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ON THE WEB

The Oregon volleyball team takes  
on the Pilots in Portland tonight.  
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## Ducks ready to open season at first exhibition

■ The Oregon men's basketball team will use its first exhibition game to figure out where it stands

By Peter Hockaday  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon men's basketball team has been practicing for a month now. They've played scrimmages and pick-up games.

Tonight, the Ducks will have a scrimmage of sorts. Only the other team won't be wearing green and yellow. And they'll have Australian accents.

Oregon tips off its season at McArthur Court tonight at 7 p.m. against the Basketball Travelers from Brisbane, Australia. The contest is the first of two exhibition games for the Ducks, who open the regular season Nov. 15.

Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said the Ducks will try to use tonight's game as a checkpoint for the young season.

"I don't care if it's an exhibition game or a Pac-10 game," Kent said. "There are certain responsibilities for everyone on this team. If we have every guy doing the right job at the right time, that will tell us a lot about our basketball team right now."

Kent said that Duck fans can expect a more tenacious, tight defense than last season. Oregon gave up almost 78 points per game last season. The addition of assistant coach Fred Litzenger, who has a reputation for coaching good defenses, has helped the Ducks' "D" this season, according to Kent.

"Our defense has come a long way," Kent said. "So far we've proven to be very coachable."

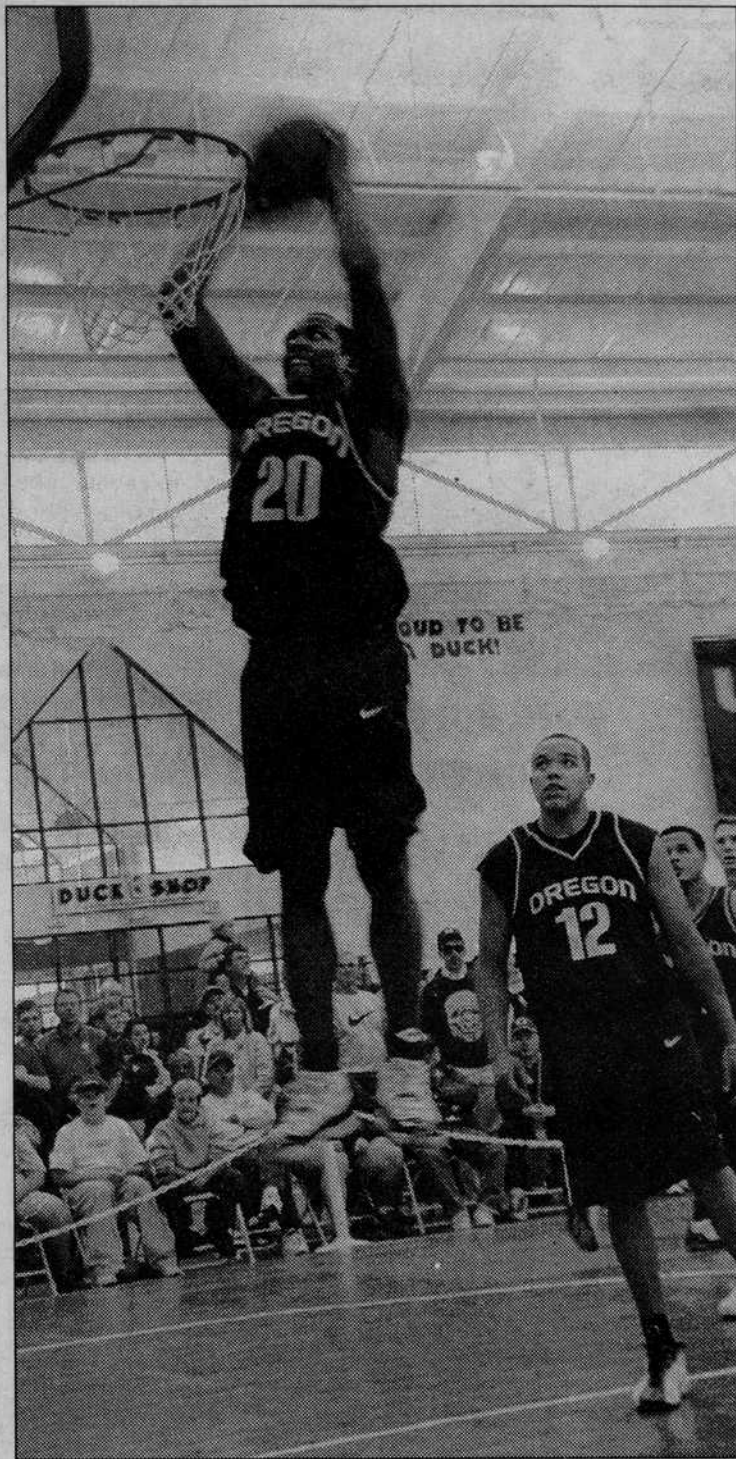
On offense, the Ducks will rely on a trio of guards for point production and will test out a revolving spice rack of big men in an attempt to find strength in the middle. The Ducks will test the early-season presence of senior center Chris Christoffersen and will also test out returning big men Mark Michaelis and Jay Anderson. Newcomers Robert Johnson and Brian Helquist, 6-foot-8 and 6-foot-9, respectively, could also see playing time.

Guard Freddie Jones, who was selected to ESPN.com's preseason All-Pac-10 Team, said the offense will be looking to put up big numbers on the Travelers.

"We're going to try to play our game," Jones said. "We want to cut down on turnovers and play hard."

Jones will most likely square off with former Duck Terik Brown, who is now a member of the Basketball Travelers. Brown, a guard, graduated in 1999, and shows up several places in the Oregon record books. His 1,152 points put him 15th on the school scoring list, and he holds the University's second place in career three-pointers with 223.

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Thomas Patterson Emerald

ESPN.com selected senior guard Freddie Jones (20) to the preseason All-Pac-10 Team.

## UO tennis wins own tournament

■ In its host tournament, the Oregon tennis team finished with 16 wins against good competition

By Peter Martini  
for the Emerald

The Oregon men's tennis team ended its fall season by winning the most matches at the Duck Invitational last weekend.

The Ducks won 16 matches (14 singles, two doubles) to beat out Boise State by one.

"We did a great job in this tournament, and we needed to get this kind of experience under our belt," head coach Chris Russell said.

Five of the six Ducks who participated Sunday contributed singles wins. Junior Jason Menke finished with four singles victories to lead Oregon.

"Jason is using his experience right now to help the team," Russell said. "He is showing great leadership."

Sophomores Chris King and Greg Dubourdieu won three and two matches, respectively, for the Ducks.

Oregon's freshmen also contributed heavily to the team success. Kyle Halberg won two singles matches and Johan Paalberg won three — two on the first day.

"Our younger guys did especially well," Russell said. "They are applying the skills that we are teaching in practice, and they are getting the results."

One area of concern for Russell following the tournament was their play in doubles matches.

"We didn't play very well in our doubles matches, and we need to work on that," Russell said. "Teamwork will be so important when we start up the regular season."

The doubles teams of Menke and Martin Pawlowski, and Halberg and Dubourdieu were the only doubles teams to win for the Ducks.

The schools participating in the tournament include Portland, Portland State, Texas A&M, Boise State and Nebraska.

"The level of competition in this tournament was pretty high," Russell said. "Portland and Boise State had some guys ranked nationally in the top 100."

Russell said the team still needs to step it up a notch before the Pacific-10 season opens in February.

"We played Martin against some of the tougher players in this tournament so he could get the experience he'll need before our Pac-10 matches," Russell said. "Right now he has the physical talents to compete, but needs to get mentally tougher."

The Ducks will break from team practice in a couple of weeks for the upcoming winter vacation. Oregon gets back to the court against Northern Arizona on Jan. 25.

Peter Martini is a freelance reporter for the Oregon Daily Emerald.

## Three Northwest teams at helm of wacky Pac-10 Conference

■ The eighth-ranked Huskies have kept winning and find themselves alongside Oregon and Washington State on top of the standings

By Jeff Smith  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Oregon's got it.  
Nope, the Ducks lost to Stanford, so it's all UCLA.

Wait, with that Bruins loss, Washington State really has a shot at this.

Not so fast, the Ducks beat the Cougars, so Stanford controls its own destiny.

And back to Oregon.

So goes the story of the weekly favorite in the ever-changing and oh-so-tight Pacific-10 Conference race for the Fiesta Bowl in Tempe, Ariz.

But there's one team that has been rolling right along week after week, victory after victory, practically unnoticed.

That would be the eighth-ranked Washington Huskies. With their win over Stanford on Saturday, the Huskies remained in the thick of things. As it stands now, Oregon, Washington and Washington State are all knotted up at the top of the Pac-10 with 5-1 league records.

The Ducks hold the tiebreaker advantage over both teams and control their own destiny, but the Huskies still have a strong shot at winning the league. Washington wins the conference crown if it beats Oregon State this week in Corvallis and Washington State at home on Nov. 17, and, of course, it needs the Ducks to lose once.

"We like our position," Washington head coach Rick Neuheisel said. "I don't know what is going on elsewhere, but we've still got a chance, and that is all I can ask for in the month of November."

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## Late surge gives Smith first victory

■ The Duck women pulled out a win in their first exhibition game, but it wasn't pretty

By Adam Jude  
Oregon Daily Emerald

There is a reason they're called exhibition games, and the Oregon women's basketball team showed why Friday at McArthur Court.

The Ducks looked out of sync at times, and even head coach Bev Smith called the performance "ugly," but a 10-2 run in the final two minutes proved enough to defeat KSC Szekszard, a Hungarian traveling team, 83-77.

"It was a little of what we expected," Smith said after her Oregon coaching debut. "We knew we were going to make some mistakes, but what we expected was 100 percent effort. And we didn't always get that."

"But I think our character came out at the end."

After sitting out last season with a knee injury, junior guard Shaquala Williams made her return with a game-high 22 points, despite shooting just 1-of-10 from three-point land.

"Our defense was just terrible tonight," Williams said. "We can't play like that if we want to be competitive. With a lot of new peo-

ple playing together, we are just going to have to get a little more."

Sophomore Cathrine Kraayeveld scored eight of her 16 points in the final 84 seconds to secure the win for the Ducks. Senior forward Alyssa Fredrick also chipped in 16 points and six rebounds.

One of six freshmen on the squad, Amy Parrish, a 6-foot-2 forward, showed great potential with 11 points and six rebounds in 15 minutes.

As a team, the Ducks said they are nowhere near they want to be.

"We have a long way to go," Williams said. "From where we want to be, we're only about 50 percent (there)."

Even at 50 percent, though, senior guard Jamie Craighead — the new face plastered on the outside of Mac Court — said she's "not too worried" about the rest of the season.

The Ducks have their final warm-up Thursday against Western Oregon at 7 p.m. before hosting Wisconsin-Green Bay in the season opener Nov. 17.

For complete coverage of Oregon women's basketball, check www.dailymerald.com. Adam Jude is the sports editor for the Oregon Daily Emerald. He can be reached at adamjude@dailymerald.com.