

# SPORTS

Best Bet

NCAA Men's Basketball: California vs. Stanford  
7:30 p.m., Fox Sports Net



SPORTS EDITOR: JEFF SMITH Smittside@aol.com

## Oregon to continue its climb with Bellotti

The coach who led the Ducks to their school-record 10-2 season renews his commitment to Oregon

By Adam Jude  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Pacific-10 Conference's winningest coach during the last six years is going nowhere.

Oregon head football coach Mike Bellotti withdrew his name from consideration for the vacant coaching position at Ohio State Tuesday, announcing a renewed commitment to the Ducks and the future of the program.

While gaining national respectability, Bellotti, 50, has guided Oregon to its most successful era in program history since he took over the head coaching job in 1995. The Ducks recorded their first 10-win season in 2000, capped off by a 35-30 win against Texas in the Holiday Bowl and a No. 7 ranking in the fi-

nal Associated Press poll.

Overall, Bellotti is 49-22 as the head coach.

Under Bellotti, the Ducks have won two straight bowl games (three overall), and made postseason appearances in five of his six years at the helm. No other Oregon coach has guided the team to more than one bowl victory.

After five years as the head coach at Chico State (Calif.), Bellotti became the Ducks' offensive coordinator in 1989. That same year, Oregon snapped a 25-year drought and made a postseason appearance in the Independence Bowl, while setting single-season records for school scoring marks.

Bellotti has also guided an Oregon offense that has averaged more than 400

yards per game in each of the last five years.

"When you play a role in developing something special such as we have here, it becomes very difficult to ever consider leaving," Bellotti said Tuesday in a released statement. "It is because of that feeling that I have contacted Ohio State to inform them that I am withdrawing my name from consideration for their head coaching vacancy."

Bellotti and his family were in Columbus, Ohio, on Monday, touring the Ohio State campus with Buckeyes athletic director Andy Geiger.

Several reports said that Bellotti was the top candidate for the head coaching position at Ohio State, and that the

### Bellotti's coaching record at Oregon

Year	Overall	Pac-10
1995	9-3	6-2
1996	6-5	3-5
1997	7-5	3-5
1998	8-4	5-3
1999	9-3	6-2
2000	10-2	7-1

Buckeyes were willing to pay upward of \$2 million to their next coach. Last month, Bellotti agreed to a seven-year contract with Oregon that would keep him in Eugene through 2007.

## Numbers add up for UO wrestling

The Oregon wrestling team has been rewarded by the national and conference pollsters

By Robbie McCallum  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Quietly and confidently, the Oregon wrestling team has risen to the next level of competition.

After 10 weeks of competition, the Duck wrestlers find themselves as the second-highest ranked sport at Oregon, second only to the No. 7 football team. The Internat national poll has the Ducks at No. 14, and has ranked Oregon as high as 10th.

Oregon also has the highest-ranked individual athlete at Oregon in junior Shaun Williams. The 125-pound transfer is currently ranked sixth in two polls and has been ranked as high as fourth among lightweights.

Williams transferred from North Idaho Junior College this year and made an immediate impact on the Ducks' starting roster.

Oregon also has five other wrestlers ranked in the top-20 nationwide. Senior Chael Sonnen and sophomore Eric Webb are ranked sixth at 197 pounds and heavyweight, respectively. Senior All-American Doug Lee is seventh at 184 pounds and sophomore Brian Watson is ranked 10th at 133 pounds. Junior Eugene Harris is ranked 19th at 157 pounds.

### Add rankings

According to the Pacific-10 Conference rankings, there should be a four-way battle for the conference title, which will be held at McArthur Court on Feb. 25-26. Oregon, Oregon State, Boise State and Arizona State have dominated the most recent polls.

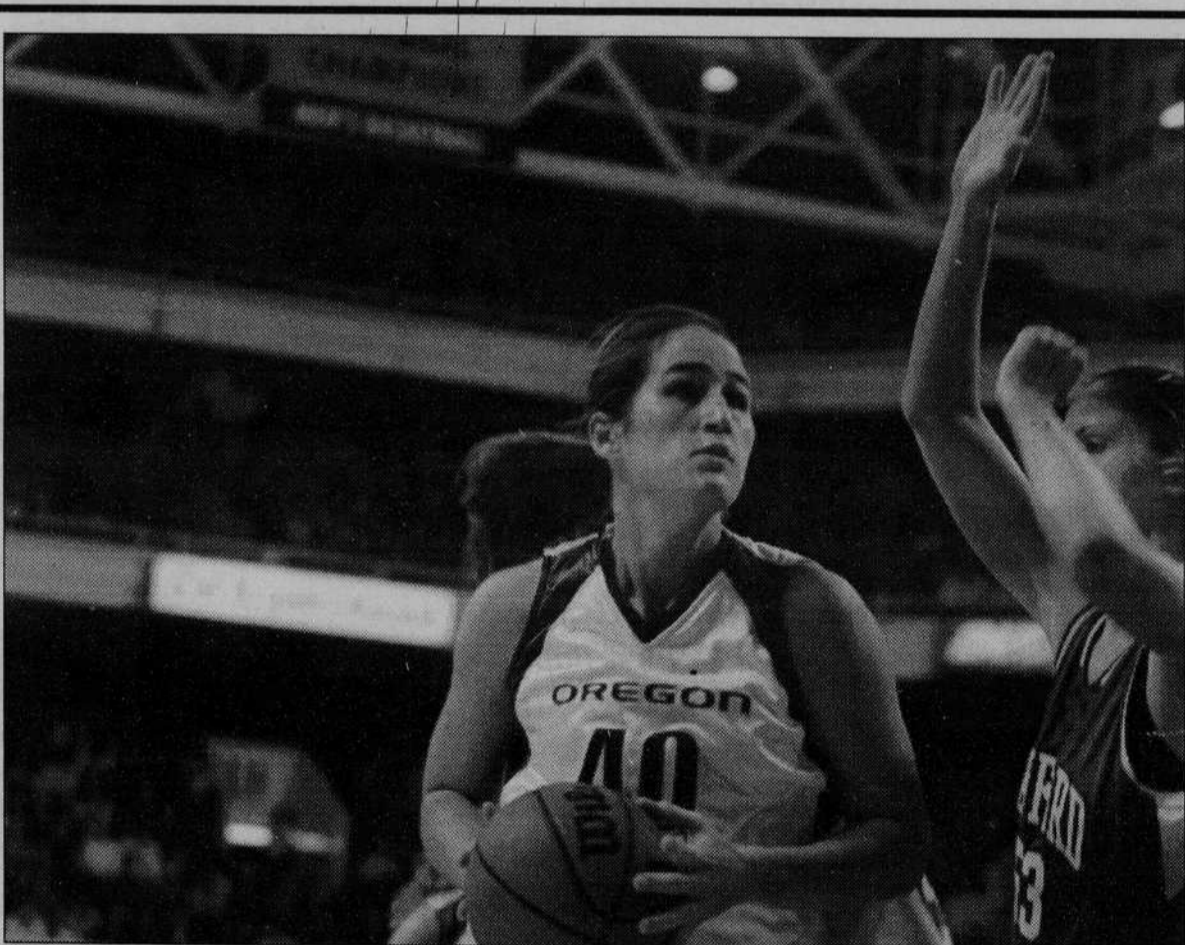
Oregon has already defeated Oregon State 22-16 and takes on Boise State this Friday at 7:30 p.m. at Mac Court.

The Ducks have a ranked wrestler in all but three weight classes. Williams, Watson, Lee and Sonnen all earned top rankings.

### Approaching records

With three convincing pins and four victories last Friday at the Oregon Classic Duals, Sonnen moved to second all-time on the school career pins list. Sonnen has 13 pins this season to bring his collegiate total to 45. Sonnen needs eight more pins to

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Senior forward Angelina Wolvert leads the Ducks in scoring with 13.7 points per game and hopes for an eventual third Pacific-10 Conference title.

## COMPETITIVE

Duck teammates admire Angelina Wolvert's clutch play and veteran leadership

By Scott Pesznecker  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Her eyes were void of emotion, her hands folded on the long table in front of her. She wanted to talk, but didn't know what to say.

It was a rare moment for Oregon forward Angelina Wolvert.

She'd been beaten.

For that reason, Wolvert will always remember the first round of the 2000 NCAA Tournament at McArthur Court last March. She'll remember the moment when her team lost to underdog Alabama-Birmingham with seconds remaining, and what she could have done that might have changed the outcome.

"Jenny [Mowe] and I were on the post, and whoever was guarding the ball got beat," Wolvert said. "Jenny went straight up to help, and I should have stepped over to take both my post and her post, but I didn't because I didn't see it quick

enough. The ball went to Jenny's player, who went straight to the basket.

"It was devastating."

But Wolvert isn't on the losing team often.

Usually, she's the one who beats people.

Ask LeAnn Sheets, Washington forward. Last season in Seattle, Sheets was stuck guarding Wolvert, man-to-man, when the Huskies held a one-point lead over the Ducks with less than 15 seconds remaining.

Guard Jamie Craighead saw the mismatch and passed the ball inside to Wolvert. Pump, fake, and the shot —

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WOLVERT

# EDGE