

SPORTS

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Best Bet
NCAA Basketball
UCLA at Oregon 7:30 p.m., FSN



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UO football fills offensive coordinator vacancy

Andy Ludwig,
Fresno State's
offensive
coordinator for
four years,
replaces Jeff
Tedford

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

Mike Bellotti decided that the best coach to replace the man who tutored Joey Harrington would be the man who tutored David Carr.

The Oregon football team filled its offensive coordinator vacancy Wednesday with the hiring of Andy Ludwig, who guided



the Fresno State Bulldogs' offense for the last four years.

"I see Oregon right now as a perennially top-10 team," Ludwig said. "The offensive system at Oregon is respected nationwide. I'm excited. It's a tremendous opportunity for me."

Ludwig, 37, will also be the Ducks' quarterbacks coach, which is a position he held at Fresno State. In his four years there, he helped guide Carr to become one of the best quarterbacks in the

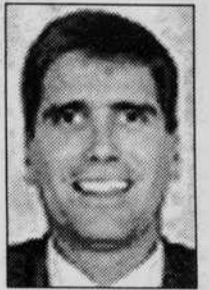
country, and played a big part in Fresno State's 11-3 season in 2001.

Carr became just the sixth quarterback in NCAA history to pass for at least 4,000 yards and 40 touchdowns, and is viewed, along with Harrington, as a high draft choice in April's NFL Draft.

"Dave and I had an excellent working relationship," Ludwig said. "I really feel he made full use of his potential. I'm sure he and Joey are going to have very successful careers."

The Oregon offensive coordinator position became open when Jeff Tedford accepted the California head coaching job in December. Tedford stayed to coach in the Fiesta Bowl and Bellotti began his search for a replacement soon thereafter.

"He was one of the most impressive quarterback coaches I have met or interviewed during the course of my head coaching career," Bellotti said. "He was the



LUDWIG

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Persistence pays off

■ After a windy path and two different colleges, Brian Helquist is thrilled to be playing at Oregon

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

Nearly empty stands greeted Brian Helquist for two years.

Jacksonville, Fla., doesn't necessarily lack things to do, and spending time to watch a junior college basketball game wasn't at the top of many people's priority list.

So, while Helquist averaged almost 15 points and 9 rebounds for Florida Community College-Jacksonville, were there at least 1,000 people on hand?

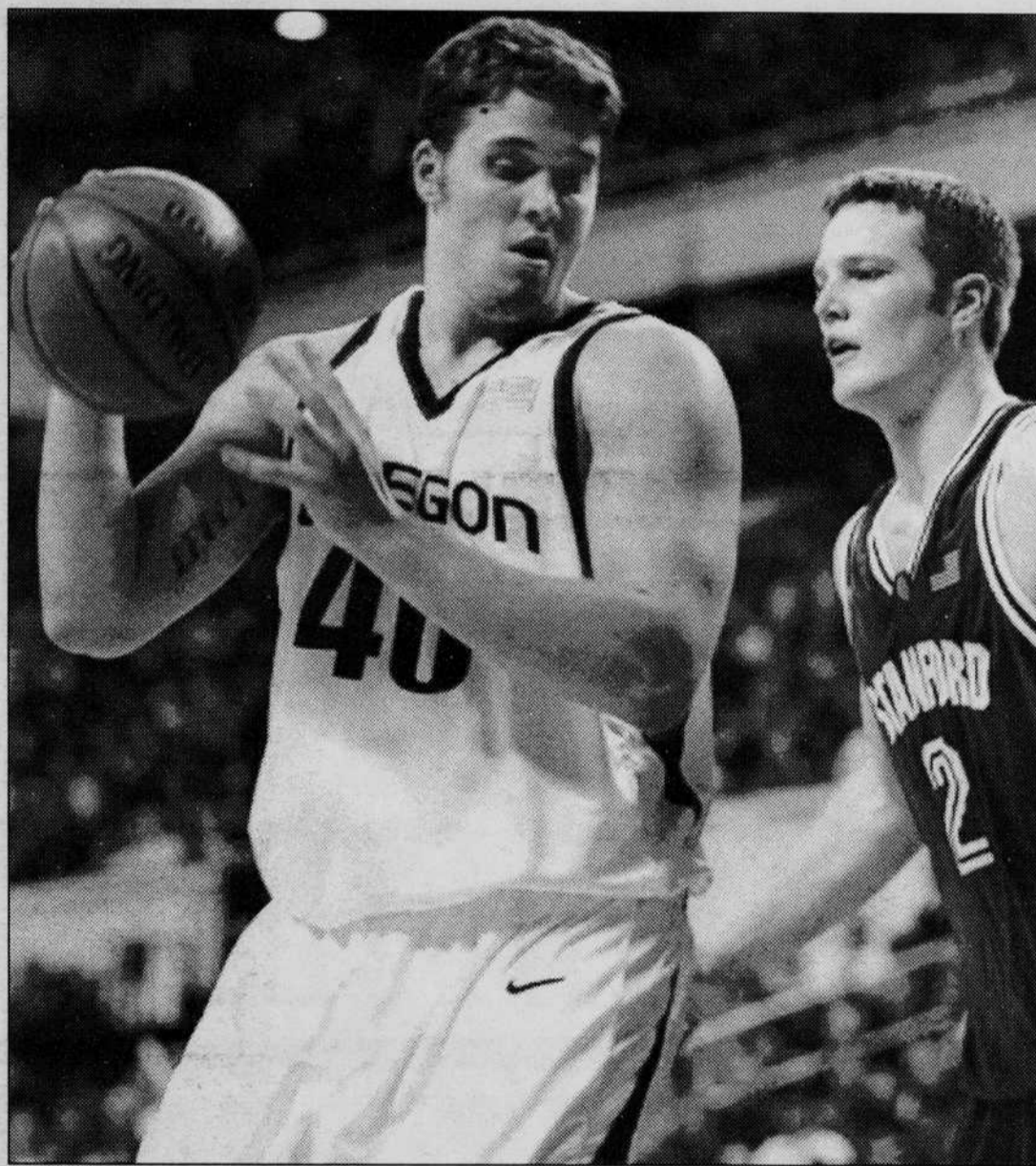
"Probably not even that," Helquist said, laughing. "Couple hundred, like a high school game. We never had a big crowd, except for parents, really."

That was then. Now he plays in front of nearly 10,000 fans. He gets to experience the rowdy student section fire up his team. He absorbs the energy generated from the Oregon Marching Band when he runs onto the court for the pregame warm-ups.

And he's playing his part for a team tied for the league lead heading into tonight's showdown with UCLA at McArthur Court.

"This is what you play college ball for," Helquist said. "I've never been anywhere like this with the fans and the atmosphere. It's the most amazing place. The amount of fan support

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Adam Amato Emerald

Center Brian Helquist, seen here against Stanford's 7-0 center Curtis Borchardt, enjoys battling the Pac-10's big guys.

Big support needed for big game

■ Coach Kent wants Mac Court 'rocking' as the Ducks open a huge weekend with No. 13 UCLA

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

This game is so big, it needs its own zip code.

This game is so big, Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said he would buy doughnuts and coffee for those fans who camped out the night before, then decided to instead buy pizzas for those in line early because he didn't want fans to brave the chilly elements.

This game is No. 13 UCLA playing Oregon for a piece of the Pacific-10 Conference lead. This game will set the tone for both teams for the rest of the season and on into the NCAA Tournament. It starts at 7 p.m. tonight, both at McArthur Court and broadcast on Fox Sports Net.

"This is a big game in terms of the conference race," Kent said. "Oregon has a chance to win the conference for the first time in a long time,

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New-look Ducks hope to avenge loss with trip to Arizona State

■ The Oregon women travel to the desert in hopes of avenging an early loss to the Sun Devils

By Hank Hager
Oregon Daily Emerald

Question: What's maroon and gold, surrounded by cacti and tied for second place in the Pacific-10 Conference?

Arizona State, that is.

The Sun Devils (16-6 overall, 7-4 Pac-10) host Oregon tonight at Wells Fargo Arena in Tempe, Ariz., only three weeks after they put a thorough hurt on the Ducks.

In that game, Arizona State dominated the boards en route to an 86-72 win at McArthur Court. Senior guard Amanda Levens, despite being side-

lined early after an injury, burned Oregon (12-8, 7-4) for 22 points on the strength of her feisty play.

"That game was all about effort," Oregon senior guard Edniesha Curry said. "If you let a team as good as Arizona State get comfortable, you're going to have a hard time coming back."

This time around, however, the Sun Devils are fighting back injuries to key players. Levens suffered a high ankle sprain against Washington State on Jan. 12 but is expected to play.

Freshman guard Carrie Buckner missed recent games against Stanford and California due to a pulled

hamstring but is also expected to play tonight.

"Everybody has times during the season where we're down a player, and we're at that point," Arizona State head coach Charli Turner Thorne said. "We've not been healthy and had a lot of road games. I think we've done a good job of playing through that."

After starting out the Pac-10 season strong, the Sun Devils have lost two of their last three games, putting them in the four-way tie for second place. Arizona State has stayed afloat, but not by much, losing by 19 to USC and winning a charity game against California before being outplayed against Stanford last week.

The Ducks, on the other hand, are a different story. Their loss to

the Sun Devils on Jan. 6 put them back in the pack at 4-2, and they lost two of their next three after the Arizona State debacle.

Oregon has fought back and now stands shoulder-to-shoulder with Turner Thorne's squad.

"I think it makes us hungrier and realize that we're right in the thick of things," Oregon head coach Bev Smith said about Oregon's tie with Arizona State in the standings. "They have the same number of wins (in Pac-10 play) as we do, regardless of the fact that they smoked us."

Oregon has become a different team since their early loss in Eugene. The team's rebounding has picked up, and after their shooting disappeared against Oregon State, the Ducks are back on target.

Curry has sparked the Oregon defense to play its best, and as usual, junior Shaquala Williams has led the Ducks in shooting and intensity.

"I think we're a different and better team (than our first meeting), and certainly they probably are as well," Smith said. "I feel we're playing much better than we were when they came here, now we have to take it on the floor and prove it."

"It's a big, big game. We just want to get on the floor."

Curry said, "We're going to have to play well defensively and be disciplined for 40 minutes."

Tipoff is set for 6 p.m. in the Valley of the Sun.

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