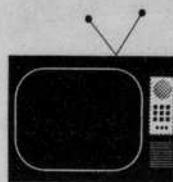


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Best Bet

College hoops:  
Indiana at North Carolina,  
6 p.m., ESPN



Wednesday, November 28, 2001



The 105th Civil War  
Oregon State vs. Oregon  
Saturday, Dec. 1  
1:30 p.m., ABC



Linebackers David Moretti (44) and Kevin Mitchell (39) are two California natives who quickly learned the significance of the Oregon-Oregon State rivalry.

Adam Amato Emerald

## Californians learn nature of Civil War

■ If they haven't already, the Ducks' 42 California natives will soon discover the intensity of the Oregon-Oregon State rivalry at Saturday's Civil War

By Jeff Smith  
Oregon Daily Emerald

After playing in their first Civil War, an Oregon football player's eyes can be opened to the intensity that surrounds the rivalry.

"It's a learning experience," head coach Mike Bellotti said. "A lot of players who come from out-of-state don't realize how severe the decision-making process is as to whether you're a Beaver or a Duck."

Growing up in California, as many Oregon athletes did, the words "Ducks" and "Beavers" evoked more confusion and laughter, as opposed to fire and passion.

"It sounds like a forest or something," said linebacker David Moretti, who hails from Pleasonton, Calif. "If I was back home, I probably wouldn't have thought much of it. But since I've been up here and experienced it, it's definitely changed my mind."

"We want to win this game more than any game all year." Jason Willis, now a junior starting receiver, remembers being a redshirt freshman in 1998 and listening to then-quarterback Akili Smith fire up his teammates with a speech about how important it was that Oregon beat Oregon State.

"Akili was all talking about how big a game this was, and I'm like, 'It's just Oregon State, they're right up the road,'" said Willis, who hails from Los Angeles. "It wasn't that big a deal to me at first. People had to explain it more to me."

"But I've learned to hate Oregon State." Certainly, Oregon's dislike for its neighbor "right up the road" only grew more last year after the Beavers spoiled the Ducks' season.

Oregon entered the Civil War on Nov. 17, 2000 in Corvallis needing to beat the Beavers to claim the outright Pacific-10 Conference championship and thus earn a trip to the Rose Bowl. Instead, Joey Harrington threw five interceptions and Oregon State capitalized, beating the Ducks 23-13 and forcing a three-way tie atop the Pac-10.

For Moretti, a junior college transfer who played on special teams last season, his first Beaver experience was a first-hand lesson as to what the game means.

"You feel the emotion just walking out to the field from the locker room and people are throwing stuff at you and calling you all kinds of names," Moretti said. "I had no idea

## Focused Harrington earns another honor

■ Oregon also announces its schedule for the 2002 season

By Adam Jude  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Oregon football practice remained closed Tuesday — and will be closed the rest of the week in preparation for Saturday's Civil War game — but doors were wide open for quarterback Joey Harrington.

A day after he was announced as the Pacific-10 Conference Offensive Player of the Year, Harrington was named Tuesday as one of three finalists for the

Dave O'Brien Quarterback Award, given to the nation's best signal caller. The 6-foot-4, 220-pound senior also remains one of the top candidates for the Heisman Trophy, which will be handed out Dec. 8.

Despite the awards, Harrington has his mind on revenging a 23-13 loss to Oregon State last year.

"Joe is very focused right now," head coach Mike Bellotti said. "I think he's been focused on the game for 360 or 361 days. I just told him to relax and play football, and I think he'll do that."

### Eight is great

The expansion of Autzen Stadium couldn't come at a better time.

The Oregon football team will kick off the 2002 season against Mississippi State on Aug. 31, the first of eight games at the soon-to-be renovated Autzen Stadium.

In the first of four straight home games to begin the season, Mississippi State will be the first Southeastern Conference opponent to visit Eugene. The Ducks have agreed to play the Bulldogs in Starkville, Miss., to open to 2003 season.

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## Men lose first nail-biter of season

■ Chris Christoffersen continues to play well, but the Oregon men lose the battle of the perimeter to UMass on Tuesday

By Peter Hockaday  
Oregon Daily Emerald

In the birthplace of basketball, the Oregon men played quite a basketball game.

The Ducks went down to the wire with the Massachusetts Minutemen and lost their first game of the season, 62-58, in Springfield, Mass., on Tuesday night. Oregon (4-1 overall) shot a dismal 35.8 percent from the floor and trailed for much of the second half, but still had chances to win in the final seconds.

With 30 seconds left and Oregon down by one point, forward Robert Johnson forced a turnover on the Massachusetts end and Ducks guard Luke Ridnour started a fast break. But Ridnour passed the ball off the foot of UMass guard Shannon Crook, who Ridnour then fouled.

Crooks made both shots of a one-and-one with

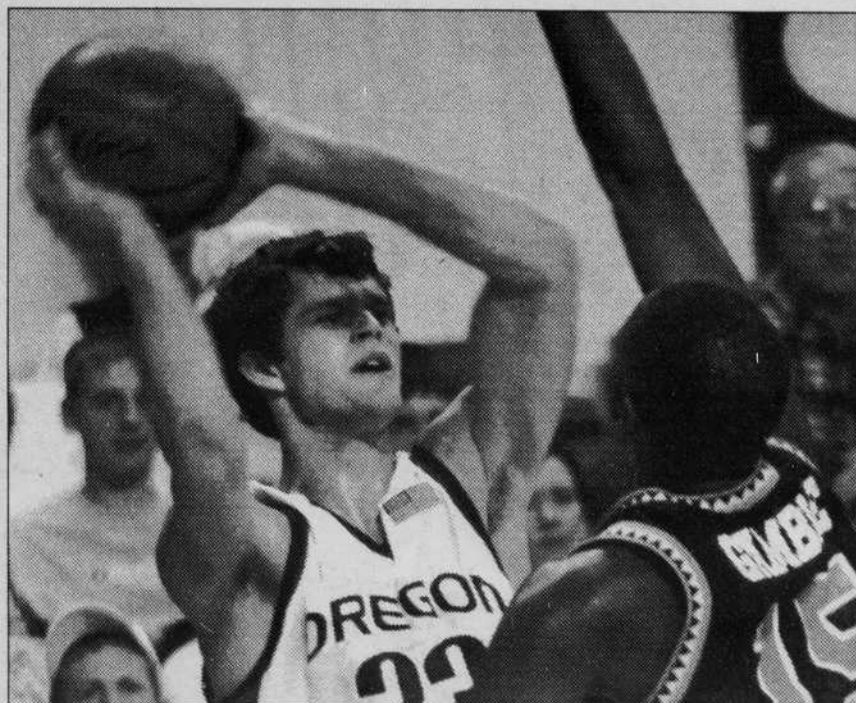
16 seconds left, putting the Minutemen up by three points. On Oregon's next possession, forward Luke Jackson tried to find Anthony Lever in the corner for a trey, but threw the ball directly to UMass center Kitwana Rhymer with 3.8 seconds remaining. Lever fouled Rhymer, who made one shot of his one-and-one to end Oregon's hopes for a win.

"We put ourselves in position to make some big shots and we just didn't get it done," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent told KUGN radio after the game. "We just need to learn from this and move on."

The Ducks started the game strong, and jumped out to a 19-8 lead halfway through the first half. The game had all the earmarks of another Oregon blowout, as the team was in a noticeable offensive rhythm. But UMass stormed back when Oregon started missing shots toward the end of the first frame, and the Minutemen went on a 19-5 run over a period of almost seven minutes to take the lead at 29-28.

"We shot ourselves in the foot and took some bad shots," Kent said. "The whole momentum changed at the end of the first half, and that gave

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Thomas Patterson Emerald

Oregon forward Luke Jackson (33) tried to pass to Anthony Lever for the tying score Tuesday, but ended up finding UMass center Kitwana Rhymer instead. UMass won the game 62-58.