



Ducks dealing with rare case of injury bug

Angelina Wolvert won't play this week, but forward Lindsey Dion will be back

By Scott Pesznecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

Angelina Wolvert wasn't thinking happy thoughts when her left knee suddenly buckled inward against Washington last Thursday.

The injury occurred during a scramble for a loose ball about five minutes into the game. Wolvert, who was walking backwards when she saw the ball had been recovered, said a Husky player fell onto the outside of her knee.

Wolvert then collapsed.

"I thought I was done for the season," said Wolvert, Oregon's leading scorer with 13.5 points per game at the time. "I just thought it was done. It hurt real bad, and it just didn't feel right. You know, you get a gut feeling, and I didn't know really what to think."

Oregon trainers also thought the injury was serious, originally diagnosing it as a level two sprain of the medial collateral ligament. Such an injury could have cost Wolvert more than a month of recovery.

But the injury was less severe than anticipated. Ducks head coach Jody Runge said that the best-case scenario has Wolvert back in action in time for No. 23 Arizona next Thursday.



"It's totally dependent on her pain and the stability of it," Runge said. "We just have to see how quickly she comes along, because everybody's different, and there's no protocol

as far as how long. It just depends on the individual."

During rehabilitation, Wolvert spends about four hours a day in physical therapy and must wear a knee brace. Runge said Wolvert can jog forward, but can't cut side-to-side. Wolvert can also shoot jump shots, but isn't practicing with the team.

"Right now, we're just waiting for it to heal itself," Wolvert said. "There's nothing else I can do but heal it, just let my body heal."

Playing without Wolvert and injured forward Lindsey Dion in Pullman, Wash., Oregon dropped a heartbreaker to unranked Washington State two nights after the injury. But Wolvert said her team should have won despite her absence.

"I don't think [my team] is going

to be missing anything," she said. "When [Shaquala Williams] got hurt, people were like, 'Oh God, the whole team will fall apart.' Well, it didn't, and it won't, and it didn't matter who we lost."

"The team is just very resilient and they face adversity really well."

Wolvert had never missed playing in a game before sitting out against the Cougars.

Oregon center Jenny Mowe tried to cheer up Wolvert, a close friend of hers, after the injury happened.

"Jenny was making fun of me because I made a funny noise when it happened. She was like, 'You sounded like you were like, aaahhhh!'" said Wolvert, laughing as she imitated her teammate.

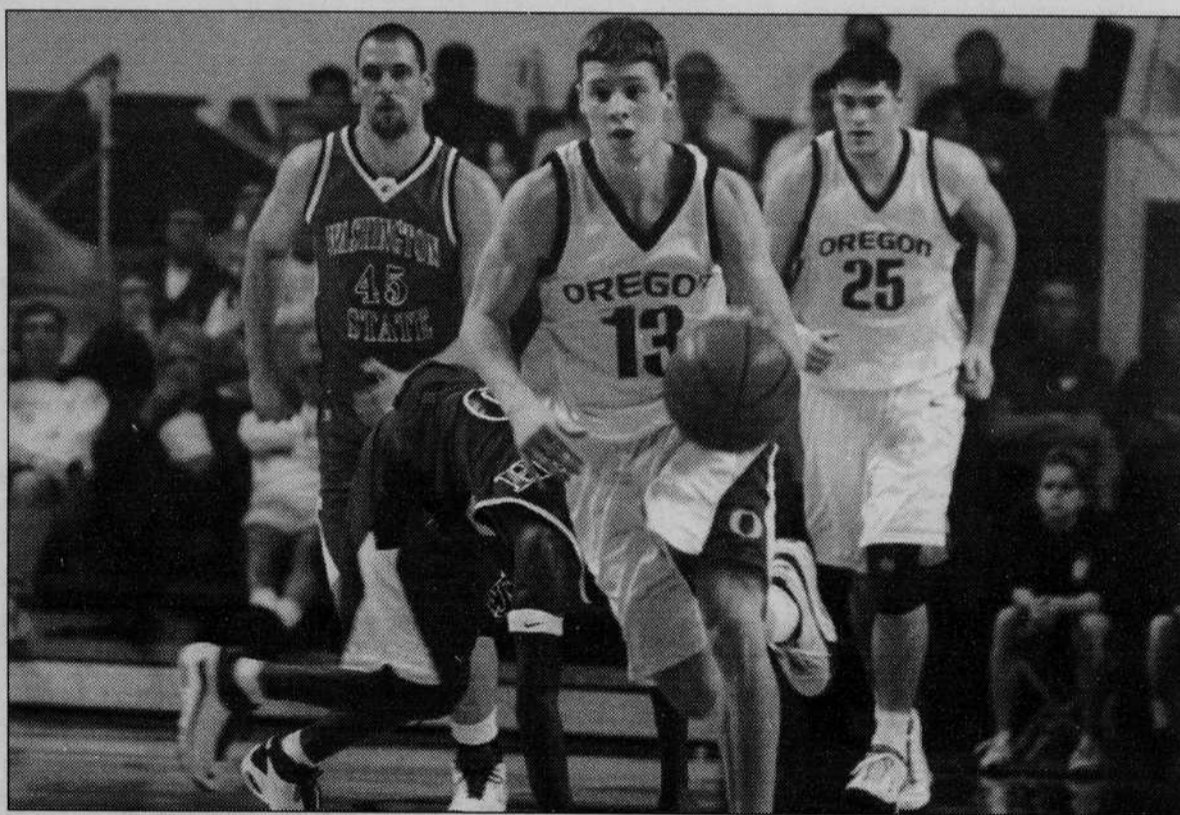
"The team is just very resilient and they face adversity really well."

Angelina Wolvert
Oregon forward



WOLVERT

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Adam Amato Emerald

Oregon head coach Ernie Kent is expecting big things from freshman point guard Luke Ridnour (13) and junior center Chris Christoffersen (25) this weekend against USC and UCLA. The road games mark a pivotal point in the season where Oregon can get back into the Pac-10 race.

Oregon prepares for round two of Pacific-10 Conference road trips

Oregon looks forward to facing the L.A. schools on the road two weeks after a 0-2 trip to Cal and Stanford

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

It's only been 11 days on the calendar, but Oregon head coach Ernie Kent says that his team has matured greatly since it left the Bay Area Jan. 13 with two lopsided defeats.

And despite an up-and-down weekend at home with the Washington schools, Kent is confident that the Ducks (11-4 overall, 2-3 Pacific-10 Conference) will perform up to par on the road this weekend in Los Angeles.

"We will respond better because I think we've grown since our last trip as a team in some areas," Kent said.

The road won't be easy for Oregon, as the No. 22 USC Trojans await the Ducks on Thursday night, with 4-1 UCLA looming on Saturday.

The key areas of growth for Oregon were in its freshmen, according to Kent.



"The biggest thing is that young guys had an opportunity to play down there [in the Bay Area],"

Kent said. "Luke Jackson has come a long way since and is a much better, more composed

and more confident basketball player.

"Luke Ridnour will handle the environment different now going on the road in his second road trip."

Oregon junior guard Freddie Jones wasn't so quick to make the assessment that his team has grown. He sees improvement, but knows the challenge that this weekend presents.

"We'll find out a lot on this road trip," Jones said. "I mean, we really don't know where we are until we get out there and face the crowd and the adversity again."

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Men's tennis team gains help in form of three freshmen

The Oregon men's tennis team gains a trio of freshmen following the departure of two veteran players

By Robbie McCallum
Oregon Daily Emerald

Last season, the Oregon men's tennis team was talented, young and optimistic. Despite their youth, the Ducks made a surprise visit to the NCAA Tournament and had high hopes for this season.

But the departure of two key players seemed to set the clock back for the Ducks and their postseason hopes ... until the arrival of three freshmen this month.

When junior Thomas Schreiner and sophomore Leslie Eisinger left the Ducks, the team had an incomplete five-man roster. Three freshmen — Martin Pawlowski, Alexander Druzenko and Greg Dubourdieu — have filled that void.

"We've been working on these guys for a while," head coach Chris Russell said. "We've got three quality guys who are ready to play."

The Oregon roster now consists of one upperclassman, senior David Becker, two sophomores and five freshmen.

The newcomers have had little time to prepare for varsity action. At last Saturday's Foster Klima Ice Volleys, Pawlowski was the No. 2 singles player for the Ducks while Druzenko played at the No. 4 spot.

"We haven't had a lot of time working with them individually," Russell said. "So a lot of what they're going to learn is adjusting for the level of competition that they are going to see."

Pawlowski brings in experience from Poland and Sweden, where he graduated from Kungsgardsskolan. Pawlowski was ranked in the top-10 among Swedish juniors last year.



RUSSELL

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Chris Russell
Oregon tennis coach

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