

UO basketball teams net talented recruits

■ The Oregon men's and women's basketball teams load up their recruit artillery

By Scott Pesznecker and Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon women's basketball team will replace its five seniors with five high school standouts at the start of next season, the Oregon Athletic Department announced Wednesday.

And if these five players are as good as Oregon head coach Jody Runge says they are, they could become the foundation of Oregon basketball for years to come.

Letters of intent were signed by center Andrea Bills of Moreno Valley High School in Moreno Valley, Calif.; point guard Brandi Davis of Sonora High in La Habra, Calif.; guard/forward Kedzie Gunderson of Bellevue High in Bellevue, Wash.; forward Amy Parrish of Hanford High in Hanford, Calif.; and guard Amy Taylor of Shore-

wood High in Shoreline, Wash.

Graduating this year will be center Jenny Mowe, forward Angelina Wolvert, guard/forward Lindsey Dion, forward Brianna Meharry and guard Camber Ellingson.

"This group increases our athleticism significantly," Runge said. "They fill a lot of needs we are losing or haven't had in the past."

Bills, a 6-foot-3 center, averaged 24 points, 11 rebounds and more than four blocks per game as a prep junior. "She will be a rebounder like we've never had before," Runge said.

Davis, a 6-foot point guard, was ranked by All-Star Girls Report as

the fifth-best wing among all high school juniors last year. She averaged 14 points, five rebounds, five assists and three steals per game.

Runge said that gaining Gunderson, a 6-foot guard/forward, could be like having another Lindsey Dion because of her strength and hustle plays. Gunderson earned second-team all-state honors in Washington last year.

Parrish, a 6-foot-2 forward, averaged 18 points and eight rebounds per game as a junior.

Taylor averaged more than 17 points, four assists, four rebounds and two steals per game as a junior.

"We feel very proud and excited about our new additions," Runge said. "They're all capable to play as freshmen, and their success as freshmen will be a huge part of our depth."

Men add height with Short

The Oregon men's basketball team went after a solid post player in its recruiting and found its man in 6-foot-11 Matt Short, who signed a letter of intent to play for the Ducks.

Short, a senior at Yreka High School in Yreka, Calif., averaged 13.3 points and 11.3 rebounds per game as a junior last season, as well as recording 59 blocks. PacWest

Hoops lists him as the fifth-best prep center on the West Coast.

"We recruited Matt because of his ability to play two positions," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "He can stay low at center and block shots or he can step out on the perimeter."

Short will arrive at Oregon for the 2001-02 season, a crucial time to help ease the pain of losing current seniors Bryan Bracey, Flo Hartenstein and Julius Hicks.

Short chose the Ducks over fellow Pacific-10 Conference teams Arizona State and Washington State, as well as New Mexico.

Ducks end fall season at Prestige

■ The Oregon men's golf team finished its fall season Tuesday in California, and now looks forward to spring

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon men's golf team had its worst showing of the fall season this week, despite facing its easiest competition at the Prestige at Palm Desert.

The Ducks ended their last tournament of the fall season in ninth place, their lowest finish since the NCAA West Regionals at the end of last season. The team shot a final-round 299, its worst round of the tournament, to drop from eighth to ninth Tuesday.

Only one top-25 team competed in the 15-team field at the Prestige. No. 7 Northwestern won the tournament when it recovered from a first-round 291 and shot rounds of 281 and 283, respectively. The Wildcats won the Prestige by one stroke over Pepperdine. Hosts Stanford and California-Irvine finished third and fourth, respectively.

Individually, sophomore Chris Carnahan and junior Aaron Byers led the Ducks at the Prestige. In four tournaments this season, Carnahan and Byers have paced the Ducks once each.

Carnahan and Byers each shot a 222 to finish tied-for-29th. Junior Brandon Harnden, senior Matt Genovese and senior T.J. Duncan all finished behind Carnahan and Byers, but were only separated by three strokes.

Harnden finished tied-for-37th, Genovese was 41st and Duncan finished 50th. Sophomore John Ellis, who finished 60th, also placed for Oregon.

The Ducks will now start the process of preparing for the all-important spring tournaments.

Oregon will play at the Ping Arizona Intercollegiate in Tucson, Ariz., January 29-30, to kick off the spring season. The Ducks will then play seven tournaments before the Pacific-10 Conference Championships in April. After that, Oregon will play in the NCAA West Regionals, where it tripped up last year, which would make or break a trip to the NCAA Championships in North Carolina next May.

The Ducks assembled an impressive fall season, scoring two fifth-place finishes, one second-place finish and the ninth-place they secured at the Prestige.

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