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Best Bet
NCAA basketball:
Gonzaga at Pepperdine,
7:30 p.m., FSN



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Sophomore Sensation

Since becoming a starter Dec. 28, Cathrine Kraayeveld has made a name for herself, on the team and in the Pac-10

By Hank Hager
Oregon Daily Emerald

When Roger Hansen first laid eyes on Cathrine Kraayeveld in a Lake Washington High School uniform, he knew she was going to be something special.

"The first time she stepped on the court she hit eight out of nine three-pointers," said Hansen, Kraayeveld's high school coach. "Everyone just said 'Holy smokes.'"

According to Hansen, Kraayeveld set a record for Lake Washington that day with her eight three-pointers. Amazingly, it was her first career game for the Kangaroos. She had transferred as a junior from Bellevue Christian that season, and went on to lead Lake Washington to a second-place finish in the Washington state Class 4A playoffs. As a senior, she took them to the semifinals.

But the accolades don't stop there. The Seattle Times named her Prep Athlete of the Year both seasons at Lake Washington. Kraayeveld earned first-team all-state honors her senior season and was the MVP of the King-Co Conference. The list doesn't stop there, but naming all of her awards would just take too long.

Point is, Kraayeveld is one heck of a player.

"She's probably the most talented and complete player I've seen in my 10 years of coaching," Hansen said.

Flash forward to the present and Kraayeveld, now a sophomore, is a force to be reckoned with for the Ducks. The 6-foot-3 forward has a laundry list of statistical achievements so far this season.

Kraayeveld is fifth in the Pacific-10 Conference in shooting percentage (.509), 10th in rebounds per game (6.2) and sixth in blocked shots (18).

But there is more about her than just statistics. Kraayeveld is a versatile in-

side strength for the Ducks that Oregon has not seen in years. She can post up and put the ball in the hoop from a few feet away, or she can go to the perimeter and sink an 18-foot jumper.

"She brings a little more, a new dimension, because she can shoot inside and out," senior Alyssa Fredrick said. "It helps us spread out defenses a little more, and have them not just focus on her inside or outside game. They kind of have to guess with her."

And have they ever guessed. Since becoming a starter Dec. 28 against Washington, the Kirkland, Wash., native has averaged almost 11 points per game and set a career high 18 points against Washington State. The most impressive facet of her game has been rebounding.

In her six games since becoming a starter, she has averaged 9.3 boards per game.

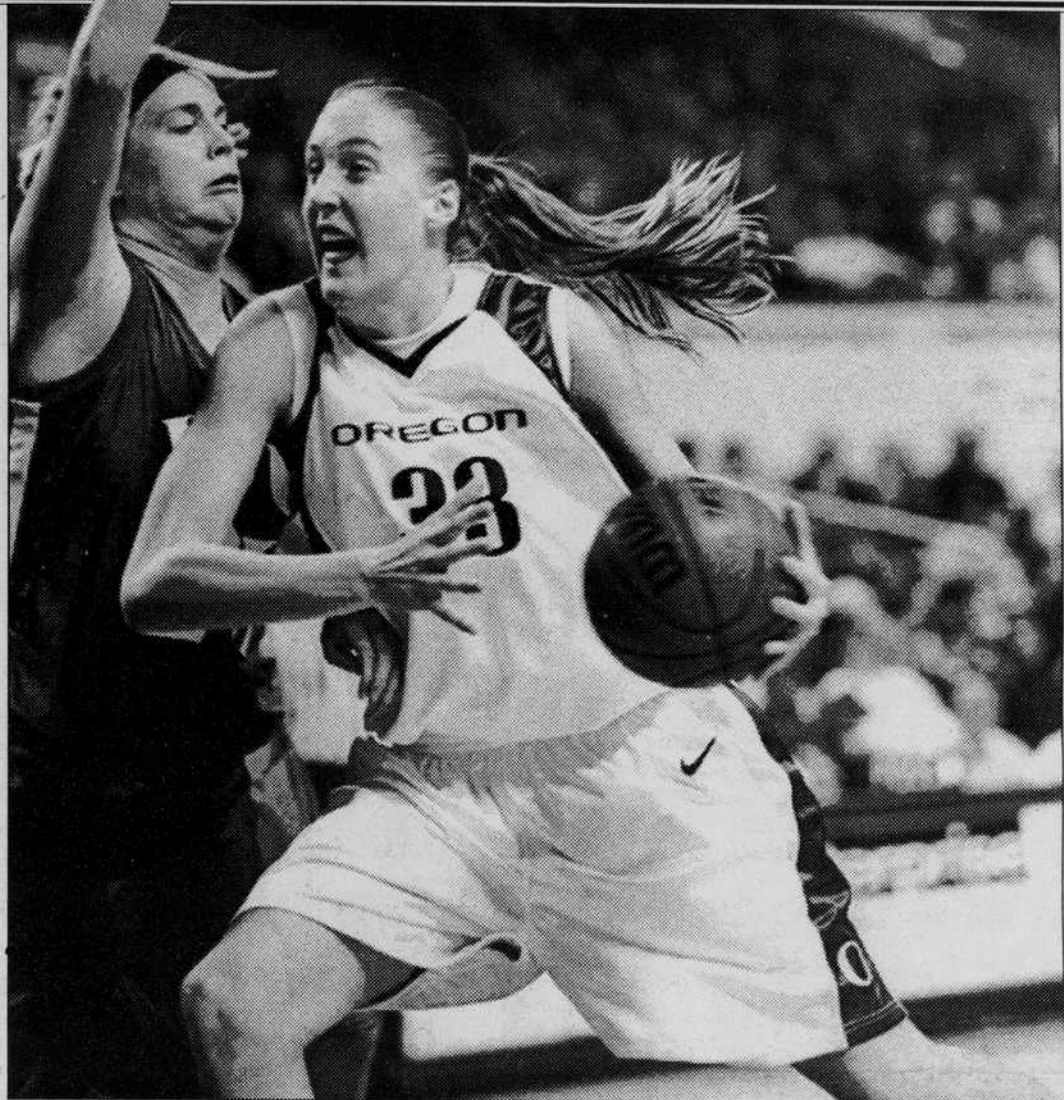
"I think that's been one of the things I've focused on the whole season, trying to be more consistent at that, because that is what we really need on this team," Kraayeveld said about her improving rebounding prowess.

Oregon head coach Bev Smith has been impressed with Kraayeveld's play as well.

"I think Cathrine has certainly made some strides and I think that giving her starting opportunities and the fact she has taken advantage of those opportunities to be our leading rebounder, and at times our leading scorer, has caused her to have some attention paid to her by her opponents," Smith said.

Stanford paid attention to Kraayeveld in Oregon's most recent game, forcing her to shoot 2-of-11 from the field. She was, however, also able to snag a career-high 14 rebounds against the Cardinal.

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Adam Amato Emerald

Forward Cathrine Kraayeveld (33), a native of Kirkland, Wash., is an increasingly important member of the Oregon offense, and is tearing up the Pac-10 in only her second collegiate season.

All similarities aside, the Civil War will have to be played on Saturday

While the two teams have a lot in common this year, Oregon holds a 46-19 series advantage over Oregon State

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

The similarities are scary.

First, the records: Oregon enters Saturday's 1 p.m. women's basketball Civil War at McArthur Court with a 5-3 mark in the Pacific-10 Conference (10-7 overall). Oregon State is also 5-3 (9-9 overall).

The Ducks boast one of the conference's best backcourts in Shaquala Williams and Edniesha Curry. The Beavers could say the same about their flashy guards, Felicia Ragland and Leilani Estavan.

Ragland was the 2001 Pac-10 Player of the Year. Williams won the same award in 2000.

Oregon's Bev Smith and Oregon State's Judy Spoelstra are the head coaches at the schools for which they played. Both were All-Americans in the early 1980s, competing against each other for the state's bragging rights.

Then there are the weird, are-these-even-real? statistical similarities.

Entering this week, Oregon has shot 285 three-pointers this season (mak-

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Ducks look to end road woes with Civil War victory in Corvallis

■ The Ducks have dominated Oregon State recently, but are just 1-4 on the road this season

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

Remember this: Anything can happen in a rivalry game.

No. 23 Oregon (12-4 overall, 5-1 Pacific-10 Conference) will battle Oregon State (8-8, 1-5) in a game that is important to one team's conference title hopes, at least. The first Civil War matchup of the season is at the Beavers' Gill Coliseum, where the Ducks have won eight of the last nine.

Oregon has taken 15 of the last 16 contests overall in the series, a streak that dates back to 1994. Last season the Ducks won the two games by a combined 27 points.

Despite Oregon's dominance, the mantra is the same every year for the Ducks.

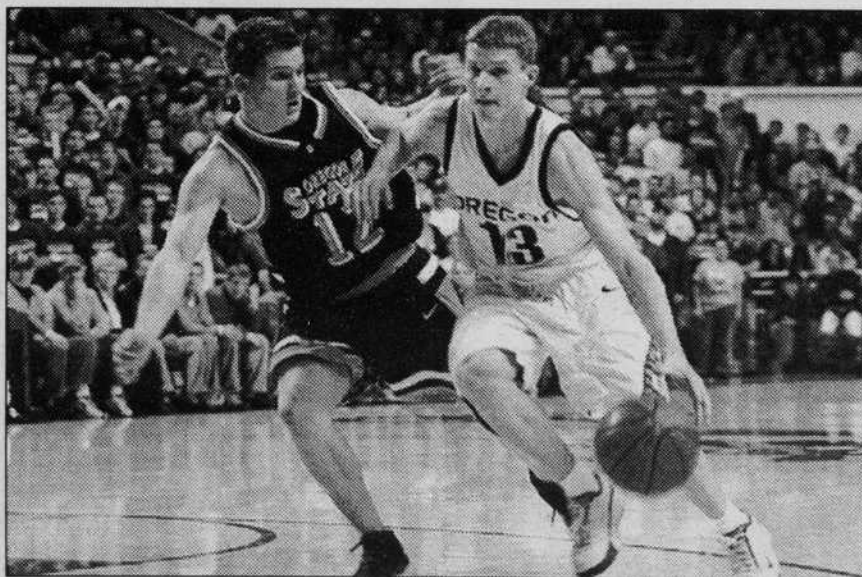
"It's going to be a tough game, especially up there, and this being the Civil War," Oregon guard Luke Ridnour said. "They're going to come at us, they're going to want it pretty bad, and we've got to want it."

Because in a rivalry game, anything can happen.

This season, the Beavers are led by 6-foot-7 junior forward Phillip Ricci, who sat out last season after knee surgery. Ricci averages 16.7 points and 7.2 rebounds per game.

"They are a much-improved basketball team over the last year, with a guy that's playing at an all-conference level in Ricci," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said.

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Oregon point guard Luke Ridnour drives against Oregon State's Mike Cokley in the Ducks' 84-66 Civil War victory last season. This year's first Civil War takes place Saturday in Corvallis.

Adam Amato Emerald