

# Oregon football to conclude spring in Portland

■ The Ducks will end their preseason workouts by playing their Spring Game at PGE Park

By Jeff Smith  
Oregon Daily Emerald

For the second spring in a row, the Oregon football team is taking its show two hours north on Interstate 5. Oregon announced Tuesday that the annual Spring Game will take place Saturday, April 27, at Portland's PGE Park.

Typically, the game is played at Autzen Stadium, but because of the stadium's ongoing expansion, the Ducks will again showcase their team in front of their Portland fans. Last spring, Oregon also played near

Portland, in Hillsboro Stadium, because of the new turf that was being placed in Autzen.

"This is a great opportunity for us to offer our fans in Northwest Oregon and Southwest Washington a chance to witness a game-day experience who might not otherwise have been able to attend an Oregon game in Eugene," Athletic Director Bill Moos said.

The Spring Game marks the end of spring practice for the football team and consists of a Green team playing against a White team. PGE Park, formerly known as Civic Stadium and located in downtown Portland, will turn into a mini-Autzen for a day. The Oregon Marching Band, the cheerleaders

and the Ducks mascot will all be there to entertain the crowd.

"It's very exciting for us to welcome coach Mike Bellotti and the Ducks to PGE Park, especially considering the terrific season they had last year," said Mark Schuster, the president of Portland Family Entertainment.

Oregon ended the 2001 season ranked a school-record No. 2 in the country after beating Colorado, 38-16, in the Fiesta Bowl.

A key position that the Ducks will be working on this spring is quarterback, as Oregon tries to find a replacement for the departed Joey Harrington. The front-runner for the starting quarterback position is last year's back-up, Jason Fife, who has

performed well in the last two Spring Games.

In 2001, Fife completed 16-of-27 passes for 273 yards and three touchdowns in the Green Team's 45-6 victory. In 2000, Fife secured the third-string position behind Harrington and current NFL player A.J. Feeley when he threw for 186 yards on 14-of-17 passing.

This spring's game at PGE Park will be the Ducks' final official preparation before fall practice begins in August. Oregon's season opener will be August 31 when the Ducks host Mississippi State in a newly revamped Autzen Stadium.

"While the expansion of Autzen Stadium made it necessary to seek a location to hold the Spring Game

other than Eugene, we couldn't be happier with the efforts that Portland Family Entertainment has undertaken to bring this event to PGE Park," Moos said.

Fans can begin to buy tickets for the Spring Game at 9 a.m. on March 2 through all Ticketmaster outlets. Reserved seats for the game are priced at \$12 and \$8, while general admission tickets are only \$6.

"We have always perceived all of our programs to represent the entire state of Oregon, and this provides us the opportunity to thank our many fans by taking our product to them," Moos said.

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## Women's

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best ball of the season, Shreve has come on strong in her limited role. In nine minutes against Oregon State on Saturday, Shreve scored seven points on 3-of-3 shooting.

"We've finally established a game where she can be a part of it," Smith said. "We need her to take the ball and penetrate and do the things she's really capable of doing as a ball handler."

As a sophomore, Shreve was shocked when she was named the opening day starter after Shaquala Williams, the 2000 Pac-10 Player of the Year, went down with a season-ending knee injury. Shreve started 22 of Oregon's 29 games last year.

"Coming into last year, I expected it to be what it has been this year," she said. "I thought I would get my opportunities, maybe not a whole lot, but I wanted to make the best of what I got. This year I was willing to do whatever I could, knowing that I wouldn't be the leader."

It has taken some time, but Shreve has found her rhythm on the court of late, averaging six points in

the last three games.

"Now it's more clear what my role is when I do come in," she said. "I try to keep the pace and keep the intensity of the people who do play a lot — just try to fulfill what they do."

Shreve can take solace in the fact that she has another year in an Ore-

*"We need (Shreve) to take the ball and penetrate and do the things she's really capable of doing as a ball handler."*

Bev Smith  
Women's head coach

gon uniform. Who knows, maybe her senior year will be more like her sophomore campaign.

"I still have one more year, and I want to make a positive impact on this program," Shreve said.

### Burstin' the bubble?

The Ducks finish their regular season this weekend at Washington on Saturday. A win over the

Huskies — with the assumption of a win over 0-16 Washington State (2-24 overall) — would put Oregon at 11-7 in the Pac-10 and 16-11 overall.

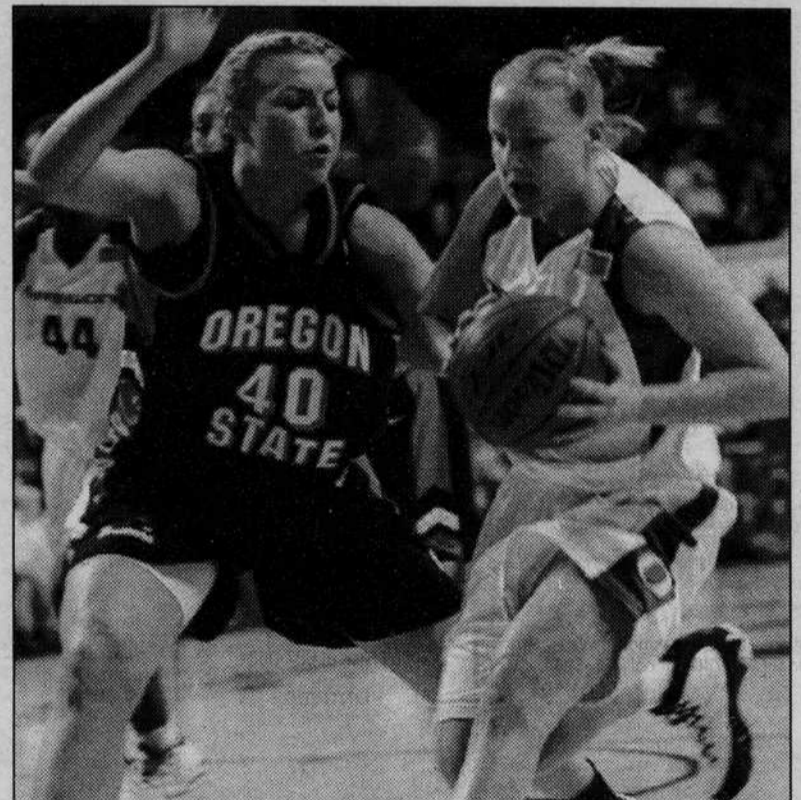
Oregon made its eighth straight NCAA Tournament appearance last season with a 10-8 mark in conference play and a 17-12 overall record.

"Certainly the more games we can win, the more opportunity we're going to have for people to give us a second look for the Big Dance and for any other secondary dance that might be out there," Smith said. "But right now, what's important for us is to go up to Washington State and take it 40 minutes at a time and try to play the best basketball we're capable of doing."

Oregon's best hope of getting a ninth consecutive bid from the NCAA is to win the inaugural Pac-10 Tournament, which the Ducks host beginning March 1.

"The players really haven't had a chance to let it all sink in, but to play for the Pac-10 championship on our home floor will speak volumes about who we are and where we will go after the season," Smith said.

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Adam Amato Emerald

Junior Kourtney Shreve, a starter last season, is averaging less than nine minutes per game this year, but she said, "What's best for the team is what I want."

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