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**Best Bet**  
NCAA basketball:  
Arizona @ Arizona State,  
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## Just a little advice for puck fans in Eugene

Despite the region's recent bout with cold, wet weather, most residents of Eugene know little about a real winter.

Lane County provides residents with skiing, snowshoeing and the Lane County Ice Arena (where two hockey squads play), but what is really missing is the one thing that typifies winter in many areas of the world — pond hockey.



**Chris Cabot**  
Around the Dasher

The ice may not always be the smoothest or temperature the warmest, but when skating on a pond, the only things that matter are crisp cross-overs, powerful strides, tight turns and hockey-stops.

Nothing holds a person back — no boards, no out-of-bounds, no ice-time sign-ups and no overbearing parents. The threat of thin ice may hold skaters back at first, but once the ice has been checked by a trained eye, the next biggest worry is when the sun will set.

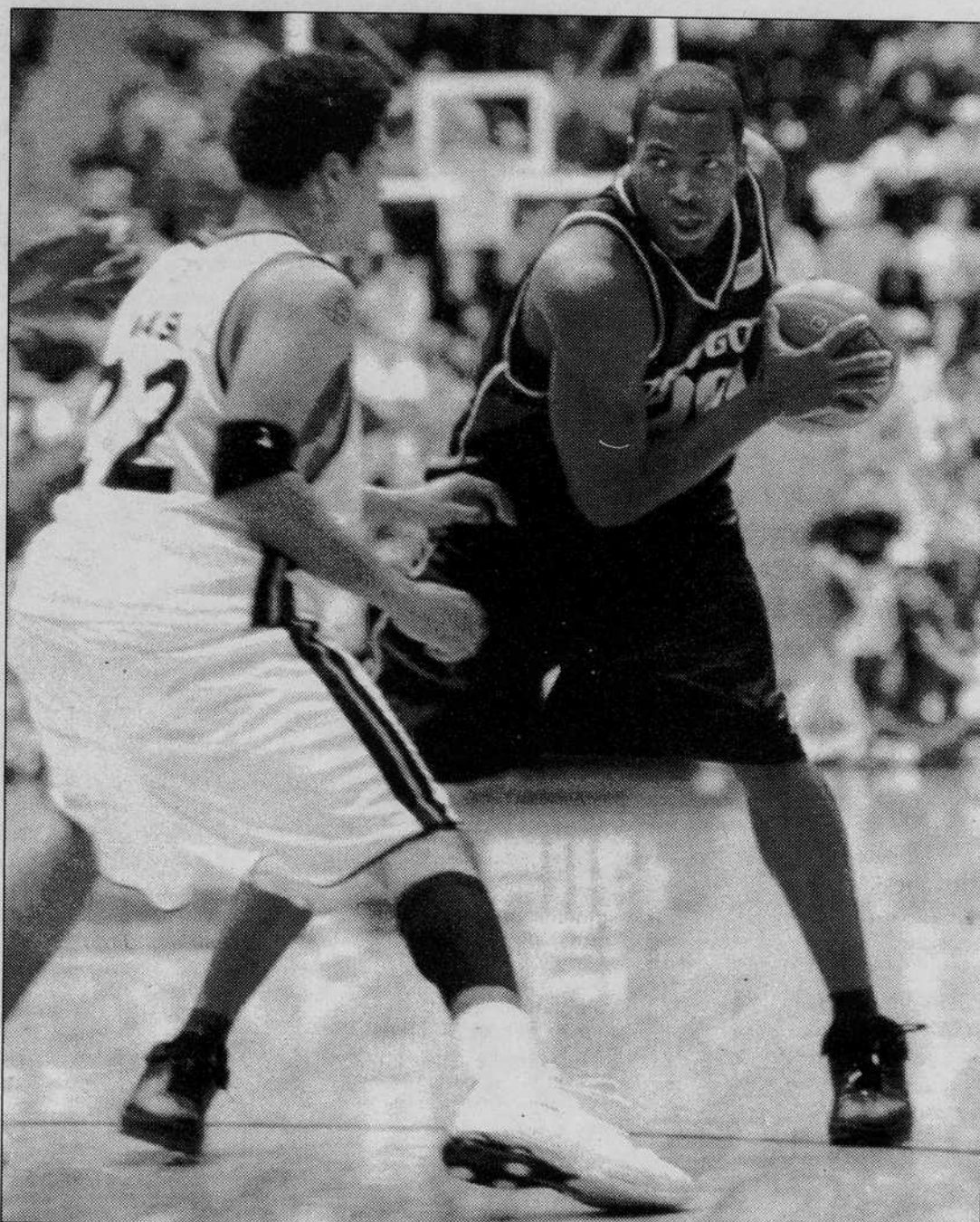
For those who have never had the opportunity to sit on a frost-covered rock to strap on a pair of skates (and those who have never worn blades on their feet period), let's go to New England and one of the many frozen ponds.

After piling on the necessary clothes (pants, shirts, sweater, jacket, hat, gloves and, finally, a faded hockey jersey from childhood), grab a couple pucks and a stick, which holds the skates. Trust me, slide the stick between the runner and the boot of the skate and transport them that way. It is an unwritten rule in the pond hockey world that cool players carry their skates with their stick.

So, with stick over shoulder, walk down to the pond trying not to slip on the packed snow path that leads the way. Don't let the smell of the pines and the shimmer of the sun off the black ice become a distraction because it could mean the end of a pond hockey career before it has even started.

Local kids have already started a pick-up game out in the middle of the pond. The ice is smoother than any Zamboni driver can ever hope for and for the first few strides away from the bench, look down and see the rocky bottom and the fish swimming directly beneath.

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Senior guard Freddie Jones, guarded by Oregon State's J.S. Nash on Saturday, leads the 19th-ranked Ducks with 15.9 points per game, but it's been a balanced scoring attack that has put Oregon in a tie for first place in the Pac-10.

Thomas Patterson Emerald

## Balance helping Jones, UO succeed

■ One of the biggest reasons for the Ducks' success is their variety of scorers, as all five starters average eight or more points

By Jeff Smith  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Freddie Jones leads Oregon in scoring, and the Ducks are winning. But the two don't exactly go hand-in-hand.

Unlike the preseason thinking of most "experts," No. 19 Oregon (14-4, 6-1) is showing that it can win games without Jones carrying the load.

Jones's team-high 15.9 points per game are barely ahead of Luke Jackson's 15.6, while Luke Ridnour is right behind them at 13.9 a contest. The maturity of the sophomore Lukes has helped take some of the pressure off Jones's shoulders, allowing the senior to become more of a complete player.

"I knew I didn't have to carry this team," Jones said. "I mean, I got great players — not just good players — all around me."

Still, Jones's teammates look to him to guide them through the Pacific-10 Conference, where the Ducks are tied

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## Women's race heats up

■ Second place is still up for grabs in the Pac-10 with the second-half of the season left to play

By Hank Hager  
Oregon Daily Emerald

If there was one word that could describe the Pacific-10 Conference this season, it would have to be "parity."

With three teams tied for second place, and another three one game behind, all but a few stand a chance to finish with a winning record in conference play.

In the first Civil War game of the season, Oregon State (10-9 overall, 6-3 Pac-10) outlasted Oregon, putting the Beavers two-and-a-half games behind Stanford for first place. The win marked the first time the Beavers had won at McArthur Court since 1993, and it was a big one.

"This was a great win for us," Oregon State guard Felicia Ragland said about her only career win against the Ducks. "It's gonna be a great memory."

Meanwhile, Southern California and Arizona State were up to a few tricks of their own. USC (10-8, 6-3) was upset by Arizona, 78-74, on Thursday. In the other game taking place in the City of Angels, Arizona State (15-

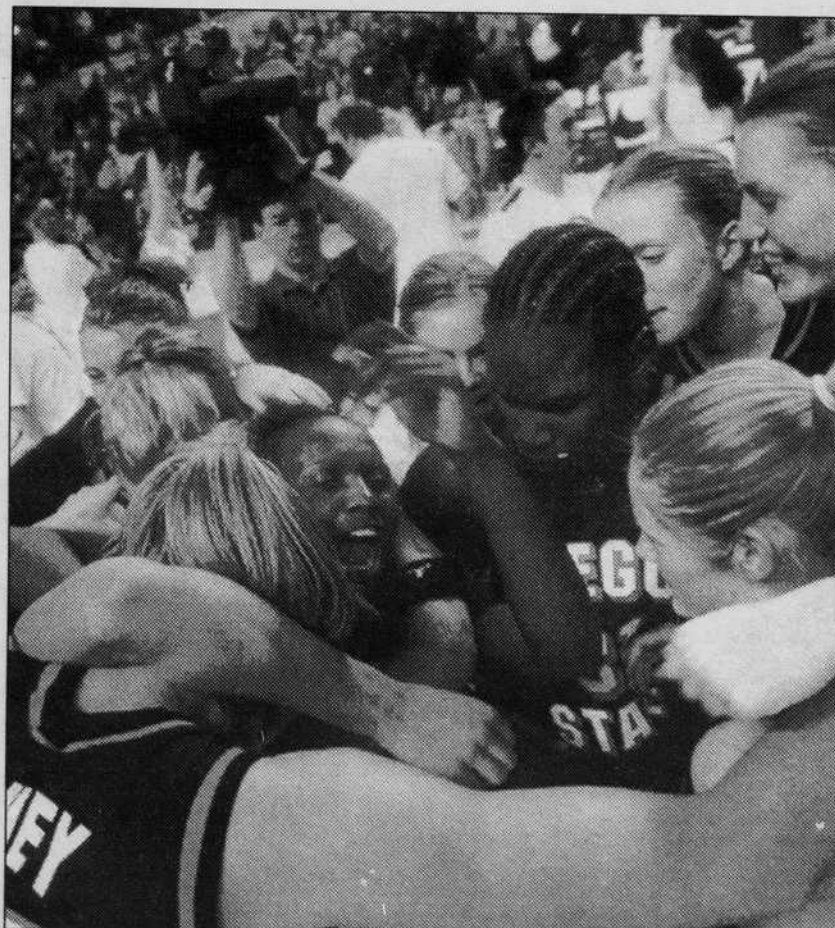
5, 6-3) easily defeated UCLA, 70-57.

That led to one of the biggest and most important games of the season at the Los Angeles Sports Arena.

In what was supposed to be a close game, USC dominated, scoring 40 points in the second half en route to a 68-49 trouncing of then-No. 23 Arizona State.

The Sun Devils hung with the Trojans for a while, but USC's offense proved to be too much.

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Adam Amato Emerald

Oregon State celebrates Saturday after its first victory at McArthur Court in nine years. With the Pac-10 season half over, the Beavers are in a three-way tie for second place.