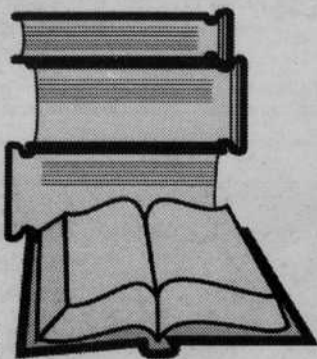


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Three Ducks gaining love from national tennis polls

■ The first installment of the ITA national rankings gives respect to University players

By Robbie McCallum
Oregon Daily Emerald

In the tennis crazed Pacific-10 Conference, Northwest schools can have a hard time getting respect against other teams.

Thanks to a little help from the Intercollegiate Tennis Association rankings committee, the Oregon tennis teams are getting some appreciation.

Three Ducks were honored in the first release of the ITA weekly rankings. Sophomore Jeanette Mattsson is ranked No. 54 in women's singles, and the doubles team of senior David Becker and freshman Martin Pawlowski is ranked 45th for the men.

Mattsson, a native of Osth-

mar, Sweden, is ranked 12th among Pac-10 players and is 5-6 on the year.

Becker and Pawlowski are 5-4 on the season with upsets over Cal's Scott Kintz and Eric Dmytruk and Indiana State's Jonas Piibor and Dalibor Mihajlovic.

In the team rankings, Jack Griffin's women's team came in ranked No. 53. The men are currently ranked No. 66 but should climb in the polls after last weekend's wins over No. 54 New Mexico State and No. 64 Pacific.

2001 Rule Changes

The ITA and NCAA have adopted three new rules regarding men's and women's tennis for the 2001 season.

In women's tennis, the Division I Competition Cabinet approved a new 3-6 format where three eight-game, pro-doubles sets precede six singles matches. This format replaces the trio of three-set doubles matches following singles play. The decision was made to shorten matches while ensuring at least

two doubles matches.

The ITA also instituted two new rules regarding change-overs and warm-up time. The first change adds a two-minute set break at the end of every set. The second adjustment shortens the amount of warm-up time to three minutes from five between doubles and singles matches.



MATTSSON

Home Sweet Home

After three months of play in the Student Tennis Center, Oregon's new indoor tennis facility, the Ducks are a combined 5-6 under its roof. On the road, the Ducks are 2-3. Eight ranked teams have played at the Student Tennis Center, with many more to come.

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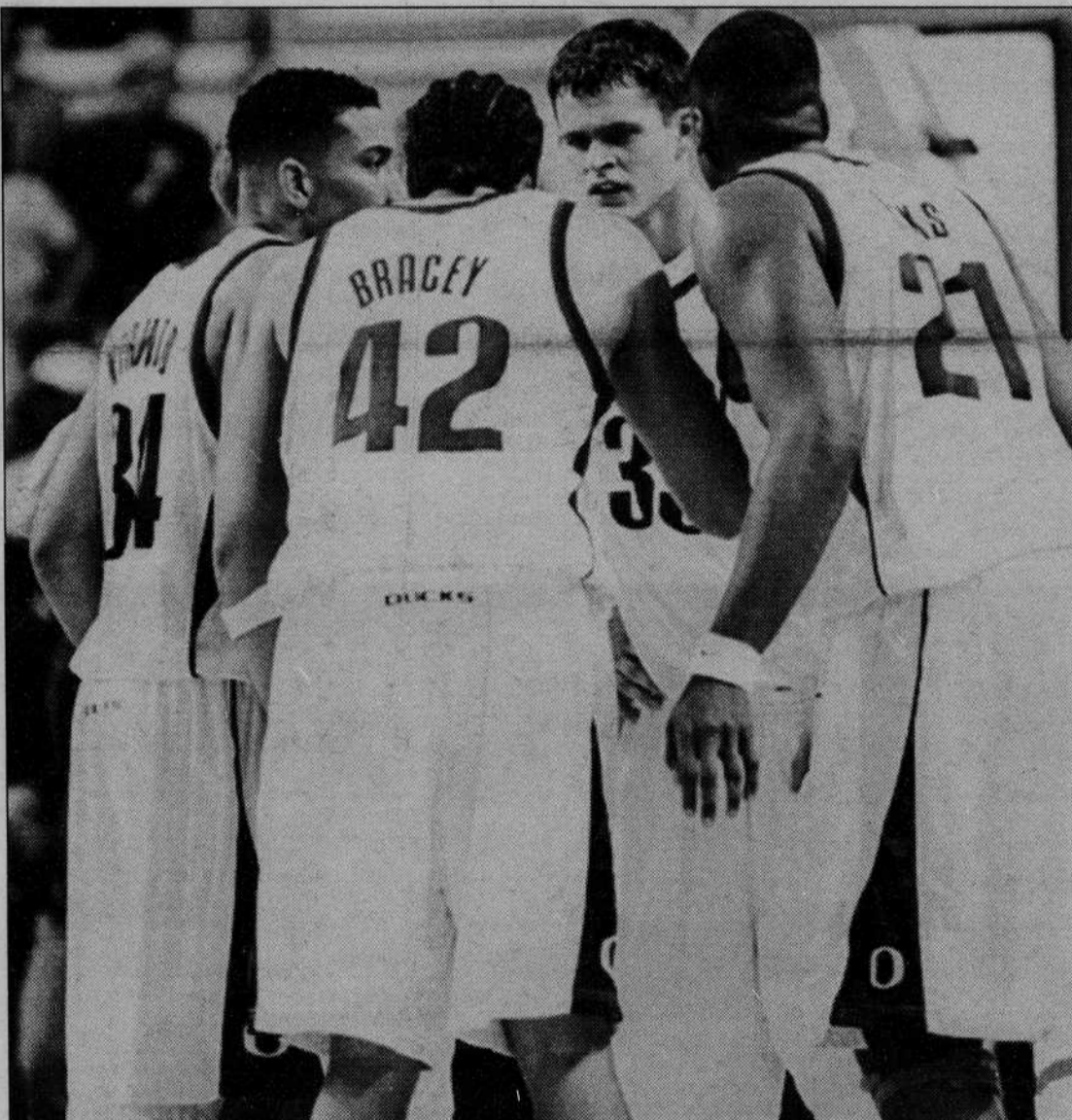
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Adam Amato Emerald

Oregon seniors Bryan Bracey (42) and Julius Hicks (21) will play their final games at McArthur Court this weekend, and junior guard Anthony Norwood (34) and freshman forward Luke Jackson (33) hope to help send their five senior teammates out victorious.

Men's

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fensen has injured his wrist and hasn't performed as well.

Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said he expects Christoffersen to have another big game against the Bruins tonight.

"The reason Chris hasn't been doing so well is because of the opponents we've been playing: They're more mobile teams," Kent said. "But we need for him to get a good game."

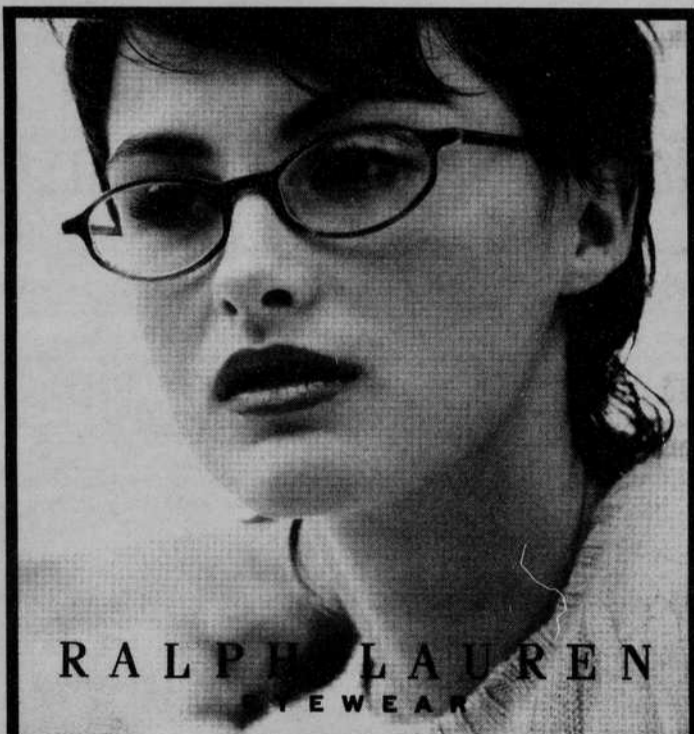
The Ducks may need a little more than Hicks and Christoffersen to beat the Bruins. Last weekend against Washington, Oregon may have finally found a lineup

that can play together. The five players that started against the Huskies — Hicks, Bracey, Freddie Jones, Luke Ridnour and Luke Jackson — accounted for 78 of the Ducks' 85 points in Oregon's first win since an upset of Arizona on Feb. 1. Each of the starting five scored in double figures against Washington.

As much as they don't want to think about it, there are larger implications to the Ducks' final home games.

Oregon has five remaining games and technically needs to win only one to reach .500 and be eligible for the National Invitational Tournament. However, if USC or California aren't selected by the NCAA Tournament, the Ducks will need to be over .500 to make it, which makes this weekend's games all the more important.

Oregon will take on UCLA tonight at 7 p.m. and USC Saturday at 6 p.m. Both games will be broadcast on the Oregon Sports Network.



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