

News briefs

Taekwondo Club hosting open house

The Oregon Club Sports Taekwondo Club is hosting an open house today for those interested in knowing more about the club. The open house will begin at 6:30

p.m. and will take place in the International Lounge in the Erb Memorial Union. Taekwondo meets three times a week and competes mainly on the weekends, with the first tournament coming up on Nov. 3 at Mount Hood Community College.

For more information, contact coach Randy King at 688-6747, or by e-mail at rsk@pacinfo.com.

Women's

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we're going to have to do."

Senior Ednisha Curry, juniors Alissa Edwards and Kourtney Shreve, and sophomore Katy Polansky round out the returning guard spots, a group that has a chance to be the best in the Pac-10. Curry, who transferred from California State Northridge before last season, will play her first game in an Oregon uniform this season after sitting out last season due to NCAA transfer rules.

In the front court, freshman Andrea Bills comes in to bolster a group that includes sophomore forward Cathrine Kraayeveld and senior forward Alyssa Fredrick. The team's forwards and centers may not be a focal point this season, but will be important when the Washingtons and Stanfords come calling.

After eight seasons with the often criticized Runge, many believe Smith will be a breath of fresh air. Sure, the team has been chosen to place fifth in the Pac-10 in the coaches poll, but the attitude and emotion of this year's team has not been at its current level in years.

"I think that coach Runge had a certain style that was very successful for her," Smith said. "My style

2001-02 Pac-10 Women's Basketball Coaches Poll

1. Stanford
2. Washington
3. USC
4. Arizona State
- 5t. Arizona
- Oregon
7. Oregon State
- 8t. California
- UCLA
10. Washington State

won't be a better style, it won't be a worse style, but it will be a very different style. It's going to be a style that's going to help this team be as successful as it can possibly be."

After one year away, Williams looks forward to returning to the Ducks and helping them chase after their third Pac-10 crown in the last four years.

"Everything is new, everything is different," she said. "It's not better or worse, it's just different. We're all going to get the chance to go out there and prove ourselves."

Soccer

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gon is currently outscoring its opponents, 21-10, and outshooting its foes, 202-90.

"We're executing very well," Steffen said.

The Ducks are led on offense by a trio of high-scoring forwards. Senior Chalise Baysa, Oregon's all-time leading scorer in both points and goals, has five scores this season, bumping her career total to 28. Nicole Garbin, a freshman who came to Oregon after a highly-successful high school career in Hawaii, also has five goals. Garbin leads the team in points, with 13. Senior Beth Bowler, who had only three career goals head-

ing into this season, already has four this year.

But the Ducks are getting support across the board. The low shot total of Oregon's opponents reveals a strong defense, anchored by senior Angela Romero, junior Lindsey Peterson and sophomore Lindsey Werdell. In the midfield, senior Starr Johnson has blossomed as a do-everything, defensive midfielder, and even scored two goals against Portland State last weekend. The Ducks are also getting help from a deep bench, which includes sometimes-starters Ann Westermark, Julie McLellan and Crystal David.

Oregon will face California at 3 p.m. Friday and will take on Stanford at 1 p.m. Sunday.

Ducks aim to go above .500

■ Oregon travels to Idaho State in hopes of reviving what once was a promising season

By Hank Hager
Oregon Daily Emerald

For the first time all season, the Oregon volleyball team is playing down at the .500 level.

The Ducks will attempt to get out of the funk that has led them to lose their last seven games in a row when they travel to Pocatello, Idaho, on Sunday for a 2 p.m. match against Idaho State at Reed Gym.

The contest features two squads that have yet to make their mark this season. The Bengals (6-9 overall, 2-4 Big Sky Conference) have lost two of their last four matches. After ending the non-conference season with an impressive win against Oklahoma, Idaho State has slipped in conference play.

Oregon (8-8, 0-7 Pacific-10 Conference) is virtually in the same position as Idaho State. After beginning the year 8-1 in non-conference play, the Ducks have been

dominated in Pac-10 play. They've lost all seven matches, including a tough one Wednesday to in-state rival Oregon State. This is the first non-conference match for the Ducks since Sept. 8, when they beat Boise State in four games.

"I feel that this will be like our breakthrough game," junior Stephanie Martin said. "If we play like we did in our second game (against Oregon State), we could just come out and dominate (Idaho State). We don't know how they play, and we haven't seen anything on them. But I think we should start out early, put pressure on them and hopefully dominate the game."

"Any match is a big match," junior Lindsay Closs said. "We need to beat Idaho State. But it'll be nice to get another game in."

Martin and Closs have looked sharp in recent matches against Stanford, Cal and Oregon State. Martin has led the Ducks in kills in each match, recording a career high 15 Wednesday night in Corvallis. They again will be key to the Ducks' success.

"They set up the offense," head coach Carl Ferreira said. "The better they do, the more it opens up the outside game. We've got to get a couple of more positive performances out of some other key people, but we're close. We've got to maintain a great perspective and just keep at it."

Idaho State has never beaten the Ducks, having played them in 1983, 1988 and 1997.

Martin returns for a homecoming

Sunday's match in Pocatello will represent somewhat of a homecoming for Martin. After starting at Westwood High School in Mesa, Ariz., Martin came to the College of Southern Idaho to play two years of junior college ball.

After posting 477 kills, 337 digs and hitting for a .385 percentage, she was highly recruited, and finally settled on Oregon.

"In a way (it'll be a homecoming) because my friends from junior college are going to drive down," she said. "They're going to come and see me play. I'm really excited."

Men's

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want to contribute and live up to the expectations," said Johnson, who Kent predicted will be the team's top rebounder. "Every day I walk into Mac Court and visualize what it's going to be like. I can't wait."

The team is already a tight-knit bunch as most of the players lived in Eugene all summer working out. Also in that time, a few Ducks were able to gain experience at some big-time camps. The two Lukes, Ridnour and Jackson, performed well at a Nike camp and both have added muscle to their bodies for their sophomore campaigns.

Christoffersen, meanwhile, attended the renowned Pete Newell's Big Man Camp. The senior from Denmark, who actually grew an inch over the summer and bulked up to a solid 304 pounds, has gained confidence over the offseason and has his teammates hoping to see his flashes of domination on a consistent basis this season.

"You all haven't seen what big Chris can do just yet," Jones said. "You just watch."

As for Jones, he attended Michael Jordan's elite camp in Santa Barbara, Calif. While there, he compet-

ed against top collegiate players such as Duke's Jason Williams and Michael Dunleavy and Stanford's Casey Jacobsen, as well as pro players like the Clippers' Darius Miles and Quentin Richardson, and, of course, the Wizards' newest addition, Michael Jordan.

"Jordan talked with me a little bit and congratulated me on things that he liked about my game and told me stuff I needed to work on," Jones said. "I think he was surprised we could play like that up here in Oregon."

Jones knows the onus is on his shoulders this year, being the senior leader and top returning point scorer.

"I'm ready to get it going," Jones said. "This is my last go-round, and we're just going to go out here and have a blast. Our fans kept cheering last year even though we weren't winning a lot of games. So hopefully this year we can reward them with a lot of wins."

"We have to win. I didn't come here to lose."

While some may view the loss of forward Bryan Bracey and his team-leading 18.6 points per game as a negative, Kent sees the silver lining. While the coach applauded Bracey's offensive skills, he said that Bracey was a weak link

on the defensive side of the ball.

"Every '4' man in the Pac-10 had a career night going against us and we struggled at that position on the floor," Kent said. "Through a committee, we'll replace Bracey's points and not give up as many points in that position."

Also missing from this year's team is Anthony Norwood, kind of. He's actually returned, but with a different name. The senior legally changed his name to Anthony Lever in honor of his father, former NBA player Lafayette "Fat" Lever. Kent, though, still needs to remember that as he referred to Lever as Norwood twice during his press conference.

One thing Kent hasn't forgotten is how many talented players have left the Pac-10 via graduation or the NBA Draft, leaving the league race wide open.

"With Stanford and Arizona and what they lost, this will probably be as competitive of a Pac-10 Conference since I've been here," Kent said.

That Pac-10 slate begins early this season with the Arizona schools visiting Mac Court on Dec. 20 and Dec. 22. The first preseason game is on Nov. 6 at home, while the regular season kicks off on Nov. 15 when Alabama State drops by The Pit.

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