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by Eve Ensler

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# All-Star games next for Ducks

■ A busy month of All-Star games and award banquets highlight January for Bellotti and some of his players

By Jeff Smith  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The season is over, but the games continue.

With the sweet taste of victory still fresh in their mouths from the Fiesta Bowl, some members of the Oregon football team will be in San Francisco on Saturday for the East-West Shrine Game.

Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti will coach the West team, which will include the Ducks' three billboard boys: Joey Harrington, Maurice Morris and Rashad Bauman.

The billboards of Harrington in New York, Morris in Los Angeles and Bauman in San Francisco raised the bar for these athletes, and being invited to participate in this All-Star game for college seniors helps vindicate their pre-season hype.

The 77th annual East-West

Shrine Game will take place at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Pacific Bell Park and will be broadcast live on ESPN2.

But there's more than just the game itself — the players have been down there all week seeing the sights, touring children's hospitals and working out for NFL scouts.

They arrived Saturday, toured Alcatraz prison and Pier 39 on Sunday and began practicing on Monday.



The big day for NFL personnel was Wednesday, when there were player meetings with pro teams in the morning, a player weigh-in and then a three-hour NFL workday on the Stanford campus.

Other Pacific-10 Conference notable players on the West team include Stanford's Randy Fasani, Arizona State's Delvon Flowers and Washington State's Billy Newman and Nakoa McElrath.

Bellotti will bring Oregon assis-

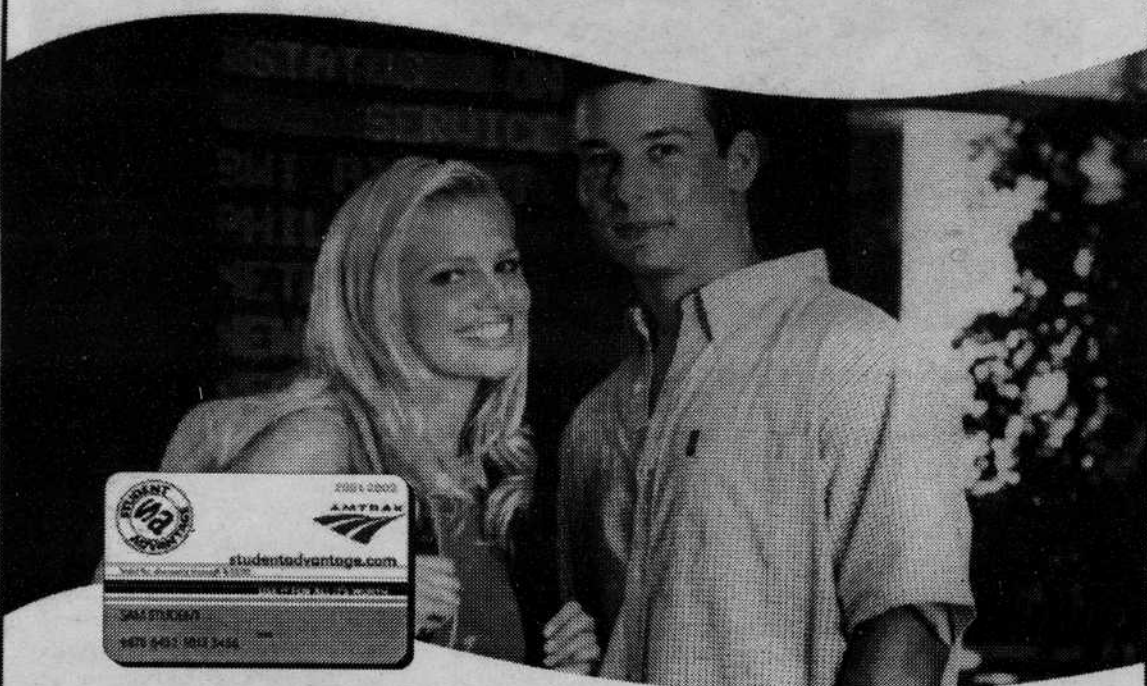
tant coaches Nick Aliotti and Steve Greatwood along with him, while the legendary Bill Walsh will serve as the team's honorary coach. Bellotti's counterpart on the East side will be Illinois head coach Ron Turner, whose Big 10 champion team would have faced Oregon in the Rose Bowl were it not for the Bowl Championship Series hosting the title game there this season.

The Shrine game isn't the only college All-Star game of the month. Harrington and Bauman will again team up in the Jan. 26 Senior Bowl in Mobile, Ala. A week later, tight end Justin Peelle will have his opportunity to impress scouts when he participates in the Hula Bowl Feb. 2 in Hawaii.

Also, Bellotti will be in Houston, Texas, Jan. 17 as one of seven finalists for the Paul "Bear" Bryant Coach of the Year Award. Others up for the award include Colorado's Gary Barnett, Nebraska's Frank Solich and Miami's Larry Coker.

E-mail assistant sports editor Jeff Smith at jeffsmith@dailymerald.com.

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## Men's

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telling statistic to how the game was contested before the final minutes. The Golden Bears' defense held the Ducks to low shooting totals in the first half, and that "took us out of our rhythm," in the words of several Oregon players.

"The biggest thing they did was slow the game down and stop us from running," Ridnour said. "We know they wanted a low-scoring game, and for the most part they did that until the last couple minutes."

The Ducks shot 4 percent from the floor in the first half, but took only 17 shots as the game was knotted at 30 heading into the break. Cal opened the second half with a 7-2 run, but the Ducks came back and the teams traded baskets until the Bears broke away at the five-minute mark.

The best line of the night belonged to Jones, who finished with 22 points and nine rebounds. Jones was instrumental to the Ducks' comeback, and finished with seven points in the

game's final five minutes.

"Freddie came up big," Kent said. "He was the difference, I thought, in the game for us."

After the game, Oregon team members spoke of growing up with the important conference win.

"For us to play like that and still find a way to win was huge for our team," Ridnour said. "That's a game we probably would have lost last year."

The Ducks will test themselves once more against the No. 14 Stanford Cardinal on Saturday. Stanford is 9-3 on the season after a 67-50 victory over Oregon State on Thursday, and the Cardinal have proved to be a difficult test for the Ducks in the past. Kent still has not beaten Stanford in eight tries, and the Ducks' losing streak in the series dates back to 1996.

Oregon will square off with Stanford at 3 p.m. Saturday at McArthur Court.

E-mail sports reporter Peter Hockaday at peterhockaday@dailymerald.com.

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