will be determined.

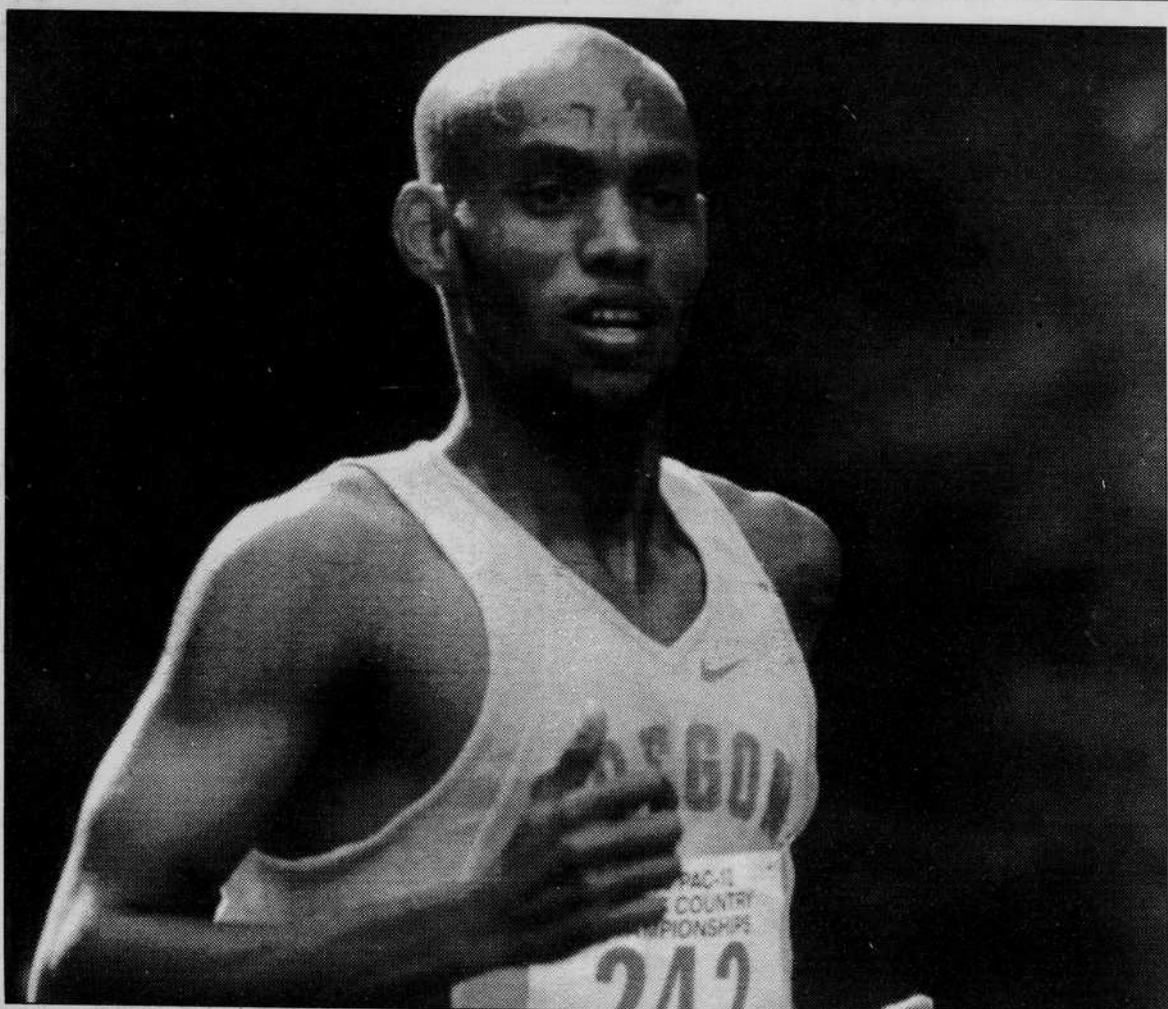
But why aren't the Ducks ranked higher? Why is the title game so far in the distance, when Oregon should be tailgating the top spot?

There are two teams that undoubtedly should be ranked higher than Oregon. One is undefeated Oklahoma. The undisputed top team in the country, Oklahoma proved themselves with wins over Kansas State and Nebraska.

The second team is Miami. Although they have one loss, the Hurricanes have picked off Florida State and Virginia Tech, when both teams were undefeated. A pathetic loss in Seattle to the Huskies weakens the 'Canes a bit, but overall they are a good team. Oregon fans should pray on Friday night that the upset bus rolls Miami's way, with "Pittsburgh" scrawled across the side.

Beyond Oklahoma and Miami, the field thins out. First, let me point out that Oregon has beaten two ranked teams — Washington and UCLA — when they were both ranked sixth in the nation. The Ducks will make it three top-10 victories if Oregon State beats Arizona and holds on to its No. 10 ranking, and then Oregon beats the Beavers. Don't forget that Oregon handled Arizona when the Wildcats were 21st, and the Ducks' one loss was to the No. 6 team in the country.

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Geoff Turner Oregon Media Services

Senior Michael Kasahun has been successful at every level of competition from high school to NCAA Division I.

A long road home

■ Senior Michael Kasahun escaped war-torn Ethiopia to have a successful running career in America

By Robbie McCallum
Oregon Daily Emerald

Today, senior Michael Kasahun prepares for his fifth cross country meet of the season. The Ethiopia native leads the 10th-ranked Oregon cross country team into Saturday's NCAA Western Regional meet.

Twelve years ago, Kasahun was traveling by the light of the moon, escaping from his war-torn homeland.

Kasahun's life has taken many turns during those 12 years. He has gone from refugee to immigrant to running star. The journey has been a long one, with many bumps in the road, but Kasahun has found solace at Oregon in running.

Kasahun was born in the northern Ethiopian town of Adwa. The small village was in the middle of a civil war that took place from 1976 to

1993. The rebel states of Eritrea and Tigray sought independence from Ethiopia and waged war for more than 17 years.

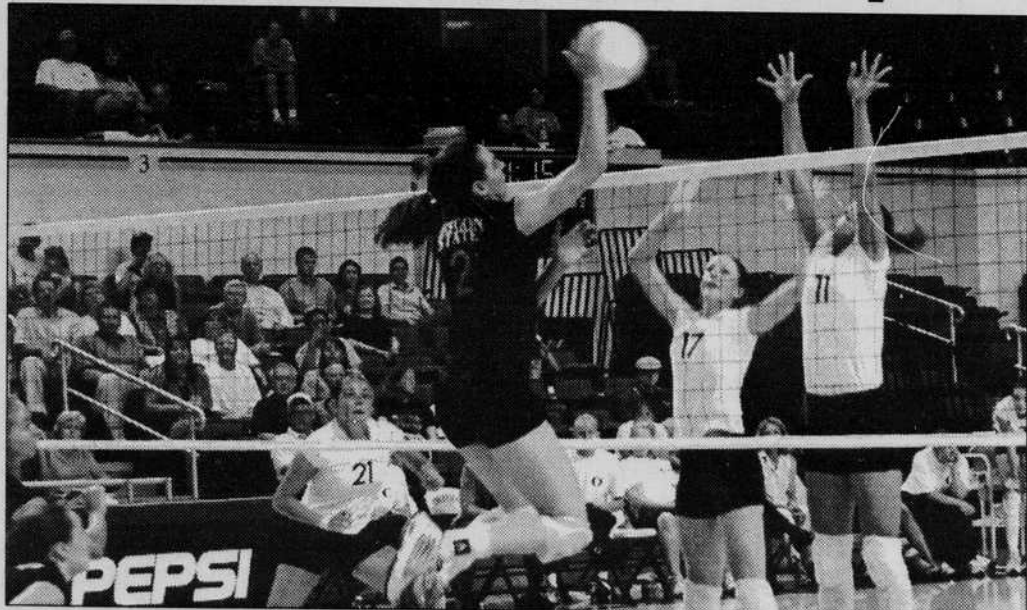
The fighting that occurred in northern Ethiopia took the lives of Kasahun's mother and brother.

"Everyday life was a struggle," Kasahun said. "We were segregated by the government. We just didn't have a say in things."

A handful of Adwa residents decided to flee Ethiopia for neighboring

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Senior Ducks hope to cap home careers with a bang



Emerald

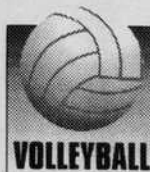
Seniors Halie Mazza (17) and Amy Banducci (11) play their final two matches at McArthur Court tonight and Friday. A conference victory would be the Ducks' first at home this season.

■ The Oregon volleyball squad hosts Washington tonight to start the season's last home stand

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

This is the final stand. The Oregon volleyball team is not going to back down — especially on its home floor.

Seniors Amy Banducci and Halie Mazza are not going to end their careers at McArthur Court with another disappointing weekend.



And the Ducks are not going to be satisfied with another season in the Pacific-10 Conference cellar.

"This is very important to us," said Banducci, a four-year letter winner at Oregon. "It's going to be sad and hard, but I'd like nothing more than to win my final games at Mac Court."

In matches that could decide who finishes at the bottom of the Pac-10 standings, the Ducks (9-14 overall, 1-13 Pac-10) host Washington tonight and Washington State Friday. Both matches will begin at 7 p.m.

"I think this is going to be a positive change in Oregon volleyball," Mazza said of this weekend. "We're just going to

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On tap

Who: Oregon volleyball vs. Washington and Washington State

When: Tonight and Friday, 7 p.m.

Where: McArthur Court